

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of October 12, 2021
FACULTY SENATE

<http://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate>

Approved @ FS on October 26, 2021

Summary of Discussion

Note: The taped recording of this meeting is available in the Faculty Senate office or in the University Archives.

President Bigioni: Okay, I have 4 o'clock, so I will call the October 12th Faculty Senate meeting to order and ask Secretary Nigem to call the roll.

Present: Anderson, Baki, Bamber, Barnes, Bigioni, Brakel, Case, Chaffee, Chou, Coulter-Harris, Day, de le Serna, Duhon, Edgington, Elgafy, El-Zawahry, Garcia-Mata, Gilstrap, Gregory, Guardiola, Harmych, Hefzy, Huntley, Kistner, Koch, Krantz, Kujawa, Lammon, Lawrence, Lecka-Czernik, Lee, Lipscomb, Metz, Milz, Modyanov, Niamat, Nigem, Pattin, Pakulski, Ratnam, Reynolds, Rouillard, Shan, Smith, Steven, Teclhaimanot, Topp, Van Hoy, Wedding, Welsch

Excused Absence: Bornak, Compora, Duggan, Green (Wallace as sub), Hall, Insch, Jayatissa (Omid Amili as sub), J. Murphy, Reeves (Wade Lee as sub), Vesely

Unexcused Absence: Ali, Chaudhuri, Hanrahan, Perry, Stepkowski

Senator Nigem: President Bigioni, we do have a quorum.

President Bigioni: Great. Thank you, Secretary Nigem. Quinetta, could you share the agenda, please? Great. Thank you. I don't know if you can see it yet. It is still sharing for me. My computer may be slower than everyone else's.

Unknown Speaker: We are able to see the agenda.

President Bigioni: Thank you. I still can't. Nonetheless, you all see the agenda before you. Is there any discussion about the agenda, or can we move to adopt the agenda?

Senator Hefzy: I move to adopt the agenda.

Past-President Brakel: I'll second that motion.

President Bigioni: Thank you. Go ahead and put your vote in the chat box as to whether or not you'd like to adopt the agenda. Okay, looks like the votes are slowing down and looks like it is approved. ***Agenda Approved.***

The other item that we have to do is approval of the Minutes from the last meeting, the September 28th meeting. Is there any discussion or are there any corrections to be made? Hearing none. Do I have a motion to approve the Minutes?

Senator Niamat: So moved.

President Bigioni: Thank you. Do I have a second?

Senator Lawrence: Second.

President Bigioni: Great. Thank you. So, go ahead and place your vote in the chat box for approval of the Minutes. It looks like it is slowing down. I see that we have approved the Minutes. *Motion Passed.*

Just as a side note, we may be able to do this in a little more efficient way next time. It's going to require a bit of research on my part, but it may be possible to do this as a general consent item so that we don't have to go through that [voting] process. If any of you have any thoughts on that, maybe we can discuss that offline, another time, after the meeting. So, the next item on the agenda is the *Executive Committee report*.

The first thing that I'd like to say is that the two candidates that were put forward for the two VP Search Committees have been confirmed. They are officially on those search committees. So that is Senator Rob Steven on the VP and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics search committee, to replace O'Brien as he retires, and then Sharon Barnes will be on the VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion search committee. That position on that search committee has been confirmed as well, and so that is great.

I should also note that I just received an email, in the minutes before the meeting, from President Postel, inviting us, the Faculty Senate, to put forward some names to serve on the new Strategic Planning Committee. The number is five - nominate five names to be chosen to serve on that committee. I'll provide more details on that as I digest that. In fact, there will be some discussion about that in the EC meeting. But at least you're aware that we have that invitation at hand and we'll have to act on that by October 20th.

We have also been talking to various people about the Constitution, making sure that it's moving along. I've been assured that discussions are ongoing and that it is on track to be brought up at the next Board meeting next month, or, I think it is in December, quarterly. So that seems to be on track.

We, in fact, have been promised a response from the Trusteeship and Governance Committee by October 22nd. At that point, we'll have a pretty good idea of where the Board of Trustees stands so that we can begin our own processes as we work toward approval of our Constitutional changes.

Next on the list, I had an opportunity to meet with our new Vice Provost, Dr. LaFleur Small. So we've started discussions about her goals and agendas, and also had an opportunity to provide our Faculty Senate perspective. We will invite her shortly to an Executive Committee meeting, and then after some discussion there, she will be invited to address the full Faculty Senate.

As you know, at our last meeting we had Matt Schroder, Brenda Grant and Sabrina Taylor address us about finance matters, particularly RCM as we move toward that new RCM [budgeting] model. Discussions continued to be had at the last Finance and Strategy meeting. That continued to be a topic of discussion and we also had a historical look at where we are financially. Matt continues to be very open and very helpful in helping us understand what's going on with financial matters.

