

## Staff Advisory Committee

September 11, 2019

**Members Present:** Shana Eads, Amy Foster, Kim Fox, Carrie Harris, Susan Henry, Michelle Holm, Kim Meredith, Phyllis Miller, Matt Nisbet, Robert Scantland, Angie Wells

**Others Present:** President Oldham, Lee Wray, Dr. Leslie Crickenberger, Diane Smith, Donna Schrock, other Faculty/Staff for presentation of service pins.

President Oldham, serving as temporary chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Tech Pride Room, RUC Rm. 101. He welcomed everyone and asked the members to introduce themselves and their department. A motion to approve the previous SAC minutes was made by Susan Henry, and seconded by Matt Nisbet. Motion passed.

Dr. Crickenberger asked for approval of the Non-Faculty Grievance Pool. She explained that the Non-Faculty Grievance Committee is chosen from the pool when a grievance results in a hearing. The pool consists of staff from all of the employment categories who serves a 3-year term. Matt Nisbet motioned to approve. Carrie Harris seconded. Motion passed.

President Oldham opened the floor for nominations for a new chairperson. Susan Henry nominated Carrie Harris. Carrie was willing to serve. Michelle Holm made the motion to nominate. Kim Fox seconded. All were in favor. Carrie Harris agreed to accept. Motion passed. Congratulations to Carrie Harris, who is the new chairperson.

President Oldham made the Presentation of Service Pins. Recognizing Clerical and Support staff on campus that collectively had contributed 465 years of service to this university. He thanked them for their service.

### **President's Comments:**

President Oldham thanked everyone sitting in the room for contributing to TN Tech in being ranked 140<sup>th</sup> in National Public Universities in the Country. We are only one of 3 public universities in Tennessee to receive a numerical rank in the top 140. Among Tennessee Universities, we ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in retention rate, up from last year. We were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state for graduation rate, our 4-year graduation rate is over 37%. We are the second highest ACT score in the state. Enrollment welcomed an additional 2,500 new students this year, which replaces the 2,500 students who graduated last year.

President Oldham also indicated that Tech reached the \$60 million Capital Campaign goal two years ahead of schedule. We had a record year for sponsored research awards, \$19.7 million. Tennessee Higher Education Commission gave us approval for two new degree programs on campus.

A few changes on campus; Dr. Harvill Eaton, who has been Interim Vice-President for Research and Economic Development has resigned that position and happy to announce the appointment of Dr. Francis Otuonye as the Interim Vice-President.

We have received a number of proposals for a Design Team for the new Engineering Building. It will be a \$55 million, 100,000 square foot building. We are also in the process to look for a New Master Plan Architect. Campus will be reviewing and revising it's Campus Master Plan, everything involving the entire campus for the next couple decades. President Oldham encouraged the entire campus to participate in the process.

He reported that the Grand Challenge, Rural Reimagined, is off to a great start. We have already been able to integrate that challenge into over 15 classes which reached over 300 students this fall.

We have a lot to be proud of but no matter how good Tech has been in the past or how good Tech is today it is not good enough for the future. The world continues to evolve and continue to change and it moves at a very rapid pace. The students that we serve expect us to give them the very best opportunities for their future. Which means we need to continue to get better. We have a mission to serve the entire state of Tennessee. He is tired of hearing that Tennessee Tech is a well-kept secret. We need to do a better job of recruiting students across the state to welcome prospective students. October 5<sup>th</sup> will be our Fall Preview Day. It will give us an opportunity for us to show off our southern hospitality.

Long term goals:

- By the year 2025 our goal is to be at 12,000 students
- Minority Enrollment to increase Diversity to 22%
- Freshman to Sophomore retention rate to 82%
- Four-year graduation rate of 50%
- Continue to grow our on-line programs substantially
- Strengthen our Career Development
- Continue to increase our research presence
- For Tennessee Tech to be completely and fully recognized across the state as the Champion Center of Excellence regarding the future of rural Tennessee

No such other matters.

Susan Henry motioned to adjourn. Shana Eads seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Donna Schrock, Recorder