

Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes

August 28th, 2020

Members Present:

Angela Lumpkin, Courtney Meyers, Bob McDonald, Mitzi Lauderdale, Tara Stevens, Susan, Tomlinson, Dominick Casadonte, Carla Lacerda, Ali Duffy, Brie Sherwin, Suzanne Tapp

Members Not Present:

Patrick Hughes

Approval of Minutes:

Angela Lumpkin noted that the minutes from April 24th, 2020 need to be updated and Wendy Adele's name needs to be changed to Wendy-Adele Humphrey.

Angela asked Bob McDonald, regarding the minutes from April 24th, if he had communicated with President Schovanec about the last minute Schovanec Scholarship recipient.

Bob said he did not talk with the President about this considering the what was happening at the time but expressed that that does need to happen soon.

Angela explained the issue to the new Executive Council members and asked for Suzanne's opinion on further action.

Suzanne suggested writing a letter to the President making note of the problem last year and asked that the same not happen again this year. She also suggested giving the President information about the opening and closing dates, so he is aware. She thought a letter to remind him of the process and acknowledge the issue from last year would be best.

Angela agreed, noting that a repetition of this needs to be avoided. She asked Bob and Suzanne to work together on the letter to the president.

Suzanne mentioned that these minutes are put online and requested that they be amended because of the sensitive topic.

Angela agreed and requested that the approval of the April 24th minutes be delayed until September to make appropriate amendments. The Executive Council agreed.

Welcome:

As the 2020-2021 Chair, Angela welcomed the four new Executive Council members and asked them to introduce themselves.

Dominick Casadonte introduced himself as a professor from Chemistry and Biochemistry. He has been the Executive Council Chair three times in the past and is a founding member of the Teaching Academy.

Tara Stevens introduced herself as a professor from Educational Psychology and Leadership. She is licensed to practice school psychology and has spent time in the public schools. Recently she is focusing on aggression in the classroom, aggression towards teachers, and teacher trauma and wellbeing. Her new agenda is focusing on stress on campuses during COVID. Her interest in teaching comes from professional practice and research.

Carla Lacerda introduced herself as a professor from Chemical Engineering. This is her first time to serve on the Executive Council. Her interests are in engaging younger engineering students in different learning modes.

Susan Tomlinson was introduced by Angela due to technical difficulties. She is a professor in the Honors College and teaches in the Environment and the Humanities Program.

Introductions:

Angela Lumpkin introduced herself as the Department Chair for Kinesiology and Sport Management. She represents the College of Arts and Sciences and is very passionate about teaching.

Courtney Meyers introduced herself as a professor in Agricultural Communications and the Executive Council Chair elect.

Bob McDonald introduce himself as a professor in the Area of Marketing and has a background in engineering. He has worked closely with Dom and is excited he is joining the Executive Council again. This is his second time serving on the Executive Council and he is currently serving as the past Chair. He has been a member of the Teaching Academy since 2004.

Mitzi Lauderdale introduced herself as an associate professor in Personal and Financial Planning and the Associate Dean of Students in the College of Human Sciences. She is passionate about advocating for students and helping them learn in various environments. As of this semester, she is also serving as Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

Brie Sherwin introduced herself as a professor in the Law School. She primarily teaches first year law students and is also an adjunct professor the Department of Public Health.

Patrick Hughes was introduced by Angela due to his absence as the representative from Communication Studies in the College of Media and Communication.

Ali Duffy introduced herself as an associate professor and graduate advisor in Theatre and Dance, representing the College of Visual and Performing Arts. She has taught at Texas Tech for eleven years and became a member of the Teaching Academy in 2015.

Suzanne Tapp introduced herself as the director of the TLPDC. She serves on the Executive Council as a partner with the Teaching Academy.

Standing Committees:

Angela noted that the current members of the standing committees are listed on the agenda. She noted that the Executive Council is a majority of the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award committee and more information will be coming soon. The Lawrence Schovanec Teaching Development Scholarships Selection Committee chair is Robert Cox.