Policies is the next topic on the list. We continue to make progress on policies. And again, the main three committees for policies are Student Affairs, Faculty Affairs and Academic Regulations. Those continue to function well, and we continue to work toward sort of more historical norms in terms of our policy review process and our input on policy review. This was also a discussion I had with Dr. Small. Two particular policies are going to require some interfacing with the GC, Graduate Council. So, I've started to talk to David Giovannucci about that. He chairs GC. The first is the policy on Instruction. This is a recent topic that came up. That will require some coordination with GC. The second is a little more substantial undertaking that we're trying to figure out what to do with, and we spent a good deal of time talking about

it with the Executive Committee in our last meeting. And that is the policy on Academic Dishonesty. This is a long overdue policy that was last reviewed in 2011. For a variety of different reasons, historically, it has not been fully reviewed again. So, we need to figure out a strategy to get that across the goal line and actually get that done, and re-reviewed and on the books again. And again, that will require some coordination with the Graduate Council since academic dishonesty covers both undergraduate and graduate students.

I should also take a moment to acknowledge that yesterday was Indigenous People's Day. For the first time, President Biden has acknowledged that. I don't know what the right terminology is, but there was a proclamation from President Biden on Friday, I think it was, on the 8th, acknowledging Indigenous People's Day at the federal level. So, that is an important moment to note, particularly as there have been a lot of discussions with regard to racism and so on within the Faculty Senate. So, this ties in with some of the previous discussions we've had and it's important to acknowledge this. It's also important to point out something that I just learned. And that is the University of Toledo has a – let me put something in the chat box here – statement with regard to indigenous peoples and the land upon which we sit as a University. I will put a link to a UT News article that has some of the content in it that I encourage you to look at (http://news.utoledo.edu/index.php/11_12_2020/utoledo-celebrates-native-american-heritage-month). The statement can also be found in University Hall. Again, look at that, read it, and understand it. The University has a very strong position on respecting indigenous lands and rights.

Finally, the last thing I want to talk about is we participated, of course as faculty, in the Investiture Ceremony on Friday. Thank you very much for everyone coming out and showing your support for this great institution and the tradition of the installation of a new president. That was an important moment in the history of this University and your support for that is very much appreciated.

And then finally, personally, I was able to participate as the Faculty Senate representative in the homecoming parade. It was a fantastic experience. Loved seeing so many people coming out. Many of you I saw there, and all the kids that were so excited about UT, future Rockets, and so that was a great experience. If you haven't been to the homecoming parade, I encourage you to come next year. It's a great UT tradition. And that's a great way to end my Executive Committee report.

For the Executive Committee members, are there any points that I've missed?

Senator Barnes: I just want to say to those folks who spoke to me about the content of the speech and concerns about lack of recognition of racism historically and indigenous land specifically, folks hearing that [land acknowledgement], and I think I see Dean Gilbert just posted about it in the chat. I think moving forward with this land acknowledgment statement is a part of the institution's response to that. So, thanks to everyone who spoke up. I think we're all collectively educating ourselves on making a difference. So, I appreciate those who spoke, and thank you President Bigioni for noting that.

President Bigioni: Thank you for your comments. Yes, we all have a lot to learn in life. Right? So, this is a good opportunity to revisit that, educate ourselves some more, and pass on the lessons. I appreciate that.

Any other comments from the Executive Committee? Okay. Any questions? Okay, thank you very much.

So, we can move on to our next item, and that is the Provost report. Provost Bjorkman, the floor is yours.

Provost Bjorkman: Thank you, President Bigioni. Good afternoon, everyone. Isn't it great to have a little hint of fall weather? I like it. I want to begin my remarks today with a few comments about the Investiture Ceremony for Dr. Postel last Friday. It was really great to see the academic procession of our faculty in full regalia, also the procession of all of our international students carrying the flags of their many

different home countries. I thought that was really nice. Our Undergraduate Student Government President, Anna Walker, did an excellent job as emcee for the event. The Chancellor of Higher Education for Ohio, Randy Gardner attended the event in person and Governor DeWine sent his virtual greetings. If any of you weren't able to attend the ceremony and would like to watch it, the YouTube video link is available on the Provost Office webpage.

Last week as you heard, Rocket Week was a full week of activities, celebrating both homecoming and the 100th anniversary of the UToledo Alumni Association. We were reminded that we have more than 169,000 alumni worldwide. So, the Rocket Nation, indeed, does span the globe.

