

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

UTHSC Faculty Senate Meeting

Zoom Monthly Meeting
December 12, 2023

Attendance: (senators, administrators, and faculty)

Attending: PJ Koltnow, Jillian McCarthy, Karen Derefinko, Tracy McClinton, Jayc Sedlmayr, Ayman Abdul H Aldayeh, Michelle Lynn Abramovitz, Terrance Cooper, Laura Reed, Dave Bhattacharya, Kimberly Morris, Tayebah Pourmotabbed, Kevin Freeman, Rajashekhar Gangaraju, Ronald Rafael Espinal, Laxmichaya Sawant, Mary Erickson, Laurentia Nodit, Leo Lamsen, Myra M Meekins, Tyler Melton, Ashton Brooks, Zheng Fan, Ted Cory, Donna Lynch-Smith, Kristen Bettin, Kim Carter, Nina K Sublette, Phyllis Richey, Purnima Singh, Fatima Ahmed, Chris Wood, Steven Doettl, Jeffry Bieber, Hassan Almoazen, Jill Maples, April Hilsdon, Rachel Barenie, Jaqueline D Venturin, Nawajes Mandal, Yanhui Zhang, Jeff Kalmowicz, Wen Lin Sun, Chalet Tan, Yi Lu, Richard Smith, Karine Guerrier, Vickie Baselski, Keith May, Vrushali, Abhyankar, Mandy Simpson, Ranjit Philip, Maria Carrillo, Qi Wang, Cheran Elangovan, Christopher Brett, Dan Young, Lee Weaver, David W Petersen, Scott Hollis, Stephanie Cage, Emma Murray, David Hamilton, Twisha Oza, Liza Makowski, Elizabeth A Fitzpatrick, Fuming Zhou, Ava Saidian, Shelley White-Means, Thaddeus A Wilson, Yochim, Ayesha Khan, Muneeza Khan, Heather Moss, Ben Maddox, Tauheed Ishrat, Sanjay Mohan, Ramesh Narayanan, Maria Tirado, Rebecca B Reynolds, Marcia Sharp, Michelle Lynn Abramovitz, Lynn Ellen Dobrunz, Cynthia Russell, Raaj Kurapati.

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm CST/5:00 pm EST

Faculty Senate Meeting

Presiding: Mr. Paul J. Koltnow, President

Approval of October 10th, 2023 minutes

- The floor was opened for discussion of the October 10th, 2023 meeting minutes. No edits were recommended. Dr. Tracy McClinton motioned to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Dr. Rajashekhar Gangaraju.
 - Poll Everywhere vote:
 - Accept: 100% (44/44)
 - Do not accept: 0% (0/44)
 - Abstain: 0% (0/44)

Introduction of Mr. Raaj Kurapati, Executive Vice chancellor, Chief Operating and Financial officer

- Discussion of the new role of the Executive Vice Chancellor
 - Some reorganizing is starting to occur
 - Some strategic priorities will move to Paul Wesolowski, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships, some have moved to Chancellor Buckley
- Discussion of Executive Vice Chancellor Kurapati's first 100 days in this position, goals, and challenges
 - How to organize operations and finance, and deliver on the strategic plan
 - Finances
 - Take a hard look at the UTHSC finances
 - Meeting with everyone
 - Soon some report on this will be available
 - Need transparency about resources
 - New Director of Financial Planning and Budget, Andrew Roberts (formerly at University of Memphis)
 - Hired on December 1 to align the UTHSC budget
 - Operations

- Capital planning process is being evaluated
 - Space allocation is being reorganized to be a fair process based upon the order and urgency of requests
 - How are we using space, how can we renovate available space?
- Question: Is there a timeline for space allocation? Is it related to accreditation?
 - Space planning form has been made available
 - Hope to be more thoughtful about how space is allocated, make assigning process fair
 - This is for lab and student space
- Challenges
 - Many opportunities to be strategic about how resources are allocated, how space is allocated
 - Examine if we have allocated resources in the right places
 - Considering how budget is increased/decreased and being transparent about these decisions as they come about
 - Question: Are enrollment numbers associated with space allocation?
 - Strategic plan includes strategic enrollment and research plans
 - This is who we want to be as an institution
 - We will be thoughtful about how enrollment aligns with space and resources
 - Question: There used to be a Space Committee of faculty and Chairs that reported to the Vice Chancellor for Research– will this continue?
 - Mr. Kurapati was not aware of a Space Committee
 - Does not feel that this committee should report to the Vice Chancellor of Research

- Question: How to resolve issues with CHIPS allocation (struggles over scheduling with CHIPS)
 - Yes, and programmatic piece will also work with Vice Chancellor Cynthia Russell
- Question: What about new building for College of Medicine?
 - Top project is renovation of Gross Anatomy lab, which is likely to be funded as Capital Request from Governor (Tennessee Higher Education Commission)
 - College of Medicine Building will also be a Capital Request in the next year
 - The way state budget looks, it is timely to re-evaluate old plan as needs have likely changed
 - Would cost about \$450 million dollars
 - Committee for College of Medicine needs for a new building will be created
- Question: Getting rid of the old Holiday Inn?
 - System Wide Facilities has put together funds to demolish the building and the other two buildings at the start of the new fiscal year (target date: End of June)
- F&A distribution is being evaluated
 - We may negotiate new rate
 - Considering move from 54% to 59%
 - Possible this may take many years to get to 59%
 - Question: Considering how much goes directly back to the department that was funded?
 - Yes, Mr. Kurapati is thinking about distribution policies
 - Strong consideration of rewarding PIs for their work
- Question: What are updates about student housing?
 - Apartments

- There are 380 units on UTHSC property (1, 2, 3 bedrooms that were completed)
 - This is our property, but strategically not our housing
 - Is not our housing, we have a ground lease with the Turleys
 - We get an annual lease
 - We like this arrangement because we do not want this responsibility (we do not have the resources to staff, secure, and manage this)
 - We do not want to have crimes in the housing reportable as UTHSC crime
- Question: Regional One partnership and building progress?
 - County has approved \$350 million for renovation of Regional One, and Regional One has asked Governor Lee to match this from the state
 - This is a County and Regional One project, but we support it
 - Question: Would \$700 million be enough to rebuild Regional One?
 - Not clear, could be as high as \$1.4 billion

News and Updates

- Hiring of Chief Wellness Officer
 - Dr. Jessi Gold, MD, MS
 - Begins in February
 - Will report to Vice Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships Paul Wesolowski
- Update to Minors on Campus
 - Pipeline has been discussed in Faculty Senate
 - Response from Chandra Alston's office
 - We have policies that we can use to accomplish this

- Vice Chancellor Russell and Chancellor Buckley demonstrate a collaborative spirit to get this accomplished
- There is an interest in the process, student involvement, including increased local student enrollment
- FSEC and Committee updates
 - University Faculty Council
 - Expanding Suspension of Tenure Clock Criteria
 - Faculty Affairs
 - Working on COACHE survey
 - Working to get colleges involved to get results out
 - Computing, Technology, and Communications
 - Developing standard policies for computer hardware replacement
 - Handbook
 - Updating bylaws
 - Clarifying Distinguished Professorship
 - Education
 - No faculty on Student Honor Council, looking to change this

New business

- Blackboard Ultra
 - Work on updating your course earlier rather than later
- TLC website is very helpful

Announcements

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm CST/6:05 pm EST.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Karen Derefinko
Faculty Senate Secretary