

# Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes

## February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

### **Members Present:**

Bob McDonald, Nathan Collie, Brie Sherwin, Scott Burris, Angela Lumpkin, Upe Flueckiger, Katie Langford, Mark Webb, Lisa Garner Santa, Suzanne Tapp, Mitzi Lauderdale, Comfort Pratt (Chair)

### **Members Not Present:**

Ali Nejat

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Angela Lumpkin motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes and Mark Webb seconded.

### **Welcome:**

Comfort Pratt welcomed Andrew Stetson, chair of the Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award Selection Committee.

### *Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award Selection Committee*

Andrew stated that the committee met on February 18<sup>th</sup> after each member had reviewed the applications from Kinesiology and Sport Management, Theatre and Dance, English, Law Library, Communication Studies, and Psychological Sciences (six total applications). Using the Olympic Scoring method, English had the highest score and after a lengthy discussion, the committee decided to award the English department.

The selection committee noticed a difference in the wording of the criteria from the award website and the award protocol. The difference is minor, but the selection committee agreed it needed to be updated in order to be clear and consistent.

The selection committee also noticed that there was a large variety of types of departments. Some were smaller with limited resources and some were large with more opportunities. The selection committee did not have a specific idea about what changes should be made, but agreed there is a need to account for this factor in the selection process in the future.

Andrew shared that the portion of the application that states how the award money will be used by the department was a highly important factor in the decision. His committee believed this expectation should be made clear to applicants.

Upe Flueckiger asked if the departments would be given feedback. Andrew said feedback would be made available to all departments on how they could improve their application.

Scott Burris asked when the recipient would be announced. Comfort said they will be notified within five days of the written report given by Andrew.

### **Updates:**

*Teaching Academy Apparel*

New Teaching Academy apparel will be made available for purchase. There will be a red blazer for women, a black blazer for women, a black blazer for men, and a red zip up pullover for men. Comfort said she would like to inform all members by email soon, but has not heard back from the Provost's Office about financial support for the apparel.

Comfort motioned to move forward with the email as soon as she heard from the Provost's Office. Comfort asked Nathan Collie to help her write a proposal to the Provost. Lisa Garner Santa seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

### *Teaching Academy Faculty Social*

The social will be at La Diosa Cellars and Comfort suggested the social be held during a live music performance. The two potential dates are March 20<sup>th</sup> during a pianist performance at 7:00 pm or March 22<sup>nd</sup> during a jazz band performance at 8:30 pm. This event is facilitated by the Teaching Academy, but the food is not sponsored and there will be a five dollar cover charge. Angela Lumpkin suggested going when there is no live music so that the atmosphere is more suitable for socializing and conversation.

Mitzi Lauderdale asked if a reservation would need to be made. Comfort said she will make a reservation for a section of the restaurant, probably for about twenty five to thirty people.

Nathan Collie suggested asking people to RSVP. Comfort said she will send an informational email about the event.

Katie Langford suggested starting the social at 5:15 pm so members could come right after work and have time for conversation before the music started.

The Council decided to hold the social on March 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 5:15 pm.

### *Teaching Academy Student Event*

Comfort said she contacted the SGA asking them to help host a student event. She suggested they put together a student panel to talk about their concerns about teaching and the teaching culture at Texas Tech.

The event will be held at the Student Union Building and the venue will be free of charge because the SGA will be hosting. Comfort would like the event to take place between March 21<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. She encouraged the Council members to invite students from their classes and organizations.

Bob McDonald asked about the format and suggested there be a faculty panel to answer questions from students.

### *Procedures*

A Teaching Academy member requested to send a survey to the academy regarding teaching tools to provide information for a workshop. Comfort stated that there was no procedure for this and that one needed to be created.

Angela reminded the council that a procedure may not be necessary due to all the names and information of members being available on the Teaching Academy website.

Comfort said that anyone can use that information, but she would like to create a procedure for the Council endorsing a member-wide email.

Brie Sherwin asked how they would prioritize these requests. Comfort suggested that this could be a benefit of being a member.

Lisa said that if they are already a member, then they should be able to send an email to other members.

Suzanne mentioned that this would be a great way for members to be more involved and allow for TLPDC collaboration since the TLPDC staff curates the full member email list.

Mitzi suggested that members wanting to send emails to the full list should have Council support if they can justify that their message promotes the Teaching Academy mission.

Scott clarified that anyone can access the full member list online, but that this procedure would only be for Executive Council support. Comfort confirmed and shared that she wants to use the full email list respectfully.

Mark Webb asked if the Executive Council chair should decide if the request meets criteria.

Comfort said it should be the chair with potential further advice from the Council.

Bob suggested this be added to the policies and procedures document.

Comfort motioned this proposal and Upe seconded. All voted in favor and agreed that the initial request to send the survey would be granted.

#### *John M. Burns Conference Speaker*

Comfort asked the Council for suggestions for the 2019 speaker. She also would like all Teaching Academy members to give suggestions. She reminded everyone that the date for the conference would be chosen based on the availability of the speaker.

Mitzi Lauderdale suggested asking the previous Lawrence Schovanec Scholars for ideas since they attended conferences recently.

#### *Advancing Teaching & Learning Conference*

Suzanne Tapp gave an overview of the 2019 conference that occurred Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

She stated that Dr. Josh Eyler gave a morning keynote session and lunch keynote session and that one hundred and seventy five people attended lunch. There were also six separate concurrent sessions throughout the day. Mark shared that he has already used a strategy he learned from the conference in his classroom.

#### **Adjourn:**

Mark Webb motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bob McDonald seconded.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Molly Jacobs.