On another note, I want to thank our faculty for participating in the Starfish Early Alert reporting process this semester. The reporting rate was really excellent with about 74% of our faculty identifying students who are either doing well, or struggling in their courses. So, thank you for the time and effort you took to provide that valuable feedback to the students, and to their success coaches, and advisors. Another important student success initiative I want to remind you about is underway for identifying students who may be at risk. The midterm grade reporting has just opened on October 4th, it will close on October 24th. So again, we really appreciate your help with this as we identify and reach out to students who may need additional support. And next week we'll start launching our early registration campaign - yes, for Spring, 2022 already. On Thursday, October, 21st priority registration for spring courses will begin for many of our students. It concludes four weeks later with freshman registration on November 17th, along with open registration for all students. So, as usual, our goal is to get as many students registered as possible during these four weeks before they leave for the Thanksgiving holiday and Winter break. Students who register early, we know are more likely to be retained. They continue to make good progress toward graduation. So, we really need your assistance in helping students to get registered, reminding them about getting registered during that four-week period. We'll be sending out reminders next week with a list of registration dates and other information for your use. And just a reminder about that, regardless of when a student registers for Spring classes, there is no tuition due until January of 2022. So early registration does not affect the due date for Spring 2022 tuition.

I'm pleased to report that our student success team is expanding their outreach by establishing several new satellite sites for success coaching on the Health Science Campus. This has been long needed. So, we now will have student success coaches available on site for primarily the nursing and pharmacy students on the Health Science Campus, starting on October 19th. They continue to reach out to students on the Main Campus as they set up on site coaching sessions in the library, Parks Tower, and the Office of Multicultural Student Success.

I also want to let you know about the newly established statewide educational plan for preventing hazing that was released by the Ohio Department of Higher Ed. last week. As you may have heard, with the passage of Collin's law by the Ohio legislature, the State is now requiring all colleges and universities to develop and implement policies regarding anti-hazing and to develop training and education programs for students, faculty, staff, administrators and university organizations. Collin's law was named in honor of Collin Wiant, a freshman at Ohio University who died as a result of a hazing incident in 2018. So, the ODHE has a very comprehensive website with model policies on anti-hazing and a list of resources for training and educational programs on hazing prevention and awareness. We will be moving forward with the development of the UToledo policy, and the implementation of the training and educational program on our campus.

I also want to make a few comments about our Higher Learning Commission site visit, which will be coming in person to campus. That will occur on November 8th and 9th. So not too far away now. Later in

today's meeting you'll hear more details about the HLC process and the site visit from Heather Huntley, our Assistant Vice Provost for Accreditation and Program Review, who has been leading our efforts to prepare for the University's reaccreditation process. I know Heather has a time constraint today so I will try to keep my remarks brief. Heather submitted our final assurance documentation yesterday to the HLC, and members of the campus community can now review the materials on the University's HLC website at utoledo.edu/HLC. There will also be an executive summary posted on the website later this week. I want to publicly thank Heather and our team, but also the many faculty and staff who served on the five criterion teams that worked to develop these assurance arguments. We've been working on this for over a year now, for the extensive work they've put in and preparing for this visit. Great work by everyone.

Just, as a reminder, October 15th is the deadline for students and employees to have their first COVID 19 vaccination or to file an exemption according to the University's requirement. Currently, we've got about 49% of our students, faculty and staff who have uploaded proof of vaccination to the University's vaccine registry. I encourage faculty to remind students about this deadline and possibly even show them how to upload that proof of vaccination to the registry. It's really pretty simple. In fact, our students are probably a lot better at it than we are, as usual.

Before concluding my remarks today, I do want to make a few comments on some issues around the mental health and wellbeing of our students. We know that the pandemic has really taken a toll on all members of our University community, but especially on our students. And I want to let you know that recently we have experienced an increase in suicide attempts on campus. We are working with the University's mental health response team to develop some workshops and resources for faculty and staff as we deal with these student mental health issues. The student mental health crisis is a major issue at a number of universities across the country and other universities are experiencing this as well. So, I am asking the faculty to remain alert for signs of possible changes in student behavior or increasing disengagement, and share information about the resources that are available to the students. Our counseling center stands ready to assist. They continue to offer telehealth appointments if needed. So, your continued grace in showing our students flexibility and understanding is very much appreciated.

As we approach Fall break later this week, I hope that everyone, all of our faculty and students, take the opportunity to get some rest, and refresh and enjoy some cooler fall weather. And with that, thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

President Bigioni: Thank you, Provost Bjorkman. Any questions for the Provost?

Senator Day: This is the first I've heard of the student suicide attempts on campus. So, I'm wondering if you can tell us any more in terms of - I'm not sure what would be helpful - if there's any way that we found any corresponding patterns with some of the suicide attempts, or anything that can help us be more aware so that we can help our students?

Provost Bjorkman: That's some of the information that we're trying to pull together. I will tell you this all came to light really within the last week. So, this is new, but it's a real concern. We're worried that there is a known potential for the concept to spread. I think Amy Thompson is on the WebEx and maybe Linda Lewandowski, if you want to address some of the issues around this.

