

# Teaching Academy Executive Council Minutes

## December 6, 2018

### **Members Present:**

Bob McDonald, Nathan Collie, Katie Langford, Lisa Garner Santa, Angela Lumpkin, Mark Webb, Mitzi Lauderdale, Comfort Pratt (Chair)

### **Members Not Present:**

Suzanne Tapp, Brie Sherwin, Scott Burris, Upe Flueckiger, Ali Nejat

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Bob McDonald motioned to approve the previous meeting's minutes and Nathan Collie seconded.

### **Welcome:**

Comfort Pratt welcomed the council and introduced the guests -- Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Genevieve Durham DeCesaro and Associate Dean Wendy-Adele Humphrey.

### *Signature Educational Experience*

Genevieve Durham DeCesaro shared the vision for the Signature Educational Experience and stated that this initiative will help department heads and coordinators identify how high impact practices are being implemented in their programs. The desire is to show that certain educational requirements are being met while promoting the unique aspects that distinguish the student experience at Texas Tech. She shared that ideas for this initiative have been evolving over a long period of time. A one-page proposal of this initiative will be presented at the Chairs meeting next week.

Council members made some suggestions to help further the initiative. Members suggested that it would be helpful to present it to faculty groups. Angela Lumpkin commented about how different what the Vice Provost shared was from what the department chairs in the College of Arts and Sciences had recently been told, and that they would welcome her sharing what she had told the Executive Council at the next Chairs Council meeting. She also commented on the clarity of her presentation and the emphasis on aligning the signature educational experience with existing assessments and about expectations about communication literacy, marketable skills, and global awareness. Comfort Pratt also commented that she has a better understanding of the initiative now than the first time it was presented at the Provost Council meeting.

### *Lawrence Schovanec Teaching Development Scholarships*

Wendy-Adele Humphrey, committee chair of the scholarship selection committee, shared about their selection process. She stated that there were eight applicants this year and she gave the selection committee's recommendation to the council. She also made several suggestions to improve the application and promotion of these scholarships. Suggestions include adding more information to the website, making the scoring process more transparent to the applicants, and adding more questions to the application. The council confirmed the recommendation and will

send letters to notify the recipients. Letters will be sent by the chair of the selection committee to notify those who did not receive the scholarship. Dr. Humphrey will also send a written report to Dr. Pratt.

**Discussion:**

*Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award*

Comfort Pratt read from the February 2017 meeting minutes, reopening the conversation about eligibility for this award. The council discussed the moratorium for departments after receiving the award, as there is currently no set amount of time. The majority of the council members voted for a ten year moratorium and this recommendation will be made to the Provost's Office. They will also recommend that the application should include a question asking if the department has received the award before and, if so, how the award money was used. The council debated the definition of department or unit, but no conclusion was made.

**Updates:**

*Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award*

Comfort Pratt informed the council that the Chancellor's Council had confirmed the selection committee's recommendation and all recipients have been notified. Letters to notify those who did not receive the award will be drafted by the council and forwarded to the Provost's Office. Comfort Pratt informed the council that she will send them a draft and use their feedback to complete the final draft.

*Visibility and Impact Survey*

The final report from this survey was given to the council members to review.

**Announcements:**

Comfort Pratt informed the council that with the help of the TTU Office of Communications and Marketing and the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Teaching Academy is now featured on the Texas Tech A-Z webpage. She added that the presence of the Academy on that page is a huge step forward in its goal to achieve more visibility at Texas Tech. She encouraged the council to continue promoting the Teaching Academy in their colleges and departments.

Comfort Pratt announced that she will send out a reminder to the Teaching Academy representatives for this month's commencement ceremonies, and thanked them for representing the Academy.

She also said the new member call will be sent out shortly, and the online application will open in January and close in March.

**Christmas Gifts and Party:**

Comfort Pratt gave the council members gifts to thank them for their dedication and hard work during the year. Members received a journal with the compliments of the Provost's Office. Council members enjoyed a Christmas party.

**Adjourn:**

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Molly Jacobs.