Faculty Senate Meeting held via MS Teams

February 21, 2022; started at 11:21am.

Senators in attendance: Ann Showalter, Anthony Stinson, Augustine Ayuk, Brian Hunt, David Williams (Chair), Deborah Gritzmacher, Eric Bridges, Eugene Ngezem, Joshua Kitchens, Kendolyn Smith (Vice Chair), Larry Menter (Secretary), Laura Herndon, Mario Norman, Mark Watson, MeriBeth Stegall, Rebecca Morgan, and Sharon White.

Non-Senators in attendance: Ramon Stuart (President), Jill Lane (Interim Provost), Antoinette Miller, Bruce Blair, Carol White, Catherine Matos, Craig Hill, Kevin Demmitt, Joie Hain, Mary Lamb, Melanie Poudevigne, Naquilla Thomas, Paul Melvin, Stacey Reynolds, and Terri Summers.

1. Proposed Agenda – **Adopted** as written by unanimous consent.
2. Remarks from President, Dr. T. Ramon Stuart.
	* Missed Faculty Senate two weeks ago due to conflict with Homecoming. Had Al Rutherford on Campus. Event planner for Bill Clinton. They are planning a big event.
	* He appreciated the prayers and well wishes for his surgery last week. This was his first full day back to work.
	* Budget shortfalls – up to $1.7 mill shortfall with tuition. But has closed gap to $748K by slowing down hiring and spending. We will finish in the black by the end of the year. Cabinet tasked to engage their units to do cost-saving measures. Enrollment projections for next fall and in the system look down. Looking at measures with priority – people over things. Keep people employed. Keep academic piece in place. Academic unit is not being cut right now. CARES ACT and other funds will go away. Enrollment declines is big, big issue! We need to identify new students. We managed the challenges for this fiscal year but need to address moving forward. Associate Provost position was shifted to fill funding gaps. We are trying to restore the line. Will have going forward.
	* Challenges- update the campus master plan. Use resources to go thru and do complete marketing plan. Launch Comprehensive Marketing and Communication Plan. Build it back “better”. Challenges before they become problems. We are doing ok but can’t continue what we doing .
	* Questions:
		+ Q’s: A senator was curious about what is on the books of the university. What is going on? After we have been asked? What is the feedback loop? We had enrollment summit – great ideas. 35-36 ideas. HR, different things. Calling campaign – get 250 students enrolled for spring. Extended cabinet everyone charged with calling students. Jill Lane was the top “recruiter”. Simone #2 Julie #3, David #4. About to see some things with Atlanta Fire Fighters. He will see what is being communicated about these plans.
		+ It was appreciated that with the great resignation and there is protection of academics including the School of Education. What is in your mind to protect teachers? Not a lot of depth on that. What we are doing – Zoom meeting with Dr. Beasley – Superintendent of Clayton County Schools – what are our resources to help develop pipeline in areas of need and concern. Teacher-ed will be part of that.
		+ Others doing reach out in other counties – know what those needs are. Build back alignment.
		+ Reach out to non-traditional students? Period of collection of thought from stakeholders. Process - average age is 26. All involved in process.
		+ Timeline for strategic plan process? Current plan ends end of 2022. New plan around that time.
3. Remarks from Interim Provost, Dr. Jill Lane.
* Areas
	+ - S.A.F.E. Committee
			* She expresses thanks for their work. Amount they have done is absolutely astonishing. A fantastic job. She will keep attending meetings as she can to give feedback. Possible areas of minimizing appeals on process. Giving guidance as she has done in the past in FAC. We need to make sure the policies and procedures can work across the University. Recognize the differences across disciplines. More specific guidelines to be adopted by the colleges.
		- Three-year calendar – developed same way as has been done in the past. Summer 2025 classes start on a Wednesday. Strange year. Keep them from going into August. Avoiding starting Spring early January. This is similar to 2014 – had the same anomaly.
	+ Questions:
		- Student Success Conference and Loch Talks – Call for presentations delayed. Feedback for folks – too short a time window to prepare by early Feb. now April 1st. Loch Talks on Fridays to discuss great practices – send feedback to Justin. Could continue past the conference.
		- Budget? – Discussion about our University asking for funds. Need to figure out how to get more of the resources. $5,000 pay raise – if it passes – will get the first raise between 4/1-6/30. Get it this fiscal year. July 1 – new contract will have a boost as well. USG presidents are in support of this. Morale is low but hope boost will go over well.
		- What is the atmosphere or tenor regarding the new choice of Chancellor? Pros and Cons? President had nothing to report. We need to be an outstanding institution away from the politics.
		- When will we have evals for dept chairs and deans? Jill – there are some things coming up. New survey? She will check with Tammy. Doesn’t happen till fall. It is a rotational schedule of 3 or 5 years. In faculty handbook? Every 3 years. Contact tracing and seating charts – when going away? She doesn’t know. Use through summer and reevaluate for fall. Stay tuned. Pres. Stuart added – we have no idea with the pandemic – the campus has done well. 47 first week went up to 56 then down to 23 and then down to 10. Now only 2 cases this week. Applaud for what you doing to keep us as safe as possible. Even after homecoming activities. We are doing sensible things. Jill – Main reason is to do it keep cases down. No cases transmitted through a class. Students taking mask wearing and other things seriously. Air purification filters were added in consultation with HVAC folks. Fresh air being brought in was good for other rooms.
		- Question on Core Curriculum getting revived? With Dr. Denley leaving? A lot of things on hold with changes at the Board.
1. Subcommittee Updates
	* APC – Ken Nguyen – no update
	* FAC – Larry Menter – SEI forum to get feedback from the “reviewers”. Also we are keeping up with S.A.F.E. Committee. Next committee meeting on 2/23 @11:00am.
	* SAC – Kendolyn Smith – online tools being used for testing being looked at. University hearing panel and what is biggest issue – plagiarism. Student concerns of the tools being used – concern about what is being recorded. Other issues – children on campus and disruptive student behavior. Alicia Myrick, Assistant Director Office of Community Standards, – her PowerPoint presentation was shared with Senate.
		+ Questions
			- Request for minutes of the Committees to be shared. Changes need to be made for handbook. How do we capture these? A standing committee on the handbook? Kendolyn – went back to see what was outstanding.
			- Dave said it is hard for Senate chairs to keep track of all the issues and plans. Let’s discuss and decide how we want to pursue these changes. Issues change in leadership and sudden effort on adopting new policies for P&T, etc.
	* UCC – Carol White – Friday, 3/18 @noon is the next meeting. Last date to add to agenda this year is April 1st. After that only change can be fall 2023.
		+ Approval of Actions from February 11th UCC meeting, as posted in Teams. **Motion** duly made, seconded, and passed.
	* S.A.F.E. – last “final” stages to get something submitted in Mid-March to the Board of Regents for them to take a look at the “draft.” This is part of the process. Materials will be viewable in the SAFE channel. Jill – purpose is to make sure the policy complies with Board procedures. Areas: Due process, timelines, Student Success. So that is first before Campus approval. Alignment Review. Additional commentary? No red flags from Jill to say we are not following policy changes. A clean copy will be available the first week of March. It was clarified that nothing is set until it passes Faculty approvals.
2. USGFC Update - Folks wanted meeting. Met Friday at noon. Issues 2 most important and concern:
	* New Chancellor finalist named – concerns were made about politics and policy.
	* “Knight” memo regarding his request for information– Been posted in Teams page.
		+ Was asked if Senate can adopt a resolution regarding this issue. If Senator makes a motion, it will be on the agenda per its bylaws.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:48pm.

Minutes Recorded by Larry Menter, Secretary