Vice Provost Thompson: Yeah, sure. Thanks, Provost Bjorkman. We're still trying to learn some of the details around this. And I just want to say, this is something that while it's happening on our campus, we're also seeing this happen on other campuses as well. You may have seen an article in Inside Higher Ed. where Chapel Hill is having a similar instance, and they actually had to shut their campus down today, actually, in support of World Mental Health Day. So, Ally [Day], I personally don't know a lot of

the details of the situation. But what I can tell you is, I think it's important for us to emphasize that we do have support and resources on our campus in the form of the Counseling Center and being able to offer telehealth appointments. I think that previously I've worked with folks across campus to offer crisis training for faculty, and we're going to try to work on kind of reoffering that again to get, you know, to support our faculty to think about recognizing signs and students, you know, missing class or disengaging and those types of things. We do have our mental health response team as well on campus that Dean Lewandowski leads. They have a group across campus, Sammy Spann and others that we're working on this issue. We do and have recently become a jet campus, which is a very important designation that we're trying to work on to offer more programming prevention resources on our campus. I think, you know, overall, COVID has really been difficult for our students. I think we've seen a lot of depression, anxiety, social isolation. You know, right now is we're approaching kind of the midpoint of the semester. I think, you know, there's just a lot on our students right now. So, thank you for asking that question and I think it's just important for us to make sure that we're providing support and letting our students know about the resources on campus.

President Bigioni: Is Linda [Lewandowski] here to make any comments?

Provost Bjorkman: I didn't see her.

President Bigioni: Is there a way that we can take advantage of the Fall break this week to help some of our students with these issues?

Vice Provost Thompson: In terms of? Can you clarify your questions?

President Bigioni: Well, it is like Chapel Hill, right? Shutting down for a day, while we are going to effectively shut down classes Thursday and Friday. And perhaps there's some way of providing some programming that can help some of our students that might be at risk.

Vice Provost Thompson: Provost Bjorkman, we can certainly talk to Student Affairs and see if there's some things that we can do. Absolutely. Thank you for this suggestion.

Provost Bjorkman: I'm guessing that Sammy Spann may be thinking along those lines, but I have not had a chance to circle back with him to find out what their thoughts are on that. That's a good idea.

President Bigioni: Thank you. Any other questions for the Provost? Thank you very much.

Provost Bjorkman: Thank you.

President Bigioni: Let's move on to our next item. It is a Curriculum Committee report. Senator Anthony Edgington is the Chair of that committee. Senator Edgington, are you ready to give your report?

Senator Edgington: We are ready to go. Thank you very much, President Bigioni. I'm going to go ahead and share our spreadsheet here. Hopefully, [you] all can see that. What we have [for] you today is one new course proposal and six course modifications. So, kind of a lighter list today. With that in mind, I have to go through all seven of these at once, and then talk about them combined, and do one vote on them for the courses.

So, our one new course proposal is **English 4610, Nineteenth-Century Latinx Literature:** "Cultural production of Latinx peoples in the nineteenth century United States. Topics to include the social and cultural impact of colonization in the Southwestern part of the U.S and the Atlantic world and identity formation among Hispanophone Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). NOTE: This course is part of a long-term goal of expanding our offerings in Latinx literature, reflective of the College of Arts

and Letters' priorities in that area and the needs of the new Minor in Latinx Studies. Dr. Bonifacio was hired in large part of this purpose.”

And then for our course modification, the first one is **EFSB 4690, Innovation and Technology Commercialization**: “Change to course title (New Title: Strategic Management of Innovation. Changes to long and short titles. Addition of Spring semester offering. Change to catalog description. Updated SLOs. Change to CIP Code. NOTE: Revision to course to include the strategic component as recommended by market research.”

The next one is **ENG 4690, English Honors Thesis**: “Change to credit hours (from 1 to 4 to a set 4). Course is not repeatable for credit. Co-requisite included (ENGL 4900). NOTE: We have required 4 thesis hours of all English Honors students since 2005. We are simply changing the default to make it easier for students to register, and to clarify that students need both 4900 and 4960.”

The next one is **GEPL 4650, Physical Geography**: “Change to course title (New Title: Geography of Earth Systems). Change to long and short titles. Course is not repeatable for credit. Change to CIP Code. NOTE: updating title to reflect course content.”

The next one is **PHM 4000, Integrated Pharmaceutical and Clinical Sciences 2**: “Change to co-requisites (replacing PHPR 4360 with PHPR 4350). Updated SLOs. NOTE: The co-requisite was incorrect. The modification is to correct this error.”

We have **PHPR 3040, Cosmetic Raw Materials**: “Change to course title (new title: Cosmetic Ingredients). Change to long and short titles. NOTE: The course modification is a name change for this course. The new name Cosmetic Ingredients is consistent with what is taught in the course and the language used by the Cosmetic Industry.”

Then the finally modification is **PHPR 4750, Cosmetic Science II**: “Change to prerequisites (eliminating all previous prereqs except PHPR 4730). NOTE: The course modification is to require the first course in the two-course series, PHPR 4730 Cosmetic Science 1 as the pre-requisite.”

