Faculty Senate Report

To The Board of Trustees

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

December 15, 2014

Faculty Senate and the FSEC have been working hard in concert with administration and student governance on a number of initiatives.

The Task Force on student note- taking was formed to assure compliance with appropriate accommodation as required in the American’s with Disabilities Act while respecting and safe guarding faculty intellectual property. This Task Force has been meeting since September 2014 and has worked on alternatives for note taking within colleges/courses. A work product from this Task Force is being finalized by Vice Provost Kelly Moore’s office and will be disseminated to all faculty shortly.

FSEC members have been working with Vice Provost Traband and Registrar Terry Romer on reviewing curriculum tracking software. It is the conclusion of the FSEC members involved that the manner in which UT currently manages curriculum changes, course modifications, etc. is antiquated at best and we are grossly behind in our automation of this process.

FESC has also been involved with the President’s Holiday celebration for faculty and staff and will be in full-force at the celebration.

General Education, Ohio Transfer Module, course approval continues to be an issue for our university. Courses have been submitted and not approved at the state level. These courses are unique to the UT Honors program. We feel strongly that these courses are but one example of courses that faculty submit to either improve a program and/or distinguish UT as a unique provider in the public higher education pool in Ohio. Our concerns were taken forward at the state level at through the Ohio Faculty and Ohio Provost’s Councils.

FSEC continue to work with Student Governance on their issues and concerns, e.g., the need for updates in the Student Union is of great concern, faculty and course evaluation tools and process are another concern, and campus safety, and other issue regarding parking and transportation. Many of these issues will be referred to Faculty Senate Committees, however, updating the Student Union is beyond faculty scope, but we do offer our support.

FSEC has had several meetings with College governance committees up on their request to hear concerns regarding the climate/culture within the colleges. FSEC believes that it is essential that we begin work on growing our enrollment numbers by creating a climate/culture of caring at UT. If faculty, staff, students, and administration know that UT is a community that cares for all members, this knowledge will spread and students, faculty, and others will come to us. FSEC is committed to creating this culture.

The Committee on Academic Programs is working with the Provost’s office and Registrar on the grading policy for an outcome to allow faculty to be as flexible with students as possible while meeting the needs of the institution.

Other new items come up on a daily basis and FSEC is being asked to participate by administration. Our workload has increased significantly on the administrative side, but we are grateful to the Board and administration for the invitation and inclusion. It is another way that we are development a more inclusive, caring community at UT.

FSEC wish to extend a wish that the BOT enjoys all the wonder the holiday season has to offer. This ends my report.

Respectfully,

Karen L. Hoblet, PhD, MSN, RN, CNL

University of Toledo Faculty Senate President