

University Assembly

November 15, 2023

TEAMS Meeting

Members Present: Alley, Atkinson, Brandel (Tidwell Proxy), A. Brown, Burch, Comer, Craven, Creter, Crockett, Dewar, Donadio, Edmonds, Fornehed, Foster, Gotcher, Hanna, Hasan, Hutson, Langford, Le Borne, Jane Liu, John Liu, M. Loftis, Maclennan, Manginelli, Majors, A. Millis (J. Roberts Proxy), H. Mills, Mullen, Myers, Natrass, Nelson, Nucum (Hale Proxy), Null, Ojo, Owens, H. Park, Rajabali, Reames, Rice, Russell, S. Seiler, Darron Smith, Scott Smith, Troy Smith, Smith-Andrews, Starkey, Suters, Turner, Upole, Warren, Wheeler (Stinson Proxy), B. Wilson, M. Wilson, Winkle.

Members Absent: E. Anderson, Canfield, S. Christen, Ding, Edwards, Fennewald, Frye, Kennedy, Killman, Mabry, O'Connor, Payne, Rand, Shank, Shipley, Slater, Spears, L. Taylor, Weathers, Westbrook, Yelamarthi, L. Zagumny.

Others Present: M. Allen, A. Anderson, Baker, Braswell, L. Bruce, Huo, Oldham, Polk-Johnson, Schrock, Diane Smith, Stephens, Vedder, Wray.

Summary of Proceedings:

Approved agenda

Approved minutes from April 19, 2023

Received report of the Academic Council for Fall 2023

Received report of the Administrative Council for Fall 2023

Received remarks from President Oldham

Other such matters

Proceedings:

President Oldham welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Sandi Smith-Andrews motioned to approve the agenda and Holly Mills seconded. Motion APPROVED.

A motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2023 was made by Mary Lou Fornehed and seconded by Holly Mills. Motion APPROVED.

Kimberly Winkle presented the report of the Academic Council for Fall 2023. Winkle reported that Academic Council met three times: September 6, October 4, and November 8. Winkle summarized the

report and noted the Academic Council had approved the following: three admission changes, seven policy revisions, one new policy, one accelerated notification of academic approval process for Mechanical Engineering, deleted one concentration and two minors, one concentration name change, one new concentration, one new graduate certificate, and received one informational item. Winkle thanked the Academic Council for its hard work and Angie Denson and Amy McCoy for all of their support.

Fornehed presented the report of the Administrative Council for Fall of 2023. Administrative Council met three times during the Fall 2023 semester: August 30, September 27, and November 1. Fornehed summarized the report and noted the Administrative Council had received seven revised policies out-of-cycle, one first reading of a new policy, three first readings of revised policies, approved one new policy and three revised policies. Fornehed thanked the Administrative Council members for their hard work and Diane Smith for her support.

President Oldham thanked the Academic and Administrative Councils for their hard work and the tremendous amount of work and the level of detail that many people provided for these changes in policies, procedures and programs. Oldham stated that it was important to get numerous eyes on items due to the amount of detail needed. This work makes us a better institution.

Oldham wished everyone a great holiday season with Thanksgiving next week. As a thank you to full-time staff, the campus would be closed on Wednesday, November 22nd. The University did not have classes scheduled for that day, and we wanted to show our appreciation to staff also and provide an extra day off. We're happy we were able to do that.

President Oldham commented it was a great semester and homecoming was fantastic, the students got the most out of homecoming and that was wonderful. There were also a lot of alumni on campus for the occasion. Oldham praised the marching band as we near the end of fall semester, they were tremendous! Oldham added it was the largest marching band Tennessee Tech had ever had, marching about 220.

Oldham stated the first-time Freshman class this year was the fourth largest in school history with 1,988 freshmen. Around thirty-five percent of the incoming Freshman class had a perfect high school GPA of 4.0. Oldham said there was about a two percent increase in enrollment from last year, with a total 10,177 students. Oldham added the goal was to continue to bring in freshmen classes of approximately 2,000 or better which would make our overall enrollment grow at a healthy rate.

