Minutes for the 45th Faculty Senate Meeting
Monday March 14, 2022
5:00 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order by Dr Tilghman, Chair, at 5:05 p.m.

Attendees:

Attendees’ names are attached to the meeting’s minutes. If you attended this meeting, and you do not see your name on these minutes, kindly notify the executive secretary so that your name can be added to the roster. If you notice a discrepancy in the minutes, please do the same. If you are a committee chair, please email your updates to the executive secretary for inclusion to the minutes.

Dr. Tilghman welcomed everyone. He indicated this was the meeting before the last faculty senate meeting for this school year. The last meeting will be held April 4th. The meeting opened with a moment of silence. No one voiced the need to read the minutes, signaling all read these ahead of the meeting. Dr. Tilghman asked for a motion to approve the minutes: Dr. Alcantara Ortigoza offered a motion to approve; Dr. Bender seconded the motion: The minutes were approved.

Dr. Tilghman indicated Dr. Yates was going to attend the meeting to discuss issues concerning junior faculty engaging in research, especially as it relates to grant writing, and his recommended solution to these concerns. He added he sent Dr. Yates an email earlier and will send him another reminder. He started the presentations of updates.

Updates

1. Election of Next Year’s Faculty Senate Board.
Dr. Tilghman indicated the faculty senate was going to hold elections for next year’s executive committee, and committee chairs during the next faculty senate meeting. He invited all those willing to serve on the election committee to volunteer to do so if they were on their last year on the senate. He added those serving as chairs of committees could run as chair of the faculty senate, vice-chair, or executive secretary, or run to remain chairs of their committee. All seats were open and were going to be voted on during the April 4th meeting. Dr. Tilghman stated short of anyone volunteering to serve on the election board he may, together with Dr. Essounga, ask those on their third year to volunteer to serve on the election committee. A person serving his or her third year may not run for any of the positions.

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2. Attendance to BOT.  
Dr. Tilghman next announced March 18 and 19, he was going to attend the Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Tilghman stated he already prepared the report he was going to present to the BOT. He thanked the chairs who emailed him their respective reports. He indicated not having received a report from the chairs of the Research and Graduate Studies Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee, and the Instruction Committee. He invited the chairs of these committees to send him a short paragraph indicating this year’s committee’s accomplishments of the said committees, for inclusion in his report. He added the report was going to be presented to the BOT, President Morris, and the Deans on March 18.

Dr. Tilghman indicated he already put in the request to the Printing Office. He added the T-Shirts would be delivered well before May, except for the delays the Covid-19 situation may cause.

He stated those were his updates. Dr. Tilghman added he hoped Dr. Yates would attend the meeting and discuss grant writing related to health. He added many faculty were involved in multidisciplinary grant writing, grant writing being very helpful for faculty applying for tenure.

Committee Chairs’ updates

The different chairs presented their updates as follows:

a. Academic Affairs Committee  
Dr. James Reid  
Prior to Spring Break, the Academic Affairs Committee received a proposal from Michael Benton of Military Science for a new course. A meeting will be scheduled soon to review this proposal.

b. Academic Personnel Services Committee  
Dr. Toufic Nashar  
Dr. Nashar indicated he had no update except to report that the U-APSC reviewed all applications submitted by TU colleges and sent their decision to the Provost, Dr. Hargrove, before the deadline.

c. Research and Graduate Studies Committee  
Dr. Chitra Nayak (Interim)
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Dr. Nayak was not in attendance. Dr. Sheritta Fagbodun reported the following on behalf of the Research and Graduate Studies Subcommittee of the Faculty Senate:
The Research and Graduate Studies Committee met March 9, 2022. The committee prepared a survey to measure faculty awareness of grants, grant writing, and the grant submission process. The committee prepared and sent a survey to Institutional Effectiveness to be sent out to the faculty. The committee was waiting for the results of the survey.

d. Continuing Education and Outreach Committee
Dr. Jennifer Bender
Dr. Bender has not shared her detailed communication from the previous meeting; when she does, the minutes will be updated accordingly. She shared the various projects in which the Continuing Education and Outreach Committee was involved, including a discussion on how best to merge the two missions of the Committee, i.e., continuing education on one hand, and community outreach on the other hand.
Dr. Bender also called for all senators to join with her committee in a yet to be defined project that would benefit the TU community; she invited all who could to attend a meeting of her committee on Friday March 18. As well, she shared the Zoom link for the meeting.
Ms. Mary Arrington offered to liaise with Dr. Bender and share some information about the arts and literacy council exposition that will take place at TU on the 23rd of April.

