

Learning Environment Committee, 2020-21

The Learning Environment Committee met on October 15, 2020 and discussed the faculty survey that was conducted earlier that fall. The committee members shared some of the needs in their departments/schools. I shared the requests from both Charlene Simmons and Vicki Farnsworth, **“I would like to charge the Learning Environment Committee to work with Vice Chancellor Vicki Farnsworth (who I’m copying on this) and IT to identify ways to improve the classroom environment for teaching face-to-face and online classes simultaneously. I know that VC Farnsworth and IT have been working hard on this for months, but there is still much to be done and having faculty input on what faculty need in the classroom would help their work.”** Victoria Farnsworth also responded, **“I know we have operational issues to get through, but longer term I would like to fund some proposals for new tech in the classroom that this group can decide on. We could think about eLab manuals in Chemistry, better collaboration tools for hi flex classrooms, etc. You all have the ideas and I can fund.”**

At this 10/15/20 meeting Dr. Guinn requested the following actions:

- **Dr. Guinn asked that each member of the committee assess the learning environment needs, both face to face and on-line, in their own department/school through discussion with colleagues.**
- **She also asked that each member prepare a report of their findings and attach it to an e-mail to her: Cherry-Guinn@utc.edu. She requested the reports be submitted by December 31, 2020. She will compile the reports when she receives them all (They were compiled in March 2021 after all were received).**
- **Dr. Guinn also asked each member of the committee to discuss with their colleagues’ any problems they are experiencing with both online and face-to-face instruction. Please also ask them to identify possible solutions.**

The compilation of the reports was sent to members and the committee met April 8th to identify recommendations for Charlene Simmons, faculty senate president, and Vice Chancellor, Vicki Farnsworth. The recommendations, including an update from Tony Parsley, are attached.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherry Guinn, RN, EdD, Chair