

## Meeting Minutes NSM Council Meeting April 20, 2021

**Call to Order** - Sally Harmych, Presiding

### 1) Roll call (Malathi Krishnamurthy)

- Present: Sally Harmych, Bruce Bamber, John Bellizi, Terry Bigioni, Kristi Mock, Song Qian, Daryl Dwyer, David Krantz, Alessandro Arsie, James Anderson, Sonmez Sahutoglu, Rong Liu, Kathy Shan, Tom Mageath (in place of Eli Visbal), Aniruddha Ray
- Others: Brian Ashburner
- Students: Ihechiluru Igwe (absent), Karim Abul-Khoudoud (present)

### (a) Approval of Minutes from March 23, 2020 meeting

Minutes were approved without change unanimously (vote through chat box on virtual meeting)

**(b) Meeting agenda moving unfinished business to the early part of the meeting was approved unanimously.**

### 2) New and Unfinished business (S. Harmych)

**New business:** Discussion with Interim Dean Plenefisch

Topics for discussion on wrapping up the year, enrollment, budget, search for new Dean.

- Search committee has identified the top two candidates and the names will be forwarded to the Provost. One or both will be invited for campus visit and meet with stakeholders. The goal is to have a Dean in place by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Budget depends on enrollment and the tuition that comes in and so there is concern as to what enrollment will look like in Fall. As of last week, undergraduate recruitment report data comparing 2020 and 2021 shows NSM enrollment was down less than the University-wide enrollment. It appears NSM will be up this year and if we want to be even with enrollment, we should be up 5% and university as a whole should be up 7% or so. We had more inquiries, applicants, completed applications and admitted 3% above last year. Net admits after withdrawn and put in deposit was at 5.8% over last year. The number signed up for orientation also increased over last year. So, NSM is ahead of last year while university as a whole is down. The admits and applicants completed are higher while net confirmed numbers are down 5%. The orientations are higher and still there are reasons for concerns. The reduction is mainly from reduction in business and engineering due to international students. The DHS students are also down and we are facing competition from other colleges as well.

Is this situation similar to other universities?(D. Dwyer)

Lot of students are holding off making decisions. Getting visas to come and students are looking elsewhere rather than UT. Students applying in greater number to top students, like MIT, Harvard and waiting to see if they get in. Then make decisions to move down the prestige ladder. UT competes with OSU and we may not be competent as those universities will fill their freshmen class unlike UT. We pitch in and sell our positives like one-on-one mentoring and undergraduate research. These highlights are put on NSM

youtube channel. Our enrollments impacts our budget and depends on SSI, tuition and enrollment.

- The budget of the entire UT including hospital and academics is \$750M. NSM base budget is \$18-19M, does not include grants or graduate student support (\$6M), indirects from grants are \$500-600,000. Out of the \$19M base, \$16M is for salaries, wages and benefits. Balance pays for everything else. The graduate student support and tuition waivers come from the indirects of grant funding. That is why drop in enrollment impacts our budget. Based on the current enrollment, it looks like we will have a flat budget. If enrollment does not pick up, there will not be enough funds to reinvest and the cuts that were absorbed last year. Some reinvestment funds have come back but enrollment has to also pick up. We are not expecting additional cuts, but unable to recover lost positions.
- Post-covid recovery: The number of direct from high school students is going to decrease, drastically after 2025, particularly in Midwest. Can we make up through other programs and other learners, Opportunity to find programs attractive to new student learners. Online graduate programs is a growing area in other universities. Viable programs with high demand should be considered. Interdisciplinary areas in other subjects like neuroscience and bring research focus into those programs are viable option.

ES had a proposal for online M.S and it appeared to increase faculty workload and did not move forward (D. Dwyer)

If the need for some of courses is going to drop, we can assign courses to make up and fill in the interdisciplinary programs as a way for the future.

Engineering model of using a coop like program and use it for engagement and recruiting can be explored when the new dean is in place. Presentation by Matt Schroeder in the BOT meeting shared numbers and as of March 31, we were at \$80M which suggests we are strongly profitable. If we discount the \$10M we are expecting to lose in auxiliary funds, that's still \$70M with one more quarter to go, we are expecting to finish strong in the academic enterprise even including the auxiliary funds. The situation in the hospital, they will also end up profitable after the funds from CARES act, Last year we made \$45M. Difficult to reconcile why there is message of austerity despite these numbers despite declining enrollment.(T. Bigioni)

Unclear why there is a discrepancy in pools of money, though there is some of the reinvestment monies. Some decline in athletics revenue, and unclear why there is a discrepancy in numbers presented to BOT vs others.( J. Plenefisch)

Why there is need for such austere measures is unclear and numbers presented to BOT appears to have a conflict from administrative messaging (T. Bigioni)

In the RCM model, the monies arrived at is more transparent, but better than existing model. (J.P)

Will we have a business expertise to determine investment? (D. Krantz)

There will be budget officers to help with college budgets (J.P).

