

**Staff Advisory Committee  
Teams Meeting  
January 14, 2021**

**Members Present:** Angie Denson, Margo Dirkson, Kathy Faulkner, Amy Foster, Carrie Harris, Michelle Holm, Corinne Johnson, Andrea Kruszka, Kim Meredith, Angie Wells

**Members Absent:** Shana Eads, Susan Henry, Bethany Jones, Charlene McClain, Robert Scantland, Michael Sliger

**Others Present:** President Oldham, Lee Wray, Sherrie Howard, Greg Holt, Donna Schrock,

**Summary:**

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Discussion on Representation for Staff Compensation

Discussion on COVID-19

Comments by the President

**Proceedings:**

Chairperson Angie Wells called the Teams meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. Carrie Harris motioned to approve the agenda. Kim Meredith seconded. APPROVED.

Corrine Johnson motioned to approve the minutes from October 29, 2020. Carrie Harris seconded. APPROVED.

Angie Wells told the committee that an Administrator had come to her and wanted clarification as to who would represent the Staff when it comes to compensation and who speaks on our behalf to the Board of Trustees? This was brought up because Faculty Senate Representative, Jeannette Wolak, presented a Resolution for Faculty Compensation at the December 1, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting. Wolak stated that the staff was not covered in this resolution. This administrator was under the impression that the administrators and staff were under the same umbrella as the faculty. How does that work?

President Oldham replied that the structure for representation for faculty on campus is different than that of staff and other employees. There is shared governance structure for faculty. This Staff Advisory Committee has an advisory role. Staff does have a voice and I would ultimately advocate for staff through the traditional budgetary process. You can communicate to me what issues need to be evaluated, explored, addressed and resolved. The Faculty Senate in speaking to the Board was a unique situation and they were granted the opportunity to talk to the Board.

Lee Wray added that it does seem like there should be more interaction between the members of the Board and university staff. Possibly highlight staff accomplishments more to the board. It has also been brought up before, who represents the administrators? Wray asked if this administrator was speaking primarily in regards to the compensation question? Wells replied, yes. The administrator went into more detail that she had a couple of staff members that have not received compensation in two years as in cost of living increases. Wray said those are things they have heard and that have been conveyed to Trustees. I will let Chair Harper know that there was that concern and question and interest on how things like that would work.

Wells asked how everyone was doing with COVID and working? Were there any concerns? Everyone seemed to be doing good.

President Oldham mentioned that not all the students are back yet but that we did have 32 active COVID cases noted on the website. If you go back through the Fall semester, we kept our case count on average around half a percent of the college population. On the most part those who have had it have managed it pretty well. The vaccine is becoming available although most of us will have to wait till May or June before we get it. Higher Education has not been prioritized in the state plan. The President cosigned, along with all the other campus Presidents in the state, a letter to Governor Lee to request consideration to prioritize the position in the vaccination schedule. So far that has not been successful. Putnam County's rollout of vaccinations have gone really well.

Last Fall we operated campus in a way that keeps people safe and healthy. We will continue to do as we have going forward. We have a better idea of how to focus our resources and efforts in the ways that will make the most difference. I want to give a lot of credit and thanks to the staff on campus for the job they did this past semester. Everyone across the board did an outstanding job. Hopefully everybody enjoyed the bonus in the December check and the free gift from the bookstore. Congratulations to everyone for a job well done.

The President commented that our plan is to be back to better than normal by next Fall Semester with the vaccine and immunity. We will see how things progress for the Summer Session. The President asked if anyone had questions regarding COVID? Angie Wells asked if the vaccination shots would be offered to all of us? The President replied that currently they do not consider Higher Education as a high-risk category. We will encourage everyone on campus to get vaccinated when it becomes available. If this group sees something that we could be doing better, please call it to our attention. It will be a normal schedule for the Spring Semester, we will be asking everyone to be wearing facemasks in indoor spaces on campus and isolate and quarantine as they need to.

Regarding Capital Projects: There have been a lot accomplished and a lot of ongoing projects. The new Science Building is being occupied and has been turned over to the campus. Chemistry and Biology faculty have been moving into the facility the last few days. It is open during the day and anyone has the opportunity to walk through and see the facility. Cooper Dunn is now completed and the residents in Crawford Hall have been relocated to Cooper Dunn.

The Engineering Building is still in design and near complete pending final funding from the state and we anticipate breaking ground late this summer. We are in design for a new residence hall, with an Innovations theme. It would be located on the west end of Sherlock Park and hope to break ground this calendar year. Peachtree will be under construction beginning this summer. Most of Peachtree in the middle of campus will become pedestrian. We will make the center part of campus much greener and pedestrian friendly. The Fire Pit on the back side of the RUC is complete but we have had a hard time

keeping it functional. There is a new Waterfall that is almost complete in Centennial Plaza and will be a beautiful addition to the campus.

You may ask, why spend so much time and resources on the campus and how it looks? This is our home and where we work and we want it to look good, but it is ultimately about attracting more students to come to TN Tech. Recruiting future students is a high priority and it is more than just enrollment management but falls on all of us to make students feel welcome when they come visit. We all have a vested interest in attracting more students. The future of TN Tech is heavily dependent on attracting quality students. Right now, is the most difficult time in recruiting due to the COVID protocols. A lot of times the campus appearance is the number one factor listed in deciding which campus to attend. I encourage any of you to roll out the red carpet when prospective students come to campus.

Kim Meredith asked if that was a sun dial on the side of the new Science Building? The President replied that yes, it is. Not all of the artwork is in place yet, but ultimately when everything is in place and you tour the building you will see a lot of things that give the facility an extra level of character. The architect came up with the idea of the sun dial. Meredith commented that it was really sharp and adds a lot to the building. President Oldham said that in the lobby of the Stonecipher Lecture Hall there are two other prominent aspects; one, in the stone is etched a profile of an eagle with its wings spread and next to it, there is a metal engraved seal of the University, about 6-8'. In the two big atriums you will see two large art sculptures hanging. There will be an Einstein's Brothers Bagel shop and Caribou Coffee in the center along with other science themed artwork showcased throughout the building.

No other such matters.

Carrie Harris motioned to adjourn. Margo Dirkson seconded. Adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Donna Schrock, recorder