

Teaching Academy Executive Council Meeting Minutes  
August 25, 2023

**Members Present:**

Karen Alexander (Chair), Cindy Akers, Charles Crews, Belinda Kleinhans, Fanni Coward, Ameri Gurley, Nancy Soonpaa, David Roach, Rob Stewart, Katie Langford, Lisa Garner Santa, Andy Stetson, Mitzi Ziegner and Suzanne Tapp.

**Members Not Present:**

Molly Jacobs, John Masselli

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the April, 2023 minutes was postponed to the October, 2023 meeting.

**Welcome:**

Karen welcomed the new council and presented them with a TTU Teaching Academy engraved cutting board as a gift for serving. She asked each member to share when they first felt called to the profession of teaching. The *Critical Teaching Behaviors* book, authored by our two key note speakers for the upcoming Burns Conference, book was passed around and shared in advance of the conference.

**New Teaching Academy Policy:**

The policy to reinstate previously inducted members of the Teaching Academy who have left TTU and returned to employment was discussed. Dr. Feruzan Williams, who was inducted into the Teaching Academy in 2021, left the university to work at another institution for two years and then recently returned to TTU as a Professor of Practice in Management. Dr. Williams sent a request to be reinstated via email. David offered the idea of honoring this request and accepting previous members in good faith, and Nancy asked how this might impact the numbers. Suzanne shared that these requests would likely not take the membership over the 20% of the total faculty population. Lisa made a motion that a member who ends employment at the university in good standing and then is reemployed at a later date, in a teaching position that makes them eligible for membership in the Teaching Academy, may have the opportunity to request reinstatement for consideration and vote by the Executive Council. Cindy seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous vote. Since this would require a bylaws change, this matter will be presented to the full membership for a vote at the Fall Business Meeting following the new member induction ceremony on September 7.

**Piper Professor Award Process:**

Karen thanked the Council for their email vote in favor of moving forward with the Piper Professor Award process being facilitated by the TTU Teaching Academy. A motion to move this forward as a standing committee with be forthcoming at the Spring Business Meeting.

**Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award:**

The Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award nominations are due by September 22. Karen will reach out to Mitzi Lauderdale to request that this be added as an agenda item to the September 5 Deans and Associate Deans meeting, and Belinda and Nancy will assist with discussion about criteria at the meeting as needed.

**Tea and Teaching:**

The Council discussed continuing the Tea and Teaching small group discussion process facilitated during the last academic year by the Teaching Academy, and Lisa gave an update on the success of the program. It was mostly attended by Instructors, Lecturers and Professors of Practice and there is a clear desire by individuals in those lines to feel engaged and supported. It was determined that the Teaching Academy will continue these discussions twice per semester, and Karen will reach out to Kerri Pike at the TLPDC to get them on the schedule.

**John M. Burns Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference:**

The Council was reminded about the upcoming Burns Conference and reminded to register soon. More details were shared about the morning and afternoon sessions including that TTU's definition of teaching excellence will be the topic of focus for the afternoon session. A reminder was also shared about the upcoming New Member Induction Ceremony and Fall Business Meeting on September 7. A motion was made by Nancy and seconded by Fanni to adjourn the meeting at 4:08 PM.

**New Business:**

None

**Adjourn:**

Karen Alexander adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Mitzi Ziegner