

To: Faculty Senate

From: Dr. Deborah M. Coulter-Harris, Chair of Student Affairs Committee

Date: 15 March, 2022

Subject: Update on Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee

### **Religious Calendar Issues**

- I met this morning with Senior Vice-Provost Amy Thompson, Cathy Zimmer, and Jewell Mundoe, the Coordinator of Student Advocacy & Support, to apprise her of our Committees work on the MSA issue regarding final exams. (Missed Class Policy: 3364-71-14 – A-2). We made good progress on creating a step-by-step process that will accommodate students for religious exemptions; we will apprise Faculty Senate of this process in the near future. We thank Provost Bjorkman and her office for supporting this issue.

### **Sub-Committee on Underserved Student Communities**

- Our Faculty Senate on Student Affairs Sub-Committee on underserved student communities has met or plans to meet with the following groups:
  1. Already met with Muslim Student Association: Aylia Naqvi, Ibrahim Haseeb, Kulsoom Ahmad & Nida Aftab
  2. Forthcoming meeting tomorrow, 16 March: Deborah with Kirsten Kendrick, SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance). (LGBTQ+ and transgender issues)
  3. Dr. Shery Milz with UT Hillel
  4. Friday, 18 March at 5:30 -6:30 pm: Dr. Hefzy, Dr. Teclehaimanot, Dr. Milz, and Dr. Coulter-Harris with Nyreisha and the Black Student Union.
  5. Dr. Milz has contacted the Latino Student Union.
  6. Our Committee will have a Webex meeting on Thursday, 17 March, at 5:30 pm to discuss the upcoming pizza social on 1 April. Invites will go out tomorrow. I will apprise President Bigioni of the number of those who plan to attend for budgetary reasons.
  7. Final report on underserved student communities will be presented in April.

### **Faculty Senate Student Affairs Sub-Committee Report on Student Mental Health (Dr. Carolyn Lee and Dr. Lucy Duhon)**

- Student Government Expression of Concern for Student Mental Health: On 24 September, 2021, Student Government President Anna Walker and Student VP Grant Epstein with their steering committee responded to Memorandum for Record (3), dated 7 September, 2021, from the Faculty Senate Committee for Student Affairs, stating the following:
  - “Student well-being and mental health needs to be a priority of all individuals at the University of Toledo. While there are resources available such as the counseling center, many of these resources are overburdened and unable to

support all students who need them. UTSC asks that Faculty Senate joins us in pushing for the improvement of current resource and addition of new resources that will continue to support the mental well-being of all members of the Rocket Community.”

- University of Toledo Student Government Leadership later identified three issues related to Mental Health Services and support to students:
  - Counseling Center Appointments,
  - UTPD as Primary Response in Mental Health situations,
  - Proposal for Mental Health Days for students.

Senator Lucy Duhon will now present our Committee’s third formal report as promised. Thank you!

Cc: SG President Anna Walker, Grant Epstein, Faculty Senators, Terry Bigioni, Gary Insch