

Monday, June 18, 2018

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. Thank you for this opportunity to give you an update on Faculty Senate work. As we approach a new academic year, one I'm sure will be productive, we want to inform you about some of our initiatives.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee continues to meet during the summer, including with the Provost and President who keep us informed about issues such as enrollment. President-Elect Tim Brakel is already at work seating the Committee on Committees so that they can populate our eight other standing committees that address such things as curriculum and policy. In addition to past president Dr. Amy Thompson, the other members of the new FSEC include: President-Elect Dr. Tim Brakel (music), Dr. Mark Templin, secretary (Education), Dr. Frederike Emonds (German), Dr. Jerry Van Hoy (LST), Mr. Wade Lee, OFC representative (Libraries), Dr. Temeaka Gray (Nursing), and Dr. David Giovannuci (COMLS).

Faculty Senate expects to complete its revision of our Constitution and Bylaws and bring it to this board during the fall semester. We will keep the Chair of the Board updated on this.

Next, Faculty Senate has been working to revise its survey instrument and procedures as one contribution to the provost's overall evaluation of deans. President Brakel and I met with the Provost recently who approved of our instrument questions. We plan to present the revised survey and procedures for endorsement by FS, and administer our survey in the spring for all deans who have been in their positions for two years or more.

We are also particularly happy about the implementation of a new curriculum tracking system called CourseLeaf, and about the collaboration among the offices of the Provost, the Registrar, Advising, and faculty to format this resource according to the needs of our institution. The steering committee under the direction of Vice Provost Bill Ayres has had robust discussions in this context about shared governance, shared information, and academic integrity. The final outcome promises to be a useful tool and archive for our courses and programs.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Al Baker for giving Past President Amy Thompson and me the opportunity to contribute to the Board's evaluation of President Gaber. Amy and I both expressed our appreciation for the fine work of Dr. Gaber at UT, and we noted that three years into her administration there has been a significant improvement in our institutional culture and atmosphere where shared governance and collaboration are the new normal.

We look forward to working with you during the next academic year.