Faculty Senate Agenda #387
[This meeting was held online as a Zoom meeting]
October 13, 2021

Senators present were: Arnall, Bak, Baugh, Blum, Bowman, Brittsan, Buelinckx, Callender, Chi, Collopy, Cox, Dye-Reeves, Eko, Faris, Fischer, Forrest, Gibson, Grair, Guillemette, Hawley, He, Hodes, Hope-Weeks, Jou, Kwon, Klein, Langford, Levario, Lyford, McNaughtan, McEniry, Meek, Meyers, Murphy, Niehuis, Novotny, Pal, Parameswaran, Pasewark, Perl, Pihlaja, Ritchey, Schmidt, Serra, Shannon, Sharma, Surliuga, Syma, Taraban, Weiner, Whitney and Wiseman.

Senators not present were: Baker, Calamoneri, Darwish, Farmer, Griffith, Hotchkins, Huston, Ladeira, Sheng and Wagner.

Guests: Dr. David S. Edwards-HSC, Provost Ronald Hendricks, Sr Vice Provost Rob Stewart, Carol Sumner, Scott Burris, Maggie Gilchrest, Alan Barenberg and CassiDe Street.

Newly elected senators: Scott Baugh, Nick Bowman, Hendrika Beulinckx, Sabrina Chi, Amy Dye-Reeves, Peter Fischer, John McNaughton, Marcelo Schmidt, Brian Shannon, Jake Syma, Alexander Wiseman, and Sarah Wagner

Call to order: At 3:15PM, President Langford called the meeting to order. The meeting was conducted online over Zoom and a quorum was met.

Recognition of Guests:

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the September 2021 meeting. The minutes from meeting #386 were approved as presented.

Speakers

Davis S. Edwards:

- Introduction—Medical Director at Student Health Services
- Death of one of his own staff makes this even more real, only 26 years old
- 3000 more calls per month at front desk
- Waiting time is now 5 minutes, abandoned call rate has increased up to 24%
- Protocol for checking health of incoming students—telehealth is at the front line, then, if warranted the student will come in.
- 20-30 swabs a day, 3.3% positive rate for Oct. 4-8, which is a good rate.
- Numbers are down this week
- Type of test—PCR test
- Since September 27th number of tests 300+ positivity rate is 2.7%, pleased with these numbers
- Flu is presenting in the community and is anticipated as a ‘rebound’ year, encouraging students to get flu shots
• Testing is also being encouraged for staff and faculty. Available at the staff and faculty clinic 743-2345, same triage system is used and begins with telehealth, use rapid antigen test as well as PCR test.
• Mental Health Day—needs of our students, depression, anxiety, the counseling center is overwhelmed and there is a six-week waiting list.
• Other example, Wellness Day UNC Chapel Hill--https://www.dailytarheel.com/article/2021/10/university-wellness-day-breaking-unc
• Dr. Wooten, psychiatry expert, is available for higher acuity cases.
• Vaccines: COVID vaccine clinics, now currently Tuesdays and Fridays at memorial circle, 10a-2p Pfizer and J&J, boosters also available, until November 19.
• National 57% are vaccinated. Texas is at around 52%.
• Pediatric Study—children given 1/3 strength of shot, found to be safe and effective
• Oral pathway dose, infusion, steroids Merck product move out trial of 75 individuals, 50% reduction,
• Long term COVID systems, brain fog, cough, persistent fatigue, psychological impact,

Questions:
• Can you receive a flu and COVID shot at same time? Yes, they can be taken at the same time.
• Who is being recommended for COVID boosters? Age 65 and older regardless of health status. 18- ? anyone who is living in an institutional setting (nursing homes), 50-64 chronic disease, 18-49 chronic medical conditions, or those that place themselves at risk (hospitals, university staff and faculty,
• Is Moderna dose is a half dose? Yes, it is believed that it will
• Shingles vaccine available on campus? Historically, it has been difficult to carry and administer. Will check on this. Best option is a local pharmacy
• What is the estimated percent of students on campus are vaccinated? Don’t really know, but many students report that they are vaccinated
• When will Moderna booster be available? By Friday of this week, possibly (October 15).
• What are you all doing to improve mental health for yourselves? We had a recent retreat prior to fall semester. Listened to stress management techniques. Utilize resources from UMC and TTUHSC, chaplain support through UMC, weekly check-ins, to gauge how people are doing from a mental health standpoint. Taking advantage of national webinars.

