

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler
FACULTY SENATE MEETING

June 21, 2018
2:00 -3:00 PM
6th Floor B. BLDG.

Attendees:

Vijay Lella, Ph.D.	Vijay Boggaram, Ph.D.
Pattie Olusola, MD	Jeffrey Matthews, MD
Torry Tucker, Ph.D.	Jeff Levine, Ph.D.
Leo Holms, MD	Larry Lowry, Ph.D. (<i>via phone</i>)

Others Present:

Paula Austin – Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from May's meeting were approved as written.

Dr. Lella started the meeting discussing the functions of three Faculty Senate committees. These three committees are Academic, Governance and Faculty Status and Welfare. Dr. Tucker stated that there was an inaugural meeting of the Academic Affairs committee and one area that they focused on was the admission criteria to our expectant schools and how easy would it be for the potential applicant to find the information they needed to apply to one of our programs. Overall he felt that the first meeting was a good one. Dr. Levine stated that there are clear distinctions between the Biotech and the Public Health programs, and therefore the admission criteria would be different. He welcomed the Faculty Senate input in making the process better. The Senate discussed about the website design and the importance of user-friendly access to the interested areas. The Senate agreed that the admission criteria should not be too high or too low but hoped that they could find a good middle ground standards.

Dr. Levine spoke to the Senate regarding the merger and the ongoing changes. He stated that there had been a change, obviously, regarding marketing and website. Specifically, Rhonda Scoby's office and all of Public Affairs are under the direction of Daniel Deslatte and their efforts are being rededicated strictly to the academic side of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. Items like marketing for clinics and how to get an appointment with a doctor is completely being managed separately from her office. Ms. Scoby is working with Drs. Neuenschwander and Willis in Academic Administration to completely reorganize what the academic website looks like for UTHSCT. Dr. Levine went on to explain that we will determine the content that is put on the web site but Daniel's office will make sure that we follow the graphics and other standards of the University of Texas for web posting.

Dr. Lella talked about the Faculty Governance committee and how some policies need to be in place, but the faculty input was needed for this to happen. He gave an example regarding the grievance policy. At current, our

grievance policy goes through the chain of the command through the direct supervisor of the grievant. In other UT campuses, they have a robust grievance policy and a committee, whose members are suggested by the administration, the faculty senate and the grievant. This can help remedy the problems more effectively. Dr. Levine suggested that the policy could defer to Regents Rules instead of trying to create a customized policy to the campus.

Dr. Lella discussed faculty tenure changes and how other institutions have salary commitments that are tied to tenure. The Senate agreed that tenure guidelines, policies and the commitment should be transparent. It was felt that what the tenure meant and any salary commitment tied to the tenure were not clear. Pros and cons of raising this issue were briefly discussed.

Dr. Lella stated that he and Dr. Olusola attended the Promotion & Tenure committee meeting and everything went smooth. However, they thought that better guidance was needed on who is eligible for the promotion and whether they are qualified for promotion or not. It should not be that a 3 year minimum in the faculty rank automatically makes you ready for promotion. It would be helpful if the department Chair actively engages with the faculty to discuss what would be the criteria for the promotion and what the faculty needs to fulfill to reach the criteria. Dr. Levine agreed and stated that readiness for promotion is a discussion between a faculty member and their Chair. He thinks that the Chair has to weigh in the balance and be truthful and honest with the faculty member about their eligibility for the promotion.

Faculty Senate Elections

Dr. Tucker informed the Senate that he is getting ready to send out an email to elect new faculty senators for the coming year. Dr. Tucker already solicited nominations so that he could create a ballot and each section could have their own election. He also stated that we would be electing a new chair-elect from the academic side.

Dr. Lella stressed that we don't want anyone on the Senate that will just put that they were a faculty senate member on their CV but never attend the meetings or serve any purpose. We want someone who is interested as well as available in attending the meetings and contributing the Faculty Senate in a meaningful fashion.

Other

The Faculty Senate briefly discussed the Externship program. This year, the program is having some issues with shadowing due to transition in some of our clinical programs as they are going downtown. Dr. Olusola stated that they are trying to keep all of the students on this campus and the clinical activities here are in flux right now, but hopefully next year it will be better defined.

Meeting adjourned

3:00 PM

Lella/pa