So those are our one course new course proposal and our six course modifications. Are there any questions or discussion on these courses? Okay, hearing none. So, since this comes out of a committee, we don't need a motion to approve. We can go straight to a vote, so please put in the chat box either yes to approve, no to unapprove, or 'a' to abstain. President Bigioni, it appears those have approved. Okay, thank you all very much.

President Bigioni: Okay, thank you for your report Senator Edgington. The next report is Student Affairs Committee's report from Senator Deborah Coulter-Harris.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Thank you, President Bigioni. There's no need to pull up anything. All of the senators have the report already so I'm just going to briefly talk about it. At our 1 October meeting, committee members prioritized the four student government issues through agreed consensus and formed subcommittees responsible for the following: Karen Green and I are assigned to the Student Government mandated COVID issue, and we are meeting tomorrow via WebEx to solidify our plans for that. Sarah Aldrich and Sally Harmych are assigned to accommodations and support for disabled students' issue. Mohammad Samir Hefzy, Shery Milz and Berhane Teclehaimonot agreed to work on support for underserved populations. Carolyn Lee and Lucy Duhon, who just joined us today, will research and deal with the issue of mental health support. Carolyn emailed me today and has already collected great information on this issue and is already conferencing on this issue with Dean Lewandowski. Faculty senators may read each subcommittee's initial strategies and plans under the notes sections of

Memorandum 5. Each subcommittee will present a report on the process and resolution of issues at the end of the respective assigned semesters. Our committee also responded to the draft policy on student vaccinations. Please see Appendix 1 of Memorandum 5. That is my report, but I would like to say that Senator Carolyn Lee would like to ask a question about the student leaders retreat this weekend. Carrie please.

Senator Lee: Hi Good day, everyone. So, two things that I wanted to include in reference to the conversation about mental health. Yes, the mental health first aid training is available on campus, so I'll do that first and then I have a question about the leadership retreat. So, in case everyone doesn't know, and I'm learning about this myself, the University of Toledo received a three-year grant through the Substance Abuse in Mental Health Services Administration. Dean Lewandowski from the College of Nursing is PI on that grant. And through that, there is a resource available to our University community, students, staff and faculty called Mental Health First Aid Training. I will put the link and the resource person in the chat box in a few minutes. The idea of this is to provide training on mental illness and substance abuse, and help people develop skills in assessing for that, and connecting people who need help with supportive resources. You can register online. I believe there are both virtual and in person sessions. You can attend at no cost. It's a one-day training session for which you do a two-hour individual work before you attend. I looked today and there are sessions into December. You can focus your training on youth persons under the age of 18, so that might relate to some of your disciplines, or the adult population. It looks like the sessions are like, 9:00 to 3:30 kind of thing. They are offered on various days of the week. I checked with Linda Lewandowski and these sessions will continue to be available for our campus community into 2022. What else do I want to mention? You can also schedule groups of people to train together. So, if colleges would have an interest in having faculty and staff, and even maybe some students or GA's, or whoever participate, you can schedule a group session for yourselves. I think there's a minimum number of participants that have to be there. This is a valuable resource. I know in the College of Nursing some faculty have done this. I emailed one of my colleagues this afternoon who found it, even though she's a nurse, to be very helpful type of training to bring our attention to this important issue on campus. So, again, I'll put the link if anyone should want to register, or senators would like to take this conversation back to their peers to maybe coordinate the unit of training, that would be great.

And the other thing, we talked about mental health just yesterday in our College of Nursing Council, because just like you, we were seeing these strains - and these, of course, are not just students, but for faculty and staff on campus as well - and she mentioned that this weekend she thought there was an upcoming type of retreat for student leaders and some of the content on their agenda was going to be mental health. So, I thought I would inquire, if anyone on our call here today, some information to elaborate on that just to inform the senator group, Nursing, [that] there is some mental health stuff. Thank you.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Thank you, Senator Lee.

Provost Bjorkman: If I may, I can provide a little background on that. Every year Sammy Spann, who is the Dean of Students and works with student success and so on, has a retreat for all of the leaders of the student organizations on campus and they typically go to Kalahari. They have a nice weekend on the water slides, but they also do a lot of training, and team building, and talking about leadership. He actually gave a report the other day to us. He was explaining that they are, in fact, going to do that again. They didn't do it last year, obviously because of COVID. They are resuming that again this year. Everyone is being tested before they leave. Everyone is wearing masks. They are social distancing and they're taking all the precautions. He's actually very encouraged that they're able to do this again, because it's very important for the students and for their leaders. So that's what I know about it at any rate.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Thank you, Provost.

Senator Lee: Thank you.