President Oldham stated recruitment was going very well with over 1,000 applications above where we were this time last year. Oldham said the goal was to convert a higher percentage of the applications to enrollment. Oldham added that Preview Day was outstanding and thanked everyone for their involvement indicating there was a lot of good energy around that event and stated it was because of the Assembly members and their colleagues. The Tech After Dark event which is Putnam and surrounding counties was well attended. Oldham stated Tennessee Tech had been going on the road within the state with Tech to You events in four areas: Mt. Juliet, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Franklin. These events were well attended, noting that half or more of those high school students who attended had never been

to campus. Oldham said it was a great way to get out and connect with students and stated these events were very worthwhile; he expressed appreciation for those who have joined at those events.

Oldham also said Tennessee Tech continued to analyze what was learned from past events, along with surveys and focus groups, to get an even better understanding of the determinants around those decision points with those incoming students. Oldham stated that we are learning more and will continue to adjust as appropriate to make sure that we are reaching the maximum number of students with the opportunities that we have available for them at Tennessee Tech.

President Oldham stated he represented the LGI Presidents at the most recent Governor's Budget Hearing which he felt went well. President Boyd represented UT, Chancellor Tydings represented the TBR and Dr. Steven Gentile represented THEC. Oldham indicated that there were no take-aways at this point from the hearing other than the fact that THEC would meet with the state to codify their budget requests to increase the total funding for higher education by \$17 million in operating and capital projects. Oldham commented it was early in the process and that Tennessee Tech would follow the budget requests as it goes through the Governor's state-of-the-state address, and the legislative session, adding that Tennessee was a very good place to be in terms of higher education. Oldham stated Tennessee Tech's capital project request for the new academic classroom building that would replace Matthew Daniel and Crawford Hall was re-proposed.

Oldham mentioned that the Board of Trustees would hear a brief update on the progress made to-date on the Mercer Study of Compensation, noting there was more work to be done and a final report should be ready for the March Board meeting. Oldham explained that the University hoped to be in a position at that time to take some action following the report. Oldham commended Mercer who has substantial expertise and experience working across the country with higher education institutions on compensation studies which gives him a lot of confidence in the study.

President Oldham stated construction on campus continued to progress, the Ashraf Islam Building was on schedule to be completed in April or early May and turned over to the University adding that a celebration grand opening should be held in early fall. Oldham added the Peachtree road project was anticipated to be significantly completed mid-to-late January. The Advanced Construction and Manufacturing Engineering building, Johnson Hall, new Residence Hall, and the Football Stadium were all in various stages of design and production and construction documents were moving forward. Fundraising was still active on a few of the projects but progress was being made.

President Oldham stated that research was another bright spot on campus with activations last year of over \$36,000,000 dollars and added that at five months into this fiscal year, Tennessee Tech had 94 activations with a total just short of \$33 million dollars that had been awarded so far. Oldham commented that a goal of \$40,000,000 dollar was set just a few short years ago and acknowledged that it was a tremendous accomplishment that Tennessee Tech was almost there. Oldham added that there were a small percentage of faculty that had accomplished this amount, and Dr. John Liu was interested in getting a higher percentage of faculty involved in funded research, noting we looked forward to his leadership in that regard.

President Oldham commented that Tennessee Tech was going to unveil the OVC Championship Banner from last year at tonight's Women's Basketball Game versus Chattanooga at 6:00 p.m. stating it had been 20 years since we had been able to do this.

President Oldham asked if there were any questions. Fornehed asked about Lighting the Quad. Oldham replied that Lighting the Quad would be on Tuesday, November 28th, noting that a lot of work had gone into the annual event and it promised to be bigger and better than before.

Other Such Matters: Smith-Andrews asked if there were reports from ITC for University Assembly? Oldham replied that was presented at the year-end meeting.

President Oldham wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful break.

Meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Diane Smith, recorder

Documents on file with minutes:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of April 19, 2023
3. Report of the Academic Council for Fall 2023
4. Report of the Administrative Council for Fall 2023