

Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes

March 27th, 2020

Members Present:

Bob McDonald, Angela Lumpkin, Courtney Meyers, Comfort Pratt, Patrick Hughes, Mitzi Lauderdale, Suzanne Tapp, Upe Flueckiger

Members Not Present:

Ali Nejat, Mark Webb, Brie Sherwin, Ali Duffy

Approval of Minutes:

Angela Lumpkin motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes; Upe Flueckiger seconded.

Update:

Provost's Council

Bob McDonald updated the council members on all the topics discussed during this month's Provost Council meeting. The campus is now in Phase IV and no one is allowed in campus buildings, unless they are essential personnel. There will be no budget hearings at this time. This transition to remote learning and working has been expensive for the university and the state and there may be changes to departmental budgets in the fall. No pay for employees has been suspended at this time. Faculty were cautioned about giving "incompletes" in their courses unless it was for special circumstances. The course drop date was also moved to a later date (May 1). There was discussion of implementing pass/fail for classes this semester, although unlikely. Student evaluations for faculty will still take place and students are encouraged to focus on teaching not the transition online. Faculty are encouraged to stick to the usual timeline for finals. Regarding tenure and promotion, there is no decision right now about any changes to the time clock. Discussion about any changes will be opened later. There was much discussion on safety of all students and employees, equity among students in this transition, and continuing research projects. The decision to make summer courses all online will be made in April.

Discussion:

John M. Burns Conference

Bob stated that a speaker for the fall conference will need to be chosen soon. He would like to highlight the talent on Tech's campus and highly suggested Suzanne Tapp. He recognized her experience and work with faculty at the TLPDC and would love for her to share her knowledge about teaching excellence as the keynote speaker. Suzanne said she is willing to speak and shared she has a few other speakers in mind as well. She stated that the conference topic could cover how our campus has handled the COVID-19 crisis and highlight faculty who responded in innovative ways.

Comfort Pratt remembered that last year they discussed David Roach as a potential speaker for this conference. She suggested him as the keynote for 2020. Bob liked the idea and wanted to

keep the focus on internal talent. Courtney Meyers agreed with this idea and mentioned that the conference could celebrate the work happening across campus.

Angela Lumpkin also liked this idea and suggested featuring Suzanne Tapp and the work of the TLPDC as well as Melanie Hart and the work of eLearning. Suzanne mentioned a workshop Melanie Hart was supposed to lead this semester. The topic was on the future of higher education and she suggested this topic for the conference. She like the idea of spotlighting how faculty handled this transition and what it means for our campus and education in the future.

Comfort suggested making the conference in 2020 a two-day event in hopes that more faculty could attend and choose one day or the other.

Courtney Meyers suggested keeping the conference to one day since faculty are working harder right now.

Angela suggested having the conference on a Friday for a higher attendance. Comfort agreed with this and suggested not hosting it on a Friday before a holiday or travelling weekend.

Angela suggested having the conference at the beginning of the fall semester to celebrate Texas Tech and the start of a new year.

Bob liked this idea but suggested waiting until after the first week of school. He asked if a planning committee needed to form to prepare. He volunteered to chair the committee. Comfort, Patrick, and Suzanne all agreed to serve on the committee.

Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award Ceremony

The ceremony to honor Kinesiology and Sport Management will be postponed until the fall semester. Bob suggested making this ceremony part of the Burns conference.

Angela asked if the recipient had been announced. Suzanne stated that the selection committee usually notifies the Executive Council, then the Executive Council chair notifies the Provost, then the Provost makes the official announcement. However, in all the chaos of the online transition, the Provost asked her if a decision was reached. Suzanne went ahead and notified the Provost of the selected recipient. She asked Bob if he could contact the Provost office to see if a formal letter was required from him for the public announcement.

Angela shared her excitement about the award and would like to add the announcement to the department newsletter.

Spring Business Meeting

May 8th was scheduled to be the last Executive Council meeting for the semester. However, Bob would like to use that date to virtually host the member-wide Spring meeting. Bob asked which platform would be best and Suzanne suggested Zoom.

Chair Elect

Bob stated that the council needed to appoint a new Chair Elect by their last meeting in April. Courtney has agreed to be nominated and Bob will accept anyone else nominated. Once he receives the nominations, he will send a ballot by email.

Bob noted that five positions will need to be filled for next year and that the standing committees will also have vacancies as well. Once a Chair Elect is chosen, the standing committee elections will take place by email.

Courtney thanked Bob for his initiative to get the Teaching Academy involved in gathering resources for the online transition.

Bob shared that the Teaching Academy resource page is now live.

Patrick Hughes asked when the Burns Conference Committee needed to meet. Bob said it could be anytime soon since all meetings will be conducted virtually. He would like to reach out to potential speakers first.

Comfort asked if classes in the fall would need to take place online. Bob shared that the location of summer classes have being discussed, but nothing has been discussed for fall classes yet.

Suzanne shared that the Teaching Academy resources were promoted by Dr. Galyean and asked the council if they could share more ideas to increase content.

Bob appreciated the shared resources and asked the council to keep in touch during the time of social distancing.

Adjourn:

Comfort Pratt motioned to adjourn the meeting; Angela Lumpkin seconded.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Molly Jacobs.