

Dr. George Mollick— President

Dr. Jarrod Schenewark — Past President, ex-officio
Ryan Foster – President-Elect

Dr. Chandra Andrew – Sec/Treasurer
Open -- Parliamentarian

Faculty Senate Agenda

Date: March 8, 2021

Zoom

2:30-4:30 PM

PRESENT:

Dr. Lynal Albert, Dr. Karl Aho, Dr. Chandra Andrew, Dr. Robert Anderson, Dr. Iwao Asakura, Dr. Jonali Baruah, Dr. Jeremiah Bass, Dr. Don Beach, Dr. Ryan Foster, Dr. Anna Fox, Dr. Patrick Funicello, Dr. Kimberly Guay, Dr. Chun Kai Hsu, Dr. Sue Joiner, Dr. Hemanta Kafley, Dr. George Mollick, Dr. Meg Oldman, Dr. Russell Pfau, Dr. Nina Rogers, Dr. Susan Rugari, Dr. Tara Shelley, Dr. Jarrod Schenewark, Mr. Joshua Wallace

ABSENT: Ms. Kim Allen, Amy Castillo, Dr. Sharece Downey, Dr. Bernat Martinez-Ortega, Dr. Misty Smith, Dr. Andrew Wolfe, Dr. Bryant Wyatt

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Mollick at 2:33 pm.

Guest Speakers: President James Hurley

- I. Approval of minutes for February
- II. Treasurer's Report – \$1578.04
- III. Announcements
- IV. Old Business
 - i. Teaching Evaluations resolution
 - ii. Update on teaching and service committee -Mollick
 - iii. Administration evaluation schedule -mollick
 - iv. Release for department faculty request Update
- V. New Business
 - i. Rumor Control
 - ii. Release of administrative reviews to the campus (Email, Web, other?)
 - iii. President Hurley 3:30ish
- VI. Other
 - i. Open floor for
- VII. Adjourn

Notes from meeting:

Updates from meeting with the Provost

- Approved closing student evaluations 48 hours before grades due.

Teaching and Service Committee (Recommended process for consistency among colleges)

- Have a working draft done
 - o Still getting feedback before bringing to senate

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- Gone through by multiple members
- Next will look at from administrative before bringing back to senate

Release for Department and Faculty

- Recommendation was made to build in release to positions in campus climate report
- Discussed with Provost and how it is funded
- Provost has agreed to put forward a budget item to fund 5 departments and give a 1.0FTE release
 - Identified two options to get something done for next year
 - Shooting for fall 2021 budget
- Discussion on how this could/would work if funding is received

Administrative Evaluations

- Discussion on status. What will be done with them.

Texas Coordinated Council of Faculty Senates

- Conversation centered around last meeting
- Last meeting was virtual
- Talking about taking the council national or pulling more states into it

Question about outreach campus

- Any presence/input from faculty on new building for Fort Worth campus?
- Faculty office space issue – not enough space for tenure-track faculty
- Does faculty have a voice on the new building?
 - Architects for current builder oversold on building capabilities to meet needs
 - Rumor is going around that no offices will be included in second building
 - Offices on 3rd floor in current building are not designated for people and don't appear to be in use

Discussion about incorporating more reps for those housed in off-campus locations—NEXT MEETING CONVERSATION

President Hurley – joined at 3:46 p.m.

Dissimilarities between restrictions on campus – both sides of the house

- Not sure of restrictions being placed on academic side of the house
 - Senate members shared some of the restrictions with President Hurley
- Consistency needs to happen on campus
 - If we're going to have football games, we need to remain consistent
- Addressed the issue in Fine Arts
 - He was not aware of until this weekend
 - He was approached after the Ring Ceremony
 - Double standards are not fair
 - Has attended more fine arts performances more than athletics
 - Was livid when he found that out
- We are going to look different in the fall
 - We have to look different in the fall
- We have to get back to a sense of normal sooner rather than later

Question – Will we require students to be vaccinated?

- First – we need enough for faculty and staff
- From a federal guideline, we cannot require anyone vaccinate

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- May change due to new president
- As of today, that cannot be required. We can only highly encourage.
- Cannot provide an AWOL if you refuse to vaccinate
- No guidance at this time to address the question

Question about vaccines Tarleton has received?