e. Instruction Committee
Dr. Jennifer Ross
Dr. Ross presented the following:
The Instruction Committee met on February 28; the committee discussed the need to have mental health (MH) day on the academic calendar, holding it preferably on a Friday, so students could have a long weekend.
The committee also discussed changes to the academic calendar. The committee noted these changes (last minute or not) were disruptive to course planning.
Also, the committee discussed reinstatement period: The caveat was the committee was not sure whether this topic was of the Instruction Committee’s purview. She continued with the issue which did arise when students were told not to attend class until financially cleared; she added it sometimes took 2-3 weeks before the students were cleared. The committee thought it was better to allow students to audit courses during that time. Students could be allowed to attend classes but not be graded until officially added on the roster: This would minimize the damage to their education, caused by a long period of missing class.
The committee discussed unofficial excuses from athletics: Word document excuses the students-athletes provided that were editable, with no signatures, and no approval from the
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provost caused an issue. Dr. Ross thanked Dr. Ortigoza for her assistance in calling attention to
that matter and added Mr. Nicholas Brown said this will not be an issue going forward.
Dr. Ross ended her presentation by indicating A “Best Practices Workshop” would be held on
Monday 3/28 at 5:00 pm.

f. Grievance Committee

Dr. Mandoye Ndoye reported the following:
The Grievance committee did not receive any grievance to address, and thus did not have
any update on grievances to report.

Other Matters Arising

Dr. Tilghman asked whether there were other matters to bring up. There was none from the
senators attending.
He proceeded with presenting his “matters arising:” He stated he met with the provost, Dr.
Hargrove, and also with Dr. Jelani, regarding the particular faculty Dr. Jelani was advocating for
pertaining to that faculty’s tenure and promotion application. This faculty was applying for
tenure and promotion and the application never left the committee in the college whose name
he indicated he would not disclose.
Dean Jelani’s feeling was the case was worthy to go again for review. All may recall Dean Jelani
attended the faculty senate meeting two to three times during which he advocated for the
faculty in question, asking for the faculty senate’s support. Dr. Jelani, Dr. Ndi, and Dr. Tilghman
sent out emails to the provost and President Morris. Dr. Hargrove was now reviewing the
applicant’s tenure and promotion packet; the provost indicated together with the president,
they will make the decision regarding the faculty’s application. This faculty was already tenured
and was going for full professorship. Dr. Tilghman reiterated he was only informing the faculty
senate about the update on that situation. He reiterated he refrained from sharing the faculty’s
name or college involved.
Dr. Tilghman also shared the provost and him discussed Dr. Nashar’s suggestion about the need
for a faculty having been denied promotion or tenure, to be informed of the basis of the
decision. Dr. Tilghman added he also shared with the provost the faculty senate had no
intention of claiming the faculty senate had any role in the decision to promote or tenure a
faculty member. The faculty senate was merely supporting the understanding by all, the faculty
handbook should be fully considered in such matters.

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Ms. Arrington asked whether anyone knew where this year’s graduation commencement would be held, to which Dr. Tilghman responded he did not know but will inquire and share the information during the next meeting.

Another faculty member asked whether the travel band was still in effect. Dr Tilghman answered he recalled the provost indicated there was a travel ban for students and faculty members. He added travel abroad was not concerned. Dr. Bender and himself would go abroad and teach if their programs made it. He added he would enquire from the provost and the president during the BOT meeting and report back to the Senate.

A faculty member urged Dr. Tilghman to also enquire about two issues: Including mental health day in the academic calendar to minimize confusion regarding that event’s date; and affording the students the leeway to attend classes while waiting to be re-instated. Dr. Tilghman acquiesced, adding the committee with which he would be meeting was the academic and education policy committee, which he thought, may be capable of addressing such issues.

No other matter being brought up, Dr. Tilghman called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Bender offered a motion to adjourn, and Dr. Parham seconded the motion. Dr. Tilghman thanked all attendees and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be held on April 4th, 2022, at 5 PM. During this meeting, the senate will hold elections for the executive committee as well as for chairs of committees for the new faculty senate. Dr. Tilghman invited again, all those willing to serve in all faculty senate positions now open to inform him or Dr. Essounga of their willingness to be nominated. The meeting was effectively adjourned at 6:39 PM.

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Attending:

1. Arrington, Mary
2. Asseged Dibaba
3. Bala Karanam
4. Barrett Vaughan
5. Benjamin Adu-Addai
6. Byunghoon Lee
7. Charles Parham
8. Esmaeil Esfandiary
9. James Reid
10. Jennifer Bender
11. Jennifer Ross
12. John Tilghman
13. Lanell Ogden
14. Lecia Robinson
15. Lynn Benson
16. Marisol Alcantara Ortigoza
17. Olga Glotova
18. Paramjit Kahai
19. Rose Frazier
20. Shahryar Jafarinejad
21. Sheritta Fagbodun
22. Toufic Nashar
23. Woubit Abebe
24. Yvette N Essounga
25. Zahid Baig

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