Vice Provost Thompson: President Bigioni, if I may? One of the senators reminded me of, I think an important tool. We had established several years ago, the Report a Concern Button. That's threaded throughout our UToledo website so you can just click on that. And if you are concerned about a particular student, enter that, either your name or even anonymously. So that's another tool that we have, that's if you are worried about a student, you can do that. I just wanted to remind folks about that.

President Bigioni: Thank you for that. Are there any other questions or comments? Okay, well then thank you very much for your report.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Thank you.

President Bigioni: Okay, I think that concludes the report section. It does. So, we can move on to 'Other Business.' Heather Huntley has joined us to give us an update on the HLC site visit next month, right? Yes. So, Heather, are you ready to go?

Heather Huntley, Associate Vice Provost: Sure.

President Bigioni: Okay, great.

Heather Huntley: Can you hear me okay?

President Bigioni: Yes.

Heather Huntley: Okay, I am going to share my screen. Can everybody see that okay? So today, what I want to do is let people know a little bit about the upcoming Higher Learning Commission visit. For those of you who might not know, the HLC is one of six institutional accreditors in the United States. As part of our regular accreditation process, UToledo will undergo a site visit as Provost Bjorkman mentioned. It is Monday and Tuesday, November 8th and 9th of this year. We do know that the visit is going to be in person.

I will tell you upfront, if it sounds like I don't know a lot about what's going to happen with the site visit, it's because I don't know a lot about what's going to happen the site visit. The peer review team drives the schedule and the Chair has indicated that we may have some preliminary details by the end of next week. But based on previous visits, we can make some educated guesses. At our previous visits, there were open forums for faculty, for staff, and for students. I am very hopeful that will be the case again this time. As soon as we know, we will be blasting that out to the campus community. We also know that at least part of the team will spend some time on the Health Science Campus. They will not just be on the Main Campus. The other thing that I would like you to know is, the 'big thing' is any information that we know will be posted as Provost Bjorkman said, on our website, which is UToledo.edu/HLC.

Because I don't know a ton right now, I wanted to focus a little bit on the process that took place and what we've done up to this point as well as provide you with a little bit of context. So, the first thing that I'll say is that the HLC is on a 10-year cycle. Our last full review took place back in 2012, February was a site visit. That resulted in continued accreditation at that time. Shortly after that, the HLC moved to a new pathways process and UToledo was assigned to what's called the 'standard pathway.' The standard pathway requires a mid-cycle visit, and so that is what took place in April of 2016. After that 2016 visit, we were asked to submit an interim monitoring report and that related to assessment and institutional effectiveness with links to strategic planning. If you think about what was happening during that time, we

were right in the thick of putting together our current strategic plan. So, very fairly, HLC said, 'okay, we want to make sure that you complete that process; you finalize a strategic plan and that you have some actionable goals related to that.' So, we did do that and submitted a report in 2017 and no further action was required at that time. So, going along with that 10-year cycle, we knew that the site visit would be happening sometime during 2021 2022. So, in Fall 2019, writing teams were created and the current process kicked off in October of 2019. I'll talk more about that in a second. But again, the one thing I can say, November 8th and 9th.

So, a lot has changed and so, for those of you who have been around for the entire 10-year cycle, like me, I wanted to highlight a few of the differences. So, first of all, the document itself; for those of you who were here in 2012, it was a big thick spiral bound document. It was a really nice narrative, had pictures. The assurance argument, which is what we do now is exact opposite of that. It is a very succinct 40,000 hard word count, no pictures, online report. Those 40,000 words are to be linked to evidence, which is all housed in the HLC's online assurance system. We're able to download a copy of that document, but only the HLC reviewers have access to the live document with all of the links. The one good thing, or the one thing that I really like about the new system is that institutions are required to administer a student opinion survey two months prior to the visit. So, you may have seen some UT News articles or social media about that. HLC provides the questions and we just distribute it via a link. Historically, it's been very difficult to get student participation for prepping a big document, and that's not just at UT, that's everywhere. I really like the idea of allowing students to have an opportunity to participate in some way before the visitors actually get to campus. Another change is the shortened timeline so the document is just submitted a month before the visit and then the visit itself is quite a bit shorter. Typically, it's just going to be a day-and-a-half roughly, so they will be here Monday and then part of the day on Tuesday.

I would be remiss if I did not also say that COVID has affected things and not just UToledo and all of us, but HLC as well. They have been very delayed in putting together a site team. It was named months later than what we had expected. We also were just able to, in the last couple of weeks, get confirmation of the format for the visit that it will be in person. They are requiring us to submit a COVID response form, specifically talking about all the changes that have occurred over the pandemic. Then the other thing that I just want to note is, this time our visit is in the fall. Our last two visits have been in the Spring. Dr. Bjorkman knows, I've already complained to her about the change. But, if you think about it, all of our final prep for it and the real collaboration among everybody happens in that semester leading up to the site visit. When you have a spring visit, everybody is on campus in the fall and it's makes life a lot easier. When your site visits in the Fall, all that stuff happens in the Summer, and, you know, people take vacations and they're on nine-month contracts. It's just very different. The other thing is, you want the most current information about what's happening at the institution and so when your site visit is in the fall, you have things like, you have to wait until Census Day until you can get the most current data. So, it's just been a very different process this time.

