

University Assembly

April 20, 2022

TEAMS Meeting

Members Present: Adams, Allcott, M. Allen, Alley, A. Brown, C. Brown, Bryant, Comer, Craven, Edmonds, Griffin, Hagarty, Hajdik, Hanna, Hermann-Turner, Honeycutt, Howard, Hutson, J. Isbell, Kruszka, Lay, Lee, Liu, M. Loftis, L. Maxwell, J. Meadows, H. Mills, Null, Pickering, Rajabali, Ramsey, C. Roberts, J. Roberts, Russell, Shank, D. Sisk, Scott Smith, Matt Smith (Stinson Proxy), Troy Smith, Smith-Andrews, Swartzentrover, J. Taylor, Turner, Ulybyshev, Weathers, A. Wells, Westbrook, Wilbanks, Wilson, Winkle, Zagumny.

Members Absent: Airhart, Bohannon, Brachey, Canfield, Cherry, Crockett, Ding, Drexler, Duncan, Fornehed, Garner, Gotcher, Hasan, M. Harris, C. Johnson, Killman, Langford, Lelle, Manginelli, Nelson, O'Connor, J. Ojo, Payne, Reames, Shipley, Slater, Darron Smith, Swartling, Witcher, Yelamarthi, Zuraikat.

Others Present: Braswell, L. Bruce, Huo, Luna, Lykins, Amy Miller, Oldham, Perdue, Polk-Johnson, Saltsman, Schrock, Diane Smith, C. Thompson, Vedder, J. Winningham, Wray, D. Wright.

Summary of Proceedings:

Approved agenda

Approved minutes from November 17, 2021

Received annual report of Information Technology Committee

Received annual report of International Affairs Committee

Received annual report of University Planning Committee

Received report of the Academic Council for Spring 2022

Received report of the Administrative Council for Spring 2022

Received remarks from President Oldham

Other such matters

Proceedings:

President Oldham called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. and noted there were not enough present yet to have a quorum; will re-do if this becomes a problem or we don't soon have a quorum. Mark Wilson motioned to approve the agenda and Andrea Kruszka seconded. Motion APPROVED.

A motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2021, was made by Sandi Smith-Andrews and seconded by Holly Mills. Motion APPROVED.

Matt Smith, Interim Executive Director of ITS, presented the annual report for the Information Technology Committee. The committee met four times in 2021-22. The ITC procedures updated their membership by adding the Director of the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) as a permanent member. Other changes to the procedures were minimal and editorial. Smith noted the new Team Dynamix Help Desk System rolled out on February 11th. This system provided more feedback to users of the Help Desk. Smith commented that the registration update had been completed for the multi-factor authentication process and new applications would be transferred over, with anticipated completion by the end of the fiscal year.

Smith noted that the Technology Access Fee (TAF) sub-committee reviewed expenditures for classrooms, how money could be maximized to benefit students and how to set standards for classrooms. Smith added that the Strategic Planning sub-committee reviewed software purchased by TAF with a goal to develop transparent metrics as a basis for software purchases to be funded by TAF.

Stephanie Adams mentioned that three or more years ago the Library received \$350,000 in TAF money for databases, which first dwindled and then was taken away completely. Adams asked, once metrics were established, and if qualifications were met, would the Library once again receive TAF funds for databases. Smith replied that was what the sub-committee was trying to determine, the best use of the money for students, by reviewing data and statistics on usage. Adams added that 90% of the software in the Library had monthly usage statistics.

Diane Smith noted there was a quorum for the meeting.

Amy Miller presented the annual report of the International Affairs Committee. Miller stated the committee met two times and approved Policy No. 240, Full Course of Study Requirements for International Students, with minor changes, and reviewed Policy No. 246, Recruitment of International Students. Miller also stated that the new ESL school began and it was off to a slow start. Miller was elected to serve as chair for the 2022-2023 year.

Dewayne Wright presented the University Planning Committee Annual Report. Wright stated the committee appointed four new working group faculty leaders: Lenly Weathers, Education for Life; Holly Anthony, Innovation in All We Do; Tom Timmerman, Exceptional Stewardship; and, Jeremy Blair, Engagement for Impact. Wright reported that the full implementation Steering Committee did not

meet this year but there had been weekly meetings with the new faculty working group leaders and they also met with the previous working group leaders, the Provost and the Provost's Council. There was also an informational meeting with the Division of Student Affairs. Wright stated that there were more details within the report that was distributed with the meeting materials. President Oldham publicly thanked the outgoing chairs: Jason Beach, Ann Davis, Ed Lisic and Bedelia Russell for the great job that they did over the past couple of years. Dr. Oldham also encouraged members to read the provided detailed committee report and stated it was impressive and showed a lot of accomplishments.

Kim Winkle presented the report of the Academic Council for Spring 2022. Academic Council met three times, February 2, March 9, and April 13. Winkle summarized the report and noted the Council had approved the following: one revision of a Fast Track Program, changed admission requirements in five programs, changed GPA requirements for one program, added one post-graduate certificate, changed three concentration names, added nine new concentrations, one program modification, added two new minors, added one new Ph.D. program, combined four concentrations into one, added one new graduate certificate, rescinded Policy No. 273 -- Online Graduate Degree Program-Graduate Student Requirements, approved nine annual committee reports, approved new URAC procedures and approved the revised Academic Council procedures. Winkle was elected to serve as chair for the 2022-2023 year. Kruszka asked when the New Higher Education Ph.D. program would start. Lisa Zagumny replied that it was at THEC, and if everything went as planned, it would open up in the Fall 2023.

