

Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes
November 11, 2021

Members Present:

Courtney Meyers, Angela Lumpkin, Dominick Casadonte, Tara Stevens, Susan Tomlinson, Nancy Soonpaa, Karen Alexander, Lisa Garner Santa, Mitzi Ziegner, Suzanne Tapp

Members Not Present:

Ali Duffy, Patrick Hughes, Feruzan Irani Williams

Approval of Minutes:

Angela moved to approve the minutes from, October 22, 2021; Susan seconded. Angela called for a friendly amendment to correct the spelling of faculty on page 2. The council approved.

Call for Submissions- Texas Tech Faculty Recognition

Susan and Tara created a call for submissions for the recognition of faculty on campus:

The Texas Tech University Teaching Academy is seeking narratives from faculty about their personal and professional experiences during this pandemic for the purpose of recognizing and honoring teachers. Inspired by stories collected by Humans of New York and NPR's Story Corps, these stories are intended to document the lives of teachers during the SARS-CoV-2 global pandemic. The narratives may be submitted in any story form, including oral history, written work, or artistic expression. These will be archived in a database for future scholarship, with selected narratives to be featured on the Teaching Academy website. These stories may also be presented as a collection in a book chronicling the lives of teachers. For more information or details, please visit the website at: _____

Susan and Tara wanted this to be a general call that is inclusive to all story formats. Karen asked if GPTI's would be included in the submissions. Susan responded that it should be open to anyone who has a teaching role on campus and that could include the GPTI's. Susan proposed that this award could be called Stand and Be Recognized. The council deliberated and agreed upon Stand and Be Recognized; A Celebration of Teachers During the Pandemic. Susan suggested that these stories could be archived in the Southwest collection and potential be published by TTU Press.

Hidden Gems Recognition

Courtney shared a document with information about the recognition process. This effort would include anyone who supports student success- faculty, teaching assistants, advisors, etc. Nominations would open in the beginning of December and remain open until January. There won't be a selection committee and each nominee will be featured on the Teaching Academy website. Anyone on campus can submit a nomination. Dom asked if the submissions could open in January since many people are focused on finals in December. The council decided to open it in December and keep it open during the beginning of the spring semester. Courtney hopes that the Hidden Gems recognition could lead into Susan's project, helping people to identify and develop their narratives later in the spring semester. The Hidden Gems Ad hoc committee made a motion to move forward with the recognition process; Dom seconded. The council approved.

Updates

Burnout Workshop

Mitzi shared that the session she led with Suzanne was a success. There was good attendance and conversation. Suzanne noted that they will share a PDF with reflection questions for burnout resilience on Facebook and the TLPDC website. Mitzi mentioned the idea of clubs for self care. These would be small support circles where participants could meet to discuss mental health goals and self care. Dom agreed that this would be beneficial, especially since it allows faculty to network outside of their department.

Evaluating Teaching Planning Session

Lisa Low will lead this session and Courtney is wanting to schedule it for December.

The Lawrence Schovanec Teaching Development Scholarships

Applications closed on November 12th. Shane Blum is the chair of the selection committee that will meet in December.

The Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award

Applications are now open and are due January 28th. Courtney asked the council to encourage their departments to apply.

Information session for new Teaching Academy Member applicants

There are two sessions in the spring, one on January 18th and one on February 3rd. Courtney will be present to assist the presentation in February but is unable to attend in January. Angela volunteered to attend the virtual session in January.

Privacy Concerns

Tara noted that virtual learning has presented many privacy concerns. Zoom allows for students to be in public places while in a virtual class and this could violate FERPA. Tara asked if council members have discussed this before or had ideas for how to handle these situations. She plans to reach out to the Registrar about her concerns. Suzanne mentioned that she and Tara could write a question on this topic and post it to a faculty development scholarly disciplinary society listserv. Suzanne agreed to help set up a panel discussion that included staff from Advising, General Counsel, and the Registrar to assist faculty in addressing privacy issues.

Provost's Council Meeting Notes- November 15, 2021

Academic Impressions

- Texas Tech now has institutional membership for this online professional leadership development resource. It is available to all faculty, staff and students.
- Molly Smith is the account manager, molly@academicimpressions.com
- The resource provides higher education professional development in areas such as Academic Affairs, DEI, student affairs, Title IX and a few other categories.

- Online resources include both asynchronous materials and a variety of synchronous events
- Many free resources and others are discounted for our membership such as more intensive bootcamps
- Molly can come to meetings to discuss what resources are available around a specific topic

Melanie Hart

- Potential for a new regional site in Forney. The local superintendent calling it “Opportunity Central.”
- President Schovanec wants to provide several opportunities through this location
- Interested in “designer” degrees
- Focus on Entrepreneurship
- An information session is coming up (Nov. 19 at 1 p.m.?)

COVID update

- Have been less than 50 cases on campus each week for the past few weeks
- Just over 3% positivity rate aggregate since September
- Going to maintain testing capacity through the end of the spring term. Continue to be located at Sam’s Poolside through spring break. Will announce new location once it is confirmed.
- UMC is requiring vaccinations which may impact some TTU faculty
- More details on this site: <https://www.ttu.edu/commitment/covid-19-vaccine/index.php>
- Asked about COVID protocols at commencement – Darryl James said the December commencement will look like the August commencement in terms of the United Supermarkets Arena. No guidance yet on college receptions.

Other items

- Dr. Carol Sumner spoke about Title III and Title V application waivers. Helps us maintain HSI status.
- Update about Intercultural Center – sending a survey to students to get their input. Timeline is within a year. Black Cultural Center is still moving forward with a February opening. Had a great First Gen conference last week.

Adjourn:

Susan motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mitzi seconded. The meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Molly Jacobs.