I also want to make sure that people are aware of the criteria for accreditation. So, there are five. They relate to mission, integrity, teaching and learning, institutional effectiveness. The assurance argument is to show how the University is meeting those five criteria and all of their core components. And then, again, we'll back up any statements that we make with evidence. We tried to follow the same process again this time as what we did in 2016. Writing teams were created for each of those criteria as well as the federal compliance filing that we are required to include. The teams were led by and were made up of members of the campus community - so, faculty, staff and administrators – and the team leaders are listed here. I would like to publicly thank them as well as everybody who was on a team. The full team lists are available on our website, and I would like to thank them for all of their work, because it is a lot of work.

They also began writing in the Spring of 2020, and we all know, other things happened in the Spring of 2020. So timelines were adjusted. Some meeting formats were adjusted. But those folks kept writing and kept on doing their work and submitted their drafts this Summer in 2021. Since then, the drafts were posted online for most of the summer and through late August. Then we have been working this Fall to get everything refined, make sure we're within that word count limit, all of the pieces of evidence are put together. We had some pieces go out for fact checking, and then got it all submitted at the beginning of this week.

So, again, the full document is available on the website. If you don't want to read the full 40,000 words, we are working on an executive summary and I will do my best to get that out as soon as possible. But I guess what I would say is this website, it includes the full assurance argument. It includes the full criteria, all of the core components in there, the lists of teams. We have an FAQ section. I'm very hopeful, fingers crossed that we will know more about the schedule for the visit by our next Faculty Senate meeting. And so, President Bigioni has already said I can come back next time and hopefully provide you with much more detail. I'd be happy to talk more in detail about the criteria, about the review team and their schedule because I think once we know their schedule, we'll have a better sense of what kinds of questions they might ask and what kinds of things you might want to know about. We want everyone to feel adequately prepared and comfortable with the criteria. I know different people have had different experiences with accrediting bodies, so I want you to know that I have found HLC to be a very helpful group, not punitive in any way. They really have a spirit of continuous improvement and wanting to help. You know, they are peer reviewers so they're wanting to help us be better and make sure that we're doing our best to meet the criteria for accreditation. So that's been my experience in the past and I would assume it would continue. Okay. So, with that, I'm going to quit sharing my screen so I can see people. I would be happy to take any questions with anybody you would have.

President Bigioni: Okay, thank you, Heather. Any questions? You might be off the hook.

Heather Huntley: I can get to my next task.

President Bigioni: Yeah. Okay. Thank you very much for all you do for us and thanks for coming to keep us updated, and we look forward to talking to you again.

Heather Huntley: Thank you.

President Bigioni: Thank you. Okay, so we can move on to the next item, which is items from the floor. Does anyone have anything to bring to the floor?

Senator Smith: Actually, President Bigioni, I do. This is Suzanne Smith.

President Bigioni: Go ahead.

Senator Smith: I would just like to raise the issue of, you know, I don't know what the plans are for possible continuation of accommodations for instructors in the Spring semester. Those of us who have had some ADA accommodations in the past, I heard that that's not just going to happen at all. I wonder if either Provost or Vice Provost could address that. I'd like to mention that I have written to Stacy Latta about this twice and have not gotten a reply. So, I thought I'd bring it up in today's Faculty Senate meeting.

President Bigioni: Thank you for your question. Is the Provost here?

Provost Bjorkman: Yes, I am here. Actually, that's a well-timed question. We were just before this meeting on a meeting with Stacy, Ellen Grachek, Enjie Hall, and others talking about this very issue.

They are in the process of beginning to process requests that have come in. We discussed what some of the options are, what kinds of things we have to be aware of, because of, you know, making sure that we're providing our students with what they need and want, but also recognizing that people have concerns and that there are people who need accommodations. So, I think we had a good discussion. I think they're going to be looking at this and no, there, it's not true that there won't be any accommodations. So, I just want to set your mind at ease about that.

Senator Smith: Good. I was just concerned about it because registration is starting and I know how hard it is to adjust modalities once students register for classes. That's my concern.

Provost Bjorkman: Yes, in fact, we did ask Stacy to go ahead and start processing ones that have come in, exactly for that reason. We don't want students to feel like they've signed up for a course in one modality and it suddenly changes. Right? And so, we'd like to get as many of those taken care of as soon as possible before registration begins.

Senator Smith: Thank you very much.

President Bigioni: Great. Thank you. Any other questions, or items from the floor? Senator Steven, do you want to bring up your point about general consent?