- Now at 1C
- That DOES include Tarleton faculty
- The Governor's intent when he said "educators," he meant EVERY educator
- Encourage everyone to get vaccinated
- We need more vaccines and we need them faster
- We've applied to become the first model to vaccinate all faculty and staff
- We received 200 → all were allocated
 - Asked for more
 - Process on Wednesday
 - Need them faster

Question – Parents able to attend Fine Arts events? Is that a done deal? Can we invite parents?

- Yes, 100%
- We will not discriminate which parents can come
- That's not right or fair

Merit Process – where we are and plan for future

- Submitted for 4% merit → tabled by the BOR until spring semester
- Chancellor → allowed 4% one-time merit
- Our finances are solid
- Built reserve account above 3-month threshold; about 3.2-3.3; hoping to be 3.4 by end of fiscal year
- Have built in perpetual 3% merit increase into budget
- Numbers are trending pretty strong, down in transfers
 - Community/Jr. Colleges – down 22% nationwide
- Working with Noel-Levitz to establish a program (T-Gap) aimed at transfer students
 - Will be announced tomorrow
 - Similar to partnership with high schools
- Transfer students is the only area we are down in
- Retention is remarkable – we were in the 80s (fall to spring)
 - Did increase ~2% from fall to fall
- Need to get more transfers
 - If not, that will catch up to us in 3 years

Legislative Update

- Gave testimony to Senate and House
- Went as well as it possibly could go
- One of the few institutions who could advocate for increased funding and be rewarded for growth
 - Need funding formula to adjust
 - Hoping they reward growth
- TRBs – don't think they are dead, but are on life support
 - Going to come down to tradeoffs in the legislative sessions
 - If it happens, will be an add-on to a bill

Question on Second Building in Fort Worth and Faculty Input

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- Recommended to reach out to Dr. Kim McCuistion
- Geared toward Education and Health and Human Sciences Colleges
 - o Encouraging them to work together
 - o Collaborative spaces vs. siloed ownership
- Office spaces for faculty
 - o Could move around space in Building 1 to create that space with the addition of Building 2

Won't go back to Legislature for 2 weeks

Program – Dr. Rupa Iyer

- Going to take about \$1 million of COVID relief to do experiential learning/research (faculty led) this summer and stipends for faculty to conduct these experiences
 - o Stipends would be tiered from students through faculty
 - o Leading engagement activities – research or experiences
- Dr. Iyer will have more information. Those interested need to contact her
- Encourages faculty and students to seek the opportunity and get involved
- Depending on funding from last stimulus, funding may be even higher
- Dr. Iyer has already advocated for help for IRB and increasing stipends for research activities

Question on Study Texas Grants and pre-/post-testing for COVID. Not sure how to get that done

- Hurley will talk to Kent.
- Hurley encouraged applying for a grant through Dr. Iyer
- He wants the problem of too many applications and needing more funding

Merit

- Proposed a 3% merit in next year's budget and that is on the base
- System's stance on no institution doing a perpetual merit increase; we will know within probably the next 60 days what our budget will be
- Investing in our human capital is really important
- He has not received a raise since he got here
- He has to ensure we can attract/retain quality faculty
 - o We have to play catch up
 - o We have suppressed salaries
 - o We need to attract and keep the best and the brightest
- All he can fix is what we are doing moving forward
 - o He was relentless for getting the one-time 4% merit
- We're going to invest in our people

Athletics – Dr. Beach

- It is working based upon the fall's metrics, scholarship, progress, and meeting the increased standards of D1

Hurley's Response

- We are recruiting a much more academically ready athlete
- It is raising the profile
- Garnering a lot of positive attention for the university

Left at 4:34 p.m.

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Question about 9+3 model

Check your one-time payments

Two pins

Workday → payroll → if it says 75%; that is only the 9 month paid

One-time payment

9+3 were only paid on the 9 and not the 9+3; so double check

Otherwise, you only got paid on 75%

Contact Eva Lopez in HR; she is aware of this

Adjourned at 4:42