Thanks to John Plenefisch for speaking to the council and updating on the current situation and the year that will end (S. Harmych).

**Unfinished business:** Final approval of bylaws revision.

- Most changes already made and reviewed by council members. Only one change in article 3, section 70 in language on council committee on academic grievance. Three years ago Jim made significant change to wordings in this section on how the committee works. Only difference is it is independent from members of council. Change language to “make up”. Voted unanimously to accept changes in the bylaws (vote on chat). Edited version will be posted on the website.

### **3) University reports and proposals**

#### **(a) Faculty Senate (David Krantz and Terry Bigioni)**

##### **Executive committee (Summary)**

- Changes being made to how student payments are made at the start of the semester as it creates late fees eviction and a possible permanent record for the student as students in arrears for a certain length of time are turned over to the AG’s office of the state. Proposal is to have the due date before the start of the semester, so students may drop before they actually begin and minimize the evictions from dorms. Students may register in the first week of class and there is a second drop date that coincides with our census date for federal reporting. Trying to actively contact students who have not paid between those two dates. There is an active review process for student payment followup.
- Faculty senate made revisions to the constitution and bylaws, not likely to get a vote by the end of this year.
- Faculty representative to Ohio faculty council putting together a white paper on interaction between boards of trustees and faculties of their universities. Senate bill 135 in OH legislature states that new programs will not be approved unless they can demonstrate direct link to getting a job. Narrow definition of college education, suspension of programs with low completion rates. Faculty are not allowed to speak outside their area of expertise in the classroom, the irony of freedom of speech on campus.
- If a student comes to UT and then after a year or two decides to go to community college, UT will have to pay for tuition and courses of that community college (T. Bigioni)
- Changes in Spring commencement
- Day of giving had record donations
- Vaccine clinics: 3000 students vaccinated
- President Postel giving state of the university address on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Curriculum and program modifications in the faculty senate. Course modification for BIOL1120 and sustainability minor was approved.
- Lou Gibbons Research Integrity Officer: revising the guidelines for research integrity review by making clear and defining the terms and aligning with federal regulations.
- Provost report: UT reported that 8000 students graduated.
- Understanding the disconnect in funds reported by BOT and administration. Reinvestment programs coming from the budget surplus. Still the positions that were cut were not considered to bring back.

**(b) Graduate Council: (Brian Ashburner)**

- Couple of large presentations including on research integrity and misconduct policy. Policy expected to be completed and posted by October and all research active faculty should review.
- Hooding ceremony on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 89 graduates are signed up. Students from Fall were invited.
- Hiring a new grant writer to work with Eva English.
- Research monies we look like are going to match or exceed last year's performance with \$55M. And NSM leads the pack even more than COM.
- Today's meeting: presentation for coming up with plan for new teaching center.
- Academic misconduct policy worked on for last several years, and not very student friendly.
- Graduate enrollment down a bit from last year. Close out cases of students not accepted to the program.
- Curriculum change: M.S non thesis degree credit hour change was approved.

**4) College reports and proposals**

**(a) NSM chairs meeting summary: (Sally Harmych)**

- Most items covered by JP
- The changes for Fall to back on campus and in person classes and changes in workload accordingly.

**5) Council Committee Reports**

**(a) Curriculum committee (Bruce Bamber, A. Arsie)**

- One item left from last time, but due to lack of update no further discussion is possible.

**(b) Elections Committee (Kristi Mock)**

- Elections for the year are complete.
- CCAP at large member will be Timothy Fisher
- Graduate council member will be Jeanine Refsnider-Streby
- Going to work on the election handbook is coming up

**6) Items from the floor**

- Any discussion on requirement of covid vaccination for Fall? (D. Krantz)
- It will not be a requirement as it is an emergency authorization for use. Some schools like Rutgers require it, but has not been challenged in court (T. Bigioni)
- Trying to generate a database for vaccination is being discussed. There was gross underreported covid cases in Fall.

This is the last meeting of 2020-21 council and the next council members will stay.

Chair for next council is John Bellizi

John Bellizi: Thanks to Sally for serving as chair in 2020-21 and members who are cycling off thanks for service and welcome to the new members of 2021-22 NSM council.

Need to select officers and chairs of committees. Need to pick vice-chair who will serve as chair the following year, will be ES turn to pick vice-chair.

New academic grievance committee will contain representatives from each department and does not have to be NSM council member.

**8) Meeting adjourned.**