Senator Steven: Sure, yes. I was just thinking that this would speed things up a little bit during our meetings for trivial things like adjournment of the meeting or approving the Minutes. The president can instead of calling for a vote, just say that if there is no objection, we will adopt the agenda, for example. And then you don't have to wait for a vote. If anybody wants to object, they have that opportunity. Otherwise, you immediately just adopt the agenda, for example. Or to close the meeting, you don't have to have a motion to do that in a vote. You just say if there's no objections, we're going to adjourn the meeting and you just pause - no objections, okay, the meeting is closed. So that's a simple procedure. It's within Robert's Rules as a way at speeding things up.

President Bigioni: Great. Any discussion about that? And I suppose if we wanted to do that, we wouldn't necessarily need to vote on it.

Senator Hefzy: We do this all of the time in our departmental meetings.

President Bigioni: Okay. So, since it's part of Robert's Rules, we wouldn't have to vote on that change. We can just go ahead and do it. We can try it to close this meeting, in fact.

Senator Huntley has a question [in the chat]: "Could we expedite roll call?"

Well, that's a good question, and there are pros and cons to that. Maybe I'll keep my opinion to myself and allow others to make a point about it. Senator Huntley, would you like to elaborate?

Senator Huntley: I don't really have any elaboration other than, I don't have the specific time, but it eats up five to six minutes that we could use for other business.

President Bigioni: Okay. Any comments about that?

Senator Rouillard: I don't think we're going to accomplish a whole lot more if we have an extra five minutes, or if we have five minutes fewer.

Past-President Brakel: President Bigioni, the establishment of roll call helps to establish the quorum.

President Bigioni: That's true. Right, and we definitely need a count in order to establish quorum. Pardon me?

Senator Huntley: I was just going to say, as Kathy just noted, since we're on WebEx the participants are already listed.

President Bigioni: True. I have heard people make the comment that it's nice to hear people's voices and make that connection between people's names, and voices, and faces. And I suppose at the very beginning of the meeting, there's a little bit of a transition nature to it as people arrive and settle in. That may also be an advantage of just getting things rolling. No pun intended. Any other comments about that?

Senator Steven: I was just going to make another comment. I don't think it's a real issue, but hearing someone's voice, it kind of confirms that that's the person that is on the other end if you're not using video. If you're just putting a yes I'm here in the chat box, it could be anybody theoretically. But if you hear the person's voice, then yes, you can recognize the voice. So that's just one added benefit.

Senator Rouillard: Right. And since there are some people who attend by phone, just being on the line, your name isn't added to the meeting. So, it's not always evident if it's a senator or a non-senator who's attending.

President Bigioni: That's true. And the same goes for looking at the list of participants. There'd have to be some sorting that goes on, whereas calling the roll, the roll is already just senators, so that's well established for quorum. Any other questions or comments?

Senator Ratnam: You know, just putting a 'yes' or 'here' if I'm actually in Fulton County doing a clinic every other Tuesday, and so that is the only way I can join is by phone. But once I come home, I can then go on to the laptop computer.

President Bigioni: Okay. So, it sounds like there's enough desire to continue doing the roll, that we can continue doing the roll. Is that fair?

On the matter of general consent though, we can go ahead and do that to save a little bit of time and a little bit of hassle too.

Okay, any other questions or comments about either of these issues, general consent or roll? Okay, then, I guess that is settled.

Any other items from the floor? Okay, then, hearing none. Now I need to figure out the adjournment general consent. What are the words?

Senator Steven: If there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned. And then if there are no objections, then yeah, [the] meeting is adjourned.

President Bigioni: Perhaps I'll put it to a question. Are there any objections to adjourning the meeting?

Senator Steven: No.

President Bigioni: Go ahead.

Senator Steven: I think it's best if nobody responds. So, you just pause and if there's no response, then you're assuming that there are no objections and then the meeting is adjourned. You just give a reasonable pause, I think is how it typically works.

President Bigioni: Sorry. Are you saying, I shouldn't put it to a question?

Senator Steven: No, no. Yes, the question is fine, but I'm just saying [if] people just start saying no, and that slow things down. It's almost like we're doing a vote all over again. So, it's just if senators have an objection, then yes, they say, yes, I object. I'd like to make a motion to adjourn so that we have a vote. So, at this point, if nobody says anything during the pause\then we're good to go you say, yes, no objections. The meeting is now adjourned.

Senator Hefzy: In other words, if you do not hear or receive any objections in 30 seconds, the meeting is over.

President Bigioni: I just have to phrase the question in a way that no one says no.

Okay, I would like to adjourn the meeting, if there are no objections. Hearing none. The meeting is adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Thank you everyone. Have a good rest of your weekend and enjoy the break if you get one on Thursday and Friday. Thanks everyone. Thanks, Rob for that suggestion.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 5: 09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Kimberly Nigem
Tape summary: Quinetta Hubbard

Faculty Senate Office Administrative Secretary
Faculty Senate Executive Secretary