Reports & Updates:

Evaluation Survey Committee, Shane Blum
Nick Bowman and Ranadip Pal
• Normally survey needs to go out in October
• Committee was asked to look at process—
  o suggest that the top of the survey have a title, possibly that it is sent out by faculty senate, encourage anonymous response. Committee felt that an introductory blurb would be beneficial. Suggested: “This Administrator
Evaluation Survey is conducted independently in conjunction with the Texas Tech University Faculty Senate. Your participation is completely anonymous, and your responses cannot be associated with you.”

- At the end of the survey, the link to where the survey results live.
- Ask a question about if the administrator looks at the holistic perspective of T, R, S. Not just the numbers and money.
- How does the administration use this data?
- Do we stick to the October deadline?

- Motion made to add intro blurb and seconded. Motion passes.

Conrad Lyford, Campus Climate Committee Sharma invites Scott Burris to speak

- How to deal with stress of COVID—way to share what we are doing
- How are we helping one another through this crisis?
- Courtney Gibson suggested that Scott Burris from Ag Ed and Comm come and talk
- Scott Burris presentation
  - Intro and thanks
  - Current issue of mental health and COVID
  - Activities:
    - Metrics were strong and felt that we were winning but feels like we’ve reached our surge capacity, was focusing on performance, and not been considering the cost—decided that we put our employee wellness first and that they were supported. Initiated a survey on well being and the results showed stressed community.
    - Forest Therapy—wellness therapy (Tamberlee Conway, National Forest Service)
    - How does your job affect your overall health and happiness?
      - Relationships
      - Sense of meaning in what you do
      - Sense of accomplishment
      - These can be addressed in department meetings
      - Diet exercise sleep can not be addressed in meetings, so the wellness challenge was initiated
      - Shifting our focus now to our students, looking for options to address that as well
      - Questions: How do you find time to allow for these activities: Burris—*adjusting policies and practices, etc. use a holistic approach.*
      - Comment, Sumner: *Meditation space possibility. Were there spaces on campus that might accommodate this? Consider creating a space for your community.*
      - Comments: *online faculty happy hours, faculty group that support one another, informal faculty coffee gatherings, even on zoom*
      - *Send your suggestions to the Campus Climate Committee*
OP Report-Robert Cox-Chair

Committee has reviewed the proposed revisions on the following OPs. (Minor revisions on 1-10 and asked to be voted on)

1. OP 10.11, Ethics Policy
2. OP 10.15, President's Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award
3. OP 30.19, Texas Tech University Press
4. OP 32.17, Faculty Appointments and Titles
5. OP 60.15, Smoke-free and Tobacco-free Environment
6. OP 64.09, Graduate Council, has moderate revisions
7. OP 70.05, Eligibility for Insurance and Other Benefits
8. OP 70.14, Compensation Policy
9. OP 72.02, Contract Management Procedures
10. OP 74.17, Disclosure of Significant Business or Financial Interests that may Represent Conflicts of Interest

(Committee worked with administration to improve the language in the next two OPs.)

11. OP 32.16, Faculty Recruitment Procedure, has minor revisions, including an updated Attachment A (suggested 2.a.6 better impart intended committee, worked with Ruiz in HR to make sure the minoritized person and female would not overburden those people in their departments)
12. OP 74.11, Animal Care & Institutional Use Committee (1.b to ensure representation of departments who submit multiple applications per month or year.)

Opened for discussion—Questions about 32.16 ensued and discussed. Committee motioned, no second is needed. Motion passes.

New Business:

Upcoming studies:

Budget Study Committee, Graduate Stipends

Senate Study Committee C, Graduate Student Issues

Old Business:

Ad Hoc Covid Committee—survey sent out and will be working through the survey results.
  o Need for university to stand as a leader in the community
  o Need for website information needed about Covid
  o Increased incentives for vaccinations
  o Increased mental health resources for faculty
Email anyone on committee for suggestions

**Announcements:**

- Mark Sheridan, Dean of Graduate School, to speak in November
- Tara Stevens, Faculty Ombud, to speak about common themes that come into the ombud office
- Issues of morale, pandemic has been difficult—Schovanec asked, what ideas does Faculty Senate have for ideas to address morale—send comments and suggestions to Katie.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn, motion passes. Adjourned at 4:45pm.