

Faculty Senate President's Meeting Notes

April 5, 2021

Submitted by K. Craven

Members Present:

Stephanie Adams, Douglas Airhart, Dan Allcott, Michael Allen, Jeremy Blair, Troy Brachey, Debra Bryant, Wei Tsun Chang, Kris Craven, Dennis Duncan, Mary Lou Fornehed, David Hajdik, Tammy Howard, Janet Isbell, Matt Langford, Brian Jones, Nancy Kolodziej, David Larimore, Emily Lee, Chad Luke, Lori Maxwell, Jennifer Meadows, Holly Mills, Lachelle Norris, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Anthony Paradis, Sally Pardue, Richard Rand, Jeff Roberts, Lee Ann Shipley, Sandra Smith-Andrews, Troy Smith, Barry Stein, Holly Stretz, Daniel Swartling, Lenly Weathers, Robert Wilbanks, Zac Wilcox, Kimberly Winkle, Russ Witcher, Jeannette Wolak, Jeff Womack

Members Absent:

Chris Brown, Yun Ding, Steven Frye, Christy Killman, Susan Laningham, Ann Manginelli, Mark Melichar, Mike Rogers

Guests Present:

Lee Wray

Call to Order

Call to order 3:35 p.m.

President Oldham announced the event on Friday where there will be a ribbon cutting for the new Lab Science Building and a dedication of the Stonecipher Lecture Hall. There will also be recognition of the new Fitness Center. Campus currently has fewer confirmed COVID cases on campus with the count at 9. There is also a decline in Putnam County. There are also more vaccines with approximately 400 doses available at the clinic. Tomorrow we are expected to receive 500 Johnson & Johnson single injection vaccines.

There were a number of topics submitted, President Oldham started with these.

There have been some issues with Emeritus faculty e-mail accounts being deactivated. This appears to stem from a lack of completion of paperwork. This is considered concerning. An Emeritus faculty member who is continuing to do work with other faculty or students can be approved to maintain e-mail and other support benefits. There is also a question about the cost, which has gone up and is no longer public knowledge. Chief of Staff Lee Wray said to please forward any instances of this to him and he will check. A suggestion was made that the paperwork not be completed yearly, maybe change to longer period of approval.

As for the fall semester, there is no crystal ball here and no concrete decisions have been made. The Cabinet continues to discuss options. The general trendline in the state is positive. The

Provost office has done a good job with planning for 50% capacity with everyone on campus and has scheduled fall classes accordingly. This includes more sections of classes and additional resources. Some exceptions have been made when this is not possible. The vaccine is moving progressively and the hope is that everyone who wants to be vaccinated will be by mid-summer. The decision has been made to conduct commencement outside in Tucker Stadium. The FIT is beginning to loosen restrictions. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Question: Students are starting to get vaccinated. Are they getting reminders and encouragement?

Response: We do have a limited number of shots available and we don't want to overmarket them. There is currently no issue with using what we have. Unless that starts to happen, there is no plan for a campaign. President is in favor of encouraging students.

There have been concerns of a report of a shot fired in Derryberry Hall. This is not the case. There was an accidental discharge of a gun in another building. No one was hurt and it is being handled appropriately. The person involved did have the proper approval to carry on campus.

There are concerns about the parking lot behind Henderson Hall. Late this summer, work will begin on Peachtree Ave for the pedestrian walkway from Wings Up Way to Johnson Hall. The work will take several months and for some of that time the parking lot will be affected. There will be a new entrance created and then the parking lot will reopen. More specific details are not known. However, the parking lot will not be eliminated.

The search for the permanent director of the CITL is an internal search and it has started. The time frame for completion is not known. The search for the Vice President of Student Affairs is making good progress. There was a good pool of candidates who are all well qualified and they are scheduling campus visits now. Schedules for the interviews should be available by the end of the week. There were questions about internal vs external search for the CITL director, this will need to be checked.

There is also a search for the Director of Human Resources. This search has been restarted and is ongoing. This is not an unusual situation for this type of position. HR is currently short staffed and they are hoping to hire additional employees soon.

Related to the Emeritus e-mail situation, it is important to keep them connected with campus. If there is a financial issue with maintaining the TTU e-mail, maybe we could get a forwarding e-mail address before discontinuing the TTU address. President Oldham agreed that this is a good point but is not sure if there are potentially issues with the system and security. It would be good to take this to the IT committee.

There is an issue with not allowing adjunct faculty to have keys to the buildings. Some departments have judges and police officers working as adjunct faculty, seems like they can be

trusted with keys. The issue is with lost keys, rekeying buildings is expensive. Options can include card swipe locks, but these are also expensive. There should be a way to make an exception to the policy. The question is who has the authority to make that exception. It was suggested that the Buildings and Grounds committee is the right place to discuss this.

There was some more discussion about fall 2021. Senators expressed a desire to be able to lecture without a mask. They also expressed frustration with not seeing students in person and not being able to read facial expressions – which actually goes both ways. The final decisions will not be made until late in the summer closer to the start of classes. Should we ask for self-reporting of vaccination to help? This is continue to be discussed and considered before final decisions are made.

Adjourned 4:55p.m.

Approved: April 19,2021