

# Faculty Senate Meeting

**June 18, 2020**

**Senators in Attendance:** Jamie Harvey (President), Charlene Simmons (President-Elect), Jack Zibluk (Vice-President), Steve Ray (Past-President); Nicolas Boer, Angel Collier, Deborah McAllister, Susan Thul, Natalie Owsley, Stephanie Todd, Alexandra Zelin, Anne Swedberg, Sarah Einstein, Boris Belinsky, Joshua Hamblen, Phil Roundy, Spencer Usrey, Ron Goulet, Donal Reising, Hinsdale Bernard, Liz Hathaway, Joanie Jackson, Barry Kamrath, Noah Lasley, Brian Rogers.

**Senators Not in Attendance:** Kimberly Carter, Ahmey Kule, Alison Allerton, Jose-Luis Gastanaga, Han Park, Hill Craddock, Hunter Holzhauser, Ignatius Fomunung, Hong Qin, Shellie Acocello, Mark Stoutenberg.

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm via Zoom video conferencing. A video recording of the meeting can be viewed at: [https://tennessee.zoom.us/rec/share/-kyd67u7UFOH4H87nj4QpYFHR30aaa82nJN\\_PMPnki\\_qzavYzuOzdGMCTzUBetq?startTime=1592505402000](https://tennessee.zoom.us/rec/share/-kyd67u7UFOH4H87nj4QpYFHR30aaa82nJN_PMPnki_qzavYzuOzdGMCTzUBetq?startTime=1592505402000)

## Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the April 2020 meeting of the Faculty Senate were presented. A senate member pointed out that the minutes lacked a list of senators in attendance. It was agreed the minutes would be updated and that approval of the minutes would be held over to the next meeting of the Senate.

## Administrative Reports

### Chancellor Angle

Chancellor Steve Angle thanked the outgoing Senators and President Jamie Harvey for their service to the university. The Chancellor reported that reintegration plans, as outlined in the Fall 2020 Task Force Report, are currently underway.

### Vice Provost Matthews

Vice Provost Matt Matthews provided a short update on the implementation of recommendations outlined in the Fall 2020 Task Force Report. The implementation is being led by Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Brown, Vice Chancellor Freeman, and Provost Hale. A team of 20

representatives from across campus is working through the implementation process and making additional recommendations to the leadership group, which includes the Chancellor's Executive Leadership Team, representatives from the Faculty Senate, and others. The 20 people serving on implementation team include:

- Scott Altizer, Deputy Athletics Director
- Michelle Prince, Director of Auxiliary Services
- Robie Robinson, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Safety & Security
- Tom Ellis, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Operations
- Tyler Forrest, Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance
- Laure Pou, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Human Resources
- Terry Denniston, Chancellor's Chief of Staff
- David Steele, Director of Civic Engagement
- Gina Stafford, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Communication & Marketing
- Greg Jackson, Technical Director for Information Technology
- Chérie Whipple, Associate CIO
- Matt Matthews, Interim Vice Provost
- Donny Behneman, Strategic Initiatives Manager
- Theresa Liedtka, Dean of the Library
- Meredith Perry, Director of Research & Sponsored Programs
- Yasmine Key, Director of University Health Services
- Abeer Mustafa, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
- Chris Smith, Chief Health Affairs Officer and Director of the School of Nursing
- Jim Hicks, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
- Stacie Grisham, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success

## **New Business**

### **Syllabus Safety Policy**

Dr. Chris Smith, Chief Health Affairs Officer and Professor and Director of the School of Nursing, presented a safety policy for inclusion in syllabi for Fall 2020 courses taught face-to-face or in a hybrid format (that includes some face-to-face contact). The policy outlines steps for

mitigating risk factors for contracting COVID, including daily screenings, use of face masks, physical/social distancing, good hand hygiene, and disinfecting workspaces.

Dr. Smith also briefly discussed the screening app being developed by the College of Engineering and Computer Science and efforts to work through alternative solutions for individuals who can not wear a cloth face mask because of a health condition.

Several COVID related questions were asked of Dr. Smith:

- Q: How will faculty know if students have completed the daily screening? A: This is still a work in progress.
- Q: What about testing and contact tracing? A: This is not included in the syllabus statement because it is a larger issue. A testing and contact tracing plan is currently being drafted.
- Q: Has the task force reached out to students? A: Yes. OPIER is looking at results.
- Q: What percentage of campus has to be impacted for face-to-face classes to be moved online? A: No firm number. Combination of factors, including the number of available hospital beds, the availability of on-campus quarantine rooms, a lack of ability to test, and a spike in positive cases in the UTC community.

## **Attendance Policy**

Dr. Angel Collier presented a draft syllabus attendance policy written by the Fall 2020 Task Force Academic Instruction and Continuity Subcommittee.

The policy was driven by the task force's recognition that we need to think differently about attendance during the Fall 2020 semester. We cannot have students coming to class when they are sick or showing COVID symptoms. We cannot expect documentation for every illness or symptom.

The subcommittee struggled to come up with one attendance policy that fits all departments and courses. The draft policy presented by the subcommittee asks departments to create policies for their classes, following institutional guidelines written by the subcommittee.

An alternative approach, for a university-wide syllabus policy, was also presented. The drafted policy was created by Associate Dean of Students, Brett Fuchs. The Dean of Students Office has been concerned for some time about inconsistencies that exist in attendance policies and enforcement.

Members of the Senate debated the benefits and disadvantages of the two approaches: a department-level policy versus a university-level policy.

The Senate voted 17 to 6 in favor of taking a university-level approach to an attendance policy for the Fall 2020 semester.

President-Elect Charlene Simmons announced the formation of an ad hoc committee to draft a university-wide attendance policy for the Fall 2020 semester. The policy will be reviewed at a called meeting of the incoming Faculty Senate on July 16, 2020.

### **Online Contingency Plan**

President Jamie Harvey informed the Senate of the Fall 2020 Task Force recommendation that all faculty teaching classes with a face-to-face component to include in their syllabus their plan for moving the class 100% online if the university announcing a move to remote learning.

A Senate member pointed out that we are asking faculty to do twice the work for many classes – designing both a face-to-face class and an online class. The university needs to acknowledge the increase in workload, especially for adjuncts and non-tenure track faculty who teach many of the general education courses that are being offered in both modalities.

Another Senate member requested that language be provided for inclusion in syllabi about how students can gain access to technology if they do not have it.

### **Attendance Tracking**

President Jamie Harvey informed the Senate of the Fall 2020 Task Force recommendation that faculty take attendance, noting the seating arrangement, for every face-to-face meeting of their classes. This information is needed for contract tracing purposes is a student in a class tests positive for COVID.

### **Faculty Concerns**

No concerns were presented.

### **Announcements**

President Jamie Harvey acknowledged Senate member, Dr. Hinsdale Bernard who is retiring and moving west.

Matt Matthews asked Senate members to communicate with their constituents that resources for preparing for the Fall 2020 semester continue to be offered by the Walker Center for Teaching and Learning and by the Dean of Students Office (upcoming de-escalation training).

## **Adjournment**

At approximately 5:15 pm Liz Hathaway called for adjournment. The call was seconded by Stephanie Todd.

The meeting was adjourned.