

## **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

### **UTHSC Faculty Senate Meeting**

Zoom Monthly Meeting  
October 11, 2022

*Attendance:* (senators, administrators, and faculty)

*Attending:* Jillian McCarthy, Tayebah Pourmotabbed, Paul J Koltnow, Karen Derefinko, Terrance G Cooper, Alina Cernasev, Phyllis Richey, Marie Gill, Brett Wilson, Richard Smith, Ramesh Narayanan, Wen Lin Sun, Shaun Rowe, Emma Murray, Rachel Barenie, Oscar Grandas, Santosh Kumar, Thaddeus A Wilson, Jen Hausladen, Nina K Sublette, Kimberly Morris, Meiyun Fan, Vijaya Joshi, L. Alexia Williams, Emmy Ci, RK Rao, Shiva Bohn, Jennifer Kramer, Ashton Brooks, Willis Edward Reese, Wei Li, Yi Lu, Zheng Fan, Chris Wood, Erinn Finke, Chris Fuchs, Steven M Doettl, Laura T Reed, Maggie Wheeler, Tracy McClinton, Alexandria Q Wilson, Kimberly Kennel, Hassan Almoazen, Stephen Pishko, Kristen Bettin, Sarah Newell, Christie M Cavallo, Lisa Beasley, Dennis Leo, Jaqueline D Venturin, Tauheed Ishrat, Ricketta Clark, Vrushali Abhyankar, Ramesh Krishnan, Yanhui Zhang, Keesha Roach, Andrea Edwards, Hilary Jasmin, Kimberly Carter, Shelly White-Means, Martin Donaldson, Mary Erickson, Cynthia Russell, Peter Buckley, Kathy Gibbs.

Meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm CST/5:03 pm EST

### **Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Presiding: Dr. Jillian McCarthy, President**

- Motion to open the meeting: Shaun Rowe
- Seconded: Tayebah Pourmotabbed

### **Approval of September 13, 2022 minutes:**

- The floor was opened for discussion of the September 13, 2022 meeting minutes. No edits were recommended. Tracy McClinton motioned to accept the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Emma Murray
  - 45 senators responded to the anonymous poll
  - Vote was unanimous to accept minutes as written

### **Kathy Gibbs (Lovett) SASSI:**

- SASSI is always available to assist faculty and students
- Normalize self-care, want students to thrive
- Quadfecta of success includes: learning, caring, mental hygiene, and connections
  - Goal is to promote these ideas and sustain culture of belonging
- Demonstration of website
  - Leaders, counselors, educational specialists
  - Coaches have training to help students identify what they need
  - SASSI is not remedial, only for struggling students, stigmatizing
  - Wellness programming:
    - October focus is dealing with disappointment, burnout, managing conflict, surviving difficult emotions
    - November focus is self-compassion, safe zone training, taking control of thoughts, mindfulness
    - Counseling can be after hours, schedule online
- Goals for cultural change:
  - Normalize help seeking
  - Embrace diversity
  - Develop programming for healthy behaviors
  - Demonstrate/model skills to handle demands
- Concerns of students include:
  - Anxiety

- Adjustment
- Academic performance
- Racism/sexism/homophobia
- Institutional concerns
- Portal on website allows students to share concerns
- Questions:
  - How to address student challenges? Many resources available (tutors for gaps in learning, mental health or financial resources, etc.). Difficult for faculty to address these issues, in part because of demands on faculty time.
  - Professional students go through high stress/depression/anxiety. How can faculty be trained on early signs of distress?
    - SASSI will come to your department to train faculty on recognizing issues before they arise
  - Accrediting bodies focus on wellness for residents. Are there resident-specific resources? Dr. Clay Wimmell and Dr. Natasha Thompson already have wellness for their residents, may be willing to share resources

### **Committee Updates:**

- None

### **New Business:**

- Shared Governance video
  - Dr. Cindy Russell and Dr. Jillian McCarthy have recorded a “shared governance” video for the faculty senate website
  - Dr. Russell spoke about the video and offered to answer questions
- Dr. Peter Buckley and Dr. Cynthia Russell
  - Dr. Russell spoke about tenure extension
  - Dr. Russell spoke about search for the Dean of College of Pharmacy. Good candidates identified, but have quickly acquired other positions before we were able to recruit them. Interviews ongoing

- Vice Chancellor of Partnerships position moving along
- Vice Chancellor of Alumni Affairs Love Collins is retiring. Will change title to “Vice Chancellor of Advancement”
- Campus safety: We need to share tips and key information to stay safe, but not alarm students and prospective students
- Dr. Russell provided Strategic Planning update: Workgroups are meeting, all on track
- Question for Drs. Buckley and Russell: How about faculty wellness? Campus culture and work environment is being assessed. Dr. Brown has hired a wellness coordinator. EAP is another resource. Strategic Planning should touch on this. Sr Assoc VC for faculty affairs will be hired and can guide programming on this issue

### **Announcements:**

- Up-coming senate meetings:
  - 11/8/22 Frank Lancaster
  - 12/13/22: Howard Gadlin role of an ombuds
- Investiture ceremony 11/4/22 at 10 am (consider RSVP-ing)

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm CST/5:59 pm EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Karen Derefinko  
Faculty Senate Secretary