Angela recommended working with members in each college and department to make sure a good amount of applications are submitted this year. The Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award Selection Committee chair is Michael Orth. Angela noted that Kinesiology and Sport Management was the recipient last year. The Teaching Academy New Member Selection Committee chair is Ken Rainwater.

Suzanne mention that some colleges were unable to provide representation to various committees. Angela addressed the issue of some academic units not having enough members to serve on each committee. She would like to adjust the bylaws and suggested allowing faculty

who teach in a college different from their designated area to represent that college when no other members are available. Angela added that to the agenda for September.

Dom asked if retired faculty could be considered Emeritus and serve as representatives on various committees. Angela thought that would be a great point for discussion. She noted that this was a specific issue that came up in the Spring with a member in the Library requesting to represent the Honors College. Bob also encouraged the council to nominate faculty for membership if their college needs more representation. Angela agreed and asked everyone to read through the bylaws to know what adjustments needed to be made.\

Dom suggested that they bylaws be updated to allow for adjunct professors to serve on committees in order to have better representation. Angela agreed that representation is very important.

2020-2021 Vision for the Teaching Academy:

1. Teaching Academy Commitment to Teaching- the purpose is to share information to help faculty during this new teaching environment.
2. Podcasts and Webinars- Angela suggested creating podcasts and webinars as part of the commitment but asked the council to make other suggestions. Breanna Harris responded to this and submitted a proposal for a webinar about teaching during the pandemic. This will take place in September and will feature multiple faculty.
3. Mentoring New Faculty- Angela would like each new faculty to be mentored by someone in the Teaching Academy. Mentors can meet in person or virtually every couple weeks and this would be a great follow up to New Faculty Orientation. Courtney asked if the TLPDC was reaching out to new faculty like they did with the Ear Bud project. Suzanne said they would like to do something similar this year to reach out to new faculty. Courtney mentioned that through that project, she began working with a couple new faculty and ended up submitting grants with them. She also mentioned that those relationships were really important when the campus switched to remote teaching.
4. Mentoring First-Year Students- Angela was specifically wanting to identify first-generation students through Raider Ready. This would not be in competition to Mentor Tech, but an additional way to reach out to those students.
5. Peer Evaluation of Teaching- Courtney started this last year as a faculty fellow at the TLPDC and Angela would like to continue this project. Courtney shared that they made several videos but were not able to finish during the switch to remote learning. There is an online resource, but she mentioned that they need to be updated to be more flexible and adaptable. Courtney would like to include resources for evaluating an online or hybrid class. She suggested this topic for one of the Teaching Academy Commitment webinars.

Discussion:

Dom mentioned the TeMPO program and suggested the idea of group mentoring. Courtney agreed with the idea of group mentoring and asked if the council could develop a series of topics. She noted that group mentoring would be a great way for new faculty to build relationships with peers. Dom also mentioned Adopt a Raider, which is a mentor program for first year students. It

offers a more personal relationship than Mentor Tech and Dom suggested that approach. Dom also mentioned that peer evaluations for online and hybrid classes would be difficult since most faculty do not have that experience.

Mitzi mentioned the idea of doing group mentoring for first year students.

Angela was appreciative of the ideas and suggested that specific council members take the lead in certain areas. She would like those leaders to recruit and work with members of their respective departments and colleges.

Dom noted that there are different types of new faculty and there might need to be various approaches to mentoring. Some are just new to the university, but some are new to teaching. Suzanne shared that the TLPDC has a list of new faculty and their status. She also mentioned the new Faculty Fellow at the TLPDC will be Jody Roginson and part of her role will be to reach out to new faculty.

Bob, Ali, Dom, Courtney, Brie, said they would like to mentor new faculty members. Courtney asked if the TLPDC could help reach out to new faculty. Suzanne agreed

Carla, Mitzi, and Dom said they would like to mentor a first-generation student

Tara. Carla, and Mitzi said they would like to help with peer evaluation of online teaching.

Suzanne said that she and the TLPDC staff can lead the podcast and webinar initiative. She also volunteered to be the liaison for mentoring between the Teaching Academy and new faculty.