Sandi Smith-Andrews presented the report of the Administrative Council for Spring 2022. Administrative Council met three times: January 26, March 2, and April 6. Smith-Andrews summarized the report and noted the Council received information only on one out-of-cycle approved procedure, two out-of-cycle approved policies and eight first reading policies. The Council approved one new policy, seven revised policies, four revised procedures, tabled one revised policy and approved annual reports from twenty university committees. Smith-Andrews also noted that a vice-chair selection was added to the Administrative Council procedures. Re-elected for the 2022-23 year was Smith-Andrews as chair and Mary Lou Fornehed as vice-chair. President Oldham recognized the extensive amount of work that the committees had completed and thanked those that chaired the committees and the staff and faculty that contributed.

Smith-Andrews motioned to accept all of the reports. Kruszka seconded. Motion APPROVED.

President Oldham stated there had been discussion about rules and procedures that apply to University Assembly. Oldham added that he would appoint an ad-hoc committee to look at the history of University Assembly, its purpose, rules, policies, etc. Lee Wray who had already been reviewing would chair the group. Oldham asked Sandi Smith-Andrews, Kim Winkle, Mark Stephens and Dewayne Wright to serve on this ad-hoc committee and to report back to University Assembly at the November meeting to hopefully get more clarity around University Assembly and to reconnect to what its purpose and responsibilities had been.

President Oldham highlighted the past academic year achievements one of which was a record high six-year graduation rate, which reached the goal set a number of years ago. President Oldham also noted that the African-American rate was the same 60%, six-year graduation rate which was remarkable and unusual. President Oldham stated he hoped this could be sustained for our students, noting that the rate had increased by approximately 10 points in the last decade. This is the result of a lot of good work by everyone here who made that happen.

Oldham commented that the site preparation work was completed for the Ashraf Islam Engineering Building and the building construction would begin soon. Oldham noted Rural Reimagined won a prestigious national award for the exceptional work being done by literally hundreds of faculty, staff and students and the excitement he felt for what was being accomplished. It looked like we had the attention of the state and we would be awarded the infusion of one-time money in the next budget year.

President Oldham stated there was a record number of student applications for freshman entering fall 2022, stating it was approximately 10% above the highest number of applications ever received for incoming freshmen. Oldham noted there were three faculty colleagues awarded National Science Foundation (NSF) Career Awards, which is the most prestigious award by NSF gives to an early career member, so to have three in one year was quite substantial, comparable to some of the best R1 institutions in the country. Oldham added a Tennessee Tech student was awarded a Goldwater Scholarship this year, again a huge accomplishment.

President Oldham stated research continued to grow on campus. Oldham stated there had been a recent meeting with a large group of alumni at Nissan that exemplified some of the impact of our research and scholarly effort. Also, Tech had met with a large group of Putnam County community members who worked on a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Grant (TANF) proposal. These are examples of how research at Tennessee Tech was important. To be competitive and to be scholars at the top of our field, regardless of discipline, is extremely important to us as an institution and has benefits beyond personal resumes, it's beneficial to the students we work with, giving them the ultimate opportunity to be part of something creative, challenging, and unique and also helping them to prepare for careers. Congratulations on a lot of really good, scholarly work and Oldham encouraged that to continue.

President Oldham stated the Governor's proposed budget had stayed pretty much intact with the addition of some supplemental funding. Oldham anticipated that the budget would likely be approved in the coming week. The capital project budget would include the full renovation of Johnson Hall, the demolition of Foster, and capital to build the Advanced Construction and Manufacturing Engineering (ACME) Building. Oldham added there would be \$2,800,000 to improve facilities at the Craft Center, and additional one-time money for Rural Reimagined and Cyber Security Education Research Outreach Center. Oldham also added there was a four percent raise pool for the campus with no increase in tuition fees for students. President Oldham commented that there were a lot of positive things to look forward to in the coming year.

President Oldham commented on current capital projects that were moving forward, the Ashraf Islam Engineering Building, the Peachtree Road Project and Pedestrian Mall would begin this summer, the Tucker Stadium Project was in design phase, moving forward soon with the design phase of the Football Operation Center and the Parking Garage was being re-evaluated with questions and suggestions received from the Student Government Association, so this project has been put on a temporary hold.

President Oldham noted the Board of Trustees had approved the compensation plan and the campus Master Plan. Tennessee Tech would be hosting the Tennessee Higher Education Commission meeting on May 19th, which is timely since they will be approving our Master Plan and will have the opportunity to tour our campus. Oldham encouraged everyone to attend the meeting. Oldham concluded his comments and again thanked everyone for all they did to help Tennessee Tech students by teaching, mentoring, leading, advising and listening; you constantly make a difference each and every day and you change people's lives. President Oldham asked if there were questions and there were none.

Other Such Matters: Provost Lori Bruce mentioned there would be a University-Wide Faculty Meeting next Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 3:35 p.m. Jeannette Luna congratulated Mary Kidd for being the Goldwater Representative on campus and thanked her for the time she put in mentoring the student who won the competitive Goldwater award.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Diane Smith, recorder

Documents on file with minutes:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of November 17, 2021
3. Annual report for Information Technology Committee
4. Annual report of International Affairs Committee
5. Annual report of University Planning Committee
6. Report of the Academic Council for Spring 2022
7. Report of the Administrative Council for Spring 2022