

## University Assembly

April 19, 2023

### TEAMS Meeting

**Members Present:** Abbas, Allcott, A. Brown, Canfield, Comer, K. Craven, Crockett, Dorris, J. Edmonds, Fornehed, Hajdik, Hanna, Hasan, Herman-Turner, M. Huddleston, Hutson, Killman, B. Jones, Langford, E. Lee, Jane Liu, Manginelli, Meadows, H. Mills, Mullen, T. Nelson, Null, O'Connor, H. Park, Payne, Pickering, Rajabali, Reames, C. Roberts, J. Roberts, B. Russell, Shank, Shipley, D. Sisk, Scott Smith, Darron Smith, Smith-Andrews, Stinson, Swartling, Tidwell, K. Turner, Upole, Westbrook, M. Wilson, Winkle, Yelamarthi, Zagumny.

**Members Absent:** S. Adams, S. Alley, Brachey, Burch, Cherry, Y. Ding, Duncan, Fennewald, Frye, Gotcher, S. Griffin, E. Honeycutt, T. Howard, J. Isbell, Kruszka, M. Loftis, L. Maxwell, J. Ojo, Rand, Rankin, Slater, Troy Smith, Spears, L. Taylor, Weathers, Witcher.

**Others Present:** Braswell, L. Bruce, Huo, Oldham, Pinkert, Polk-Johnson, Diane Smith, Rebecca Smith, Vedder, C. Wilkerson, Wray, D. Wright.

#### Summary of Proceedings:

Approved agenda

Approved minutes from November 16, 2022

Received annual report of Information Technology Committee

Received annual report of International Affairs Committee

Received annual report of University Planning Committee

Received report of the Academic Council for Spring 2022

Received report of the Administrative Council for Spring 2022

Received remarks from President Oldham

Other such matters

**Proceedings:**

President Oldham called the meeting to order at 3:39 p.m. Mark Wilson motioned to approve the agenda and Braxton Westbrook seconded. Motion APPROVED.

A motion to approve the minutes of November 16, 2022, was made Holly Mills and seconded by Wilson. Motion APPROVED.

Brian Seiler, Associate Vice President of Information Technology Services, presented the annual report for the Information Technology Committee. Seiler updated the Assembly about Jason Luna being named the new Chief Information Security Officer of Information Technology Services. Seiler also indicated that three sub-committees of the Information Technology Committee were created and approved and their members were provided: 1) TAF Spending Plan, 2) Strategic Planning, and, 3) Innovation Computing. Seiler provided an update on multi-factor authentication. Sandi Smith-Andrews motioned to accept the Information Technology Committee Report. Fornehed Mary Lou seconded. Motion APPROVED.

Amy Miller presented the annual report of the International Affairs Committee. Miller stated the committee met two times and approved Policy No. 247: International Health Insurance, and reviewed Policy No. 246: Recruitment of International Students. Miller indicated that Dennis Duncan was elected to serve as chair for the 2023-2024 year. Wilson motioned to accept the International Affairs Committee Report. Smith-Andrews seconded. Motion APPROVED.

Dewayne Wright presented the University Planning Committee Annual Report. Wright stated that each of the four strategic goals had a faculty member who led efforts that fall under that goal: Lenly Weathers, Education for Life; Holly Anthony, Innovation in All We Do; Tom Timmerman, Exceptional Stewardship; and, Jeremy Blair, Engagement for Impact.

Wright stated that each faculty leader preferred to identify ad hoc committees or task forces based on the expertise needed for the initiative or priority action at hand (instead of general committees formed for each goal). To facilitate this change, a new process was developed to streamline this by having the faculty leader work direct with the appropriate cabinet-level administrator to form committees, which would then develop proposals. A presentation about this change was presented to the President's Cabinet in early October.

Wright reported that the faculty leaders met weekly and also met monthly with President Oldham and have met once each semester with Provost Bruce. They also met with nearly all of the colleges and schools early in the fall semester primarily at faculty meetings prior to the start of classes. In January, they met with the Faculty Senate. No meetings of the full Implementation Steering Committee were held this year, but documentation of the topics the faculty leaders were interested in pursuing were distributed to Steering Committee members as a way to inform them of the work being done and to solicit feedback. Wright stated that there were more details within the report that was distributed

with University Assembly meeting materials. Lisa Zagumny motioned to accept the University Planning Committee Report. Bethany Jones seconded. Motion APPROVED.

President Oldham publicly thanked the chairs and also encouraged members to read the provided detailed committee report and stated it was impressive and showed a lot of accomplishments.

Kim Winkle presented the report of the Academic Council for Spring 2023. Academic Council met three times: February 1, March 8, and April 12. Winkle summarized the report and noted the Council had approved the following: on February 1, the Academic Council received information on Policy 780: Misconduct in Research; on March 8, the Council approved one new minor, addition of post-graduate certificate, certificate name change, elevation and name change and received first reading on Policy 206: Faculty Promotion; and, on April 12, the Council approved: annual reports, Policy 206: Faculty Promotion, five catalog changes, five admissions requirement changes, one pre-requisite change, one concentration name change, one program name change, one department name change, one new certificate, two new minors, three new concentrations, received two information only reports and voted on next year's chairperson for the Council. Zagumny motioned to accept the Academic Council Report. Christy Killman seconded. Motion APPROVED.

Sandi Smith-Andrews presented the report of the Administrative Council for Spring 2023. The Administrative Council met three times: January 25, March 1, and April 5. Smith-Andrews summarized the report and noted the Council received four out-of-cycle approved policies, one policy first reading, approved two revised policies and approved annual reports from twenty university committees. Kristine Craven was elected as vice-chair for 2023-2024. President Oldham recognized the extensive amount of work that the committees had completed and thanked those that chaired the committees and the staff and faculty that contributed. Mills motioned to accept the Administrative Council Report. Fornehed seconded. Motion APPROVED.

President Oldham thanked faculty and staff who participated in Preview Day, the Spring Showcase and the VIP visits stating that they made this enrollment increase happen proven by the record 8,000 applications and all indications were that we would top 2,000 FTE. Oldham noted that we are growing stronger in the suburban counties of Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville and the personalized marketing and campus tours were part of the success. He appreciated the energized campus environment for the prospective student events.

Oldham stated that the entering Fall 2022 academic profile was: an average high school GPA of 3.68, the percentage of the class with a 4.0 was 33% and the average ACT score was 24. Students of color increased from 10.4% in Fall 2018 to 12.4% in Fall 2022. Tech's six-year graduation rate had increased in four years from 54.5% to 60.2%. The four-year graduation rate in six years increased from 31.3% to 41%.

Oldham said that fundraising continued to go well with over \$9 million raised this fiscal year. In total over the past few years, \$9.6 million had been raised for the Ashraf Islam building.

Oldham pointed out that there were more student engagement activities than ever including philanthropic activities. In addition, there was a record-breaking SOLO concert that all enjoyed. Oldham noted that some of the student spaces on the second floor of the Roaden University Center had been renovated and were great spaces for our students. The Student Government Association was re-energized and doing a lot of good work. Oldham also pointed out that with the increased freshman enrollment there had been great interest in on-campus living.

President Oldham announced that Tech athletic teams were leading the OVC Commissioner's Cup for the best overall athletic program which, if we were to win, would be the first time. Oldham congratulated the women's basketball team who won a game in NCAA's "March Madness" adding that the baseball team had also beaten the nationally ranked University of Tennessee Volunteers last night, 12-5 – the second year to do so.

President Oldham commented on current capital projects that were moving forward, the Ashraf Islam Engineering Building, the Peachtree Road Project and Pedestrian Mall were in progress, the West Tucker Stadium Project was in design phase, and the design phase of the Football Operation Center would soon begin. The internal road grid project had a planned completion date for the end of the calendar year. Funding for a new Academic Building had been requested. Johnson Hall's renovation would begin this year with the College of Business moving to Foundation Hall over the summer.

Oldham shared that research currently had over \$20 million in activations and thanked all faculty for their outstanding work. Oldham highlighted a few of these projects: Rory Roberts' NASA project, Pingen Chen's Electric Battery project, and the Poultry Science Research Center. Rural Reimagined led by Michael Aikens had projects in 60 of Tennessee's 76 rural counties including all of the Upper Cumberland counties. Projects in six of Tennessee's 10 distressed counties and nine were expected by the end of this year. These Rural Reimagined projects involved 150 faculty, 2,000 students, 750 separate projects, 2,500 community members in these counties and 100,000 volunteer hours. Oldham thanked everyone for this great work.

President Oldham again thanked everyone for all that they do and for what a difference they make in the lives of our students and others.

Other Such Matters: Smith-Andrews asked for an update on the University Assembly procedures review. Lee Wray indicated he had been researching and reviewing on what its purpose and responsibilities had been at the origination of the Assembly but had been unable to find the original purpose.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Diane Smith, recorder

Documents on file with minutes:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes of November 16, 2022
3. Annual report for Information Technology Committee
4. Annual report of International Affairs Committee
5. Annual report of University Planning Committee
6. Report of the Academic Council for Spring 2023
7. Report of the Administrative Council for Spring 2023