Angela would like first contact with new faculty to occur in September.

Courtney noted that mentoring faculty in her own college was best because she could speak to their promotion and tenure process accurately as well as give college specific resources.

Mitzi mentioned that Dom's idea of group mentoring students would be great because they aren't able to make connections with each other easily this year. Courtney mentioned having a panel about what has helped them most in the virtual learning environment. Bob shared that there will be a student panel at the Burns Conference.

Ali shared that mid-career faculty are having trouble navigating promotion and tenure and would like to consider mentoring them as well.

Angela asked if Teaching Academy members could make an appearance in Raider Ready courses. Suzanne shared that there are many types of first year classes like this in each college and that they are currently meeting face to face.

Mitzi noted the value of first year seminars but shared her concern for students who did not choose extra courses and activities to help them adjust. Angela asked if each major had introductory courses. Mitzi said some do not. Dom shared the importance of reaching out to first-gen students because they often don't have support systems like other first year students do.

Courtney and Suzanne mentioned partnering with FGTM. Ali mentioned partnering with the McNair Scholars program.

Courtney shared that she is already trying to connect with her students. She suggested partnering with Housing to connect with students in the dorms this year. Dom asked if banner identified first-generation students. Suzanne noted that banner does collect that data and Ashley Gonzales is the point person for those programs.

Courtney suggested reaching out to offices who work with first-generation and offer the Teaching Academy as a resource. She also shared that First-Gen Week is November 8-13.

Angela noted the importance of students connecting quickly with a person on campus and she asked the council to reach out within their academic units. Dom also noted the importance of connecting with them before they get to campus and would like to be proactive with this next year. He shared the idea of virtual meetings during the summer, helping students get acquainted with the university before classes begin. Carla shared that students could benefit from early connection with supplemental instructors and the learning Center. Bob shared that the first-generation students have an event in the Spring. He also mentioned the idea of having older first-generation students mentor new first-generation students. There is a system for this already, and the Teaching Academy can be a resource to them. Suzanne suggested inviting Ashley Gonzales to an Executive Council meeting to help the Teaching Academy get engaged. Dom asked if there was a first-generation faculty group. Suzanne shared that first-generation faculty and staff have been identified, but she did not think there is an official organization. Dom would like to reach out to first-generation faculty in the Teaching Academy.

Teaching Academy Induction Ceremony

The Induction Ceremony will be a virtual webinar this year on September 17th. The Fall Business meeting will follow, Angela is creating an agenda.

John M. Burns Conference

Bob shared that the title is Teaching Interrupted: Finding Strength and Adapting to a Pandemic. There will be a faculty panel in the morning, a student panel in the afternoon, as well as a lightning round of presentations in the afternoon. A call for proposals for the lightning round was sent and seven were submitted. Bob asked the council to recommend students for the panel. He would like four students, either graduate or undergraduate.

The last two agenda items will be discussed at the September meeting.

Notes from the Provost's Council on August 24th, 2020

Discussion and demonstration about the TTU COVID-19 Management System for students, faculty, and staff: <https://ttucovid19.ttu.edu/User/Consent>

- Quick assessment
- Full self-screening
- Report a positive COVID-19 result
- Contact tracing for medical professionals only
- This system is operating with sharing of information with the City of Lubbock.

Overview: Classroom Preparation and Issues

- In sections taught in the fall of 2020, 33% are online, 27% hybrid, and 34% face-to-face.
- In the 1000-level sections taught in fall of 2020, 28% are online, 49% hybrid, and 23% face-to-face.
- Based on a submitted justification, only the Provost's Office can approve a change in modality for a course using Modality Change Form.

- Faculty teaching using a hybrid approach are expected to continue to have regular contact with their students face-to-face (at the times scheduled) throughout the semester.

Faculty Retention—Deans were reminded about the importance of retaining productive faculty.

No events on campus may serve food or beverages at this time.

Adjourn:

Angela adjourned the meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Molly Jacobs.