

# Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes

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

### **Members Present:**

Bob McDonald, Nathan Collie, Ali Nejat, Angela Lumpkin, Lisa Garner Santa, Suzanne Tapp, Mitzi Lauderdale, Comfort Pratt (Chair)

### **Members Not Present:**

Upe Flueckiger, Katie Langford, Mark Webb, Brie Sherwin, Scott Burriss

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Bob McDonald motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes, Lisa Garner Santa seconded.

### **Welcome:**

Comfort Pratt welcomed Executive Council members.

### **Updates:**

#### *Teaching Academy Apparel*

Comfort informed the council that the apparel order had been placed and the blazers should be ready by April 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award*

Comfort and Andrew Stetson are working together to send letters to the applicants who did not receive the award. The Provost has already sent a congratulatory letter to the English department. Comfort was very pleased with all the work done by the selection committee.

#### *Teaching Academy Faculty Social*

Comfort shared that this social has been a popular idea, but many cannot attend due to previous commitments. The social event is tonight at 5:15 and ten people have RSVP'd. She hopes that more people will come and go throughout the evening.

### **Discussion:**

#### *Teaching Academy Student Event*

Comfort let the council know that the SGA will not be able to host and sponsor the student event due to a busy schedule. Lisa Garner Santa asked if the TLPDC could host. Comfort said she wanted to set the tone of coming to the students at the SUB instead of using a faculty space. Mitzi Lauderdale suggested reaching out to the Human Sciences Ambassadors or the Personal Financial Planning Association. She shared that there are many student organizations who could host, but it may be difficult for students to attend this close to the end of the semester. Bob McDonald asked if we could plan this event for the fall instead. Suzanne said fall could be a great time for the student event and could be about starting off right.

Comfort would still like to have the event this spring, but Angela Lumpkin agreed with Mitzi, saying that this time of the semester will be too busy for students. Mitzi suggested offering food and Ali suggested offering extra credit. Comfort would like the event to take place at the TLPDC because of its availability in April. She decided on the date April 30<sup>th</sup> and asked the council members to reach out and invite their students as well as faculty members in their colleges. The council discussed possible titles for the event and Bob McDonald remembered a previous workshop was titled “Things Students Wish Their Professors Knew”. Mitzi remembered that event and that the audience was mostly faculty with a student panel. Comfort would like the event to be a mixture of both students and faculty. The theme could center on student attitudes toward the teaching culture at Texas Tech. Lisa suggested something about how faculty perceive versus how students perceive, possibly “Are You Listening?” Mitzi suggested “Meeting of the Minds.” Bob suggested “Everything You Want Your Professor to Know but are Too Afraid to Say.” Nathan Collie suggested “Teaching Culture at Texas Tech: Faculty and Student Views.” Comfort suggested “Meeting of the Minds: Faculty and Student Views About the Teaching Culture at Texas Tech.” The council decided there will be some kind of food and Teaching Academy door prizes. Mitzi asked if students should RSVP to get a number for food. Comfort suggested just limiting attendance to the room capacity with no RSVP required. Lisa suggested choosing a moderator, maybe Clint Barrett. Suzanne agreed a moderator was needed and suggested asking a newer member of the Teaching Academy as a way to get them more involved. Comfort suggested Bill Gelber, a recent inductee and an acting and directing professor. She asked the council to think of good questions and email them to her.

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

There were five suggested speakers for the Burns Conference this fall. The nominations are Bryan Dewsbury, MaryEllen Weimer, Christine Harrington, Miriam Rosalyn Diamond, and David Roach, who is a professor at Texas Tech. Comfort is excited about all the names and prepared a document about each person for the council to review. Nathan reminded the council that there has never been a Texas Tech faculty speaker at this conference; it is always an outside speaker. It shouldn't be a competition within the university to speak at the conference. Mitzi said there are so many great Texas Tech faculty she would love to hear speak, but that the platform should be for outside speakers. Bob agreed and said the opportunity to hear a new voice is a big draw to the conference. Comfort said that a Texas Tech faculty member could draw more people, however, the council agreed that the speaker should be from another institution. Suzanne suggested the Teaching Academy could create a new annual lecture featuring a Texas Tech faculty member, and David Roach could be the first speaker. Bob agreed and said it would be a good way to spotlight Teaching Academy faculty. The lecture could be any topic and could be in the spring or maybe late fall, as long as it didn't conflict with another conference. Comfort suggested naming this annual lecture after a member. Mitzi asked about the availability of the TLPDC to host this lecture. Suzanne shared that September would be very busy as well as October. Comfort suggested late January or early April. Mitzi suggested the council pick a couple of times and poll the members. Comfort would like to give the speaker a blazer and pin

each year. Nathan suggested spotlighting any faculty member, not just Teaching Academy members. The council agreed.

Comfort informed the council that she will send them an electronic copy of the nominations and requested that council members send her their choices in order of preference using the corresponding numbers by the end of the month.

*Visibility and Impact Survey*

Comfort said she would like to create a sub-committee of the Executive Council to look at the survey reports and present ideas for solutions. Bob said it would be a great idea to create a general sub-committee to allow more members to be involved.

**Adjourn:**

Mitzi Lauderdale motioned to adjourn the meeting, Nathan Collie seconded.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Molly Jacobs.