

## **Staff Advisory Committee**

**January 24, 2017, 1:30 pm.**

**Members Present:** Elizabeth Clemens, Anna DeBord, Patrena Hicks, Liz Kassera (presiding), Jerry Keeton, Deborah Mayberry, Lindsey Nakamoto, Becky Stafford and Cheryl Sullivan

**Others Present:** Leslie Crickenberger, Logan McCormick, President Phil Oldham

**Agenda Items:** Chairman Kassera extended the welcome. She advised no items were left in the comment boxes for discussion and no items were proposed before the meeting occurred. The floor was opened for questions and discussion.

The meeting began with a discussion on campus parking. The TTU PD refers to this year as the benchmark for the parking arrangement especially in regards to the Gold parking areas. All are encouraged to provide any feedback, positive or negative, to the TTU PD. Feedback will be referred to the Parking Committee for review, as the committee is are charged with addressing any and all issues. President Oldham advised the feedback he's received has been positive. There may be minor issues in isolated areas but no recurring problems. As the semester continues to kick off, parking congestion is high. As with every semester, the congestion will begin to lessen in about 2 – 3 weeks as people begin to find their routines. The TTUPD are taking measures to ensure all University patrons park in their appropriate areas as assigned by their hang tags. A reminder was given that patrons may always park 'down a level, but never up' in regards to permits. (Gold to Purple, Purple to Red, etc.)

An update was provided on the status on the Board of Directors. President Oldham is currently meeting individually with the board members in preparation for confirmation hearings. The Board will be participating in confirmation hearings in Nashville in early February. President Oldham advised the Board is an outstanding group of talented individuals who will assist in gaining even more positive outcomes for TTU's future. The Board has met on campus previously in a meet and greet capacity.

The next item was the changes from Governor Haslam's office in regard to program outsourcing. President Oldham advised no real immediate impact will be seen by TTU. Currently TTU manages the maintenance support and building facilities efficiently with the current infrastructure. That being said, there have also been cost benefit analysis conducted paring our current process to other options currently available. No significant change in numbers were found to prompt a need for change at this time. This doesn't mean TTU is not open to options. One of the University's core values is to provide the students with the greatest education opportunities at the lowest costs to them. So again, no changes on that front at this time. The University will benefit from what the State is proposing in regards to contract operations and outsourcing. TTU currently uses multiple contractors to supplement the skilled craft and trade staff as needed. These contracts provide services such as plumbing and electrical work, where a full time staff is not feasible. The staff and current trades specialists do great work with the help provided from these contracts. The State is proposing guidelines that will make the selection of these contractors and service providers easier, quicker and to establish fixed pricing fees. President Oldham then advised that TTU will continue to hear more from the state level on how monies can be saved in many other areas, prisons, parks and state run office buildings. Since universities operate on a uniquely different scale than those listed, changes are expected to be minimum.

A question of what Governor Haslam's role will be in regards to the operation of the new Board. President Oldham advised the day-to-day operations will be left primarily in control of the Board and University President. Governor Haslam has been very open about letting universities opt in or out of this process.

A question of how travel will be processed under the new Board was asked. Current guidelines refer to the TBR polices regarding travel. President Oldham advised the FOCUS Act has a provision allowing existing policies to flip to the Board's supervision until such time where updates and edits of those polices can be approved. Many

policies and procedures are currently in the process of being updated for Board approval. The Board will act on all urgent policy and procedure updates first, then will filter down to the remaining policy changes or adjustments needed.

**President's Comments:** President Oldham advised the Fitness Center design is in affect complete and will be moving to the building commission in a few short weeks. The groundbreaking ceremony is still expected to commence in April 2017. President Oldham participated in a meeting with the Cookeville Planning Commission. The Commission agreed to turn over the city streets surrounding the new Fitness Center to TTU. The Commission has referred that recommendation to the City Council for action.

The Science building project is slated for a mid-fall 2017 groundbreaking and the design is close to 100 % as of now.

The University Center undertaking is ready to go back out for bid per Dr. Stinson. This has been a difficult process but headway is being made.

The occupancy of Jere Whitson Hall is on the books for April. This will mark Kittrell and Bartoo Halls up next for renovation.

Chairman Kassera advised new classroom barriers are being installed on campus. Once installations are complete, more information will be disseminated on operation of those barriers in the event of an active shooter or lockdown situation. President Oldham advised the University is looking at an external safety and security consultation in addition to current safety measures. An RFP has begun for that process.

On the lines of safety, President Oldham also advised we can expect to see legislation in the near future in regards to a student gun carry bill. We will be watching this development closely as the University continues to keep the welfare of the student body and of its individual students in the forefront of its concern.

Dr. Crickenberger advised on a new paring with Chartwells to allow faculty and staff to purchase meal plans at \$50/100/150 with bonus meals for each level. Purchases may be made by credit card or by payroll deductions.

No further questions or comments were brought before the Committee. Chairman Kassera adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.

**Recorder:** B. Logan McCormick