

**FACULTY SENATE**  
Virtual Meeting by Zoom  
February 9, 2021 4:00 PM CST/5:00 PM EST  
Monthly Meeting

Attendance: 94 (senators, administrators, faculty, and guests)

Senators attending: Wilson, Smith, Murray, McCoy, Cory, Clark, Cavallo, Venturin, Steinberg, Pledger, Zhang, Choby, Vinay, Reed, Claro-Woodruff, Derefinko, Rowe, Little, Mulligan, Williams, Davenport, Koltnow, Narayanan, Cushman, Donaldson, Mandal, Bieber, Jiang, Quesenberry, Wu, E. Park, Zachry, Hevener, Dragatsis, Taylor, Jasmin, Cooper, Doettl, Rowe, Richey, Staak, Yaun, Jean, Lackey, Chamberlin, Fan, Li, Abhyankar, Ishrat, Moss, Pishko, Rhoads, Carrillo, Dabbs, Madlock, Torgbe, Gao, Shafi, Harvey, Ashbrook, Erickson, Pourmotabbed, Spivey, Davis, Philip, Morris, Hohmeier, Sittnick, Herr, Hartig, Krishnan, White-Means, McCarthy Maeder, and 3 phone numbers

Meeting called to order at 4:02 pm cst/5:02 pm est

**Meeting Minutes:**

Floor opened for discussion of the January 12, 2021 meeting minutes. Following no discussion, a motion for acceptance of the minutes was made by Dr. Cooper, and seconded by Dr. Donaldson. Minutes passed with 94% (44) "yes", 0% (0) "no", and 6% (3) "abstain."

**Update from Tom Laughner from TLC & Dan Harder from IT:**

- *Vol Share Update from Dan Harder:*
  - Vol Share will be retired. The university has made the decision to move all cloud storage to Microsoft OneDrive, and this process has begun. IT will be reaching out to departments to discuss the migration of Vol Share files into OneDrive. IT is interested in learning and understanding each department's unique needs. Questions were raised regarding:
    - VPN vs. Duo: Dan shared that OneDrive has the duo authentication already set-up and therefore the data stored is encrypted. Thus, VPN access isn't needed, in addition VPN is considered "older" now. The move to OneDrive will allow for equal security and ready access to data.
    - Sharing for laboratory purposes: Yes, SharePoint Share will allow for labs to share with people inside and outside the organization. Specifically, OneDrive has been set-up to allow for sharing outside of UTHSC. Thus, SharePoint Share is encouraged to use for labs and would be similar to

Vol Share; specifically, multiple folders to share with people in and outside of the university.

- Access for current and former students: The system will allow for graduates and current student to have access to information one would like to share. Thus, sharing specific information is possible for graduates outside of the university.
- Vault System: Vault is a UTK system, and it will continue to be available.

- If you are interested in having IT come and talk with your department, email: [dharder@uthsc.edu](mailto:dharder@uthsc.edu).

- *Blackboard Ultra Update from Tom Laughner:*

- UTHSC is now providing in-house Blackboard Support. Specifically, John Bozeman is the Blackboard product manager, who can support faculty with their Blackboard needs. Currently, IT and TLC are assisting with the helpdesk, loading courses into Blackboard, and populating the courses with students. Both offices are looking at the helpdesk and IT ticket requests to determine what changes are necessary to Blackboard and Blackboard assistance.
- UTHSC will also be up-grading to Blackboard Ultra, which is the newest version of the Blackboard software. Blackboard Ultra has been available for a few years. Faculty will find that the interface is more user friendly and seems more integrated. Faculty should find that they are able to move among and between courses with greater ease. The upgrade will be a gradual ramp-up over the next year, with a goal of being completed moved to Blackboard Ultra by January of 2022.
  - Spring 2021 – TLC and IT will be completing an early pilot of non-live courses to test course migration. Faculty who are interested in participating in this pilot are encouraged to contact TLC.
  - Summer 2021 – TLC and IT will be activating the base navigation; specifically, the face page will change, and will update the migration of courses. Additionally, TLC and IT will begin trainings related to Blackboard Ultra.
  - Fall 2021 – Will be expanding the pilot with live classes. If faculty are interested in being part of the expanded pilot, they are encouraged to contact TLC. The trainings will continue through the fall.
  - January 2022 – Blackboard Ultra will be completely deployed.
- Questions were asked regarding:
  - Student interface changing: Yes, the student interface will change once the migration is complete in January of 2022. It is anticipated that students will adapt, as the software is more intuitive, and similar to what students are use to working with.

**Update from the Office of Academic, Faculty, and Student Affairs:**

- Dr. Forman, Director of Faculty Affairs, shared an update on the 2020 APPR. Specifically, the majority of faculty have submitted their reviews for the 2020 year.

**Update on Faculty Feedback Assessment (FFA):**

- FFA results – Overall the turnout for the FFA was positive for 2020. The Chancellor has reported that all colleges have their individual reports. The Chancellor has looked over the results and is following up with individual colleges to assist in implementing any necessary corrective action.
- The Faculty Affairs committee has identified several areas to address/examine in preparation for the 2021 surveys:
  - For 2020, the leadership and college surveys were separated. Overall, there were fewer leadership responses compared to past years. The committee will be looking at how to address this for 2021.
  - Looking at how to increase participation in certain colleges, as several colleges have continually fallen short in terms of participation. Dean Strome, in the College of Medicine, is very interested in how to increase participation. The committee has met and will continue to work with Dr. Hoffman to identify potential solutions.
- The committee has sent follow-up emails to all college and upper-level administrators thanking them for this participation, as well as soliciting feedback for the 2021 surveys. Additionally, if senators have suggestions for the surveys, please contact Dr. Mandal or a committee member.

**Committee Updates:**

- Handbook Committee – Bylaws have been approved by the system administration, and there was no board approval needed. Dr. Cooper is currently working with Dr. Russell to make the bylaws available to all faculty, as they are an appendix to the handbook. Chapter 8 revisions are complete, and the committee is working with Frank Lancaster and Dr. Russell to discuss and finalize the chapter.
- Education Committee – Meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>, if anyone is interested in joining contact Dr. Choby for the zoom link.
- Non-Tenure Track Committee – Meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup>, if anyone is interested in joining contact Dr. Choby for the zoom link.

**New Business:**

- The new legislative session has started. UTHSC is anticipating that the Operational Budget will be reinstated. Additionally, the university is anticipating funding to finish the renovation of the final two floors of Nash building, as well as a 4% pay raise for employees has been proposed.
- Dr. Russell shared that it is time to nominate individuals – faculty or staff - for the UT President's awards There are 6 awards, and UTHSC has previously had faculty who were nominated and received the Discover and Diversity awards. Thus, if you have a faculty or

staff member you would like to nominate for an award, please consider doing so. The university will develop and send an unranked list; it would be nice to have a long list of potential recipients.

**New Announcements:**

- Reminder that Postdoctoral Fellows becoming employees as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a town hall event to discuss the changes on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 12:00 pm CST. Anyone who is interested should attend.
  
- *Upcoming Faculty Senate Meetings:*
  - *March 9, 2021 at 4:00 pm cst/5:00 pm est.*
  - *April 13, 2021 at 4:00 pm cst/5:00 pm est.*

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm cst/5:38 pm est.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jillian McCarthy Maeder, PhD, CCC-SLP  
Faculty Senate Secretary