**TEXAS WOMAN’S UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**August 8, 2019**

**Board of Regents Conference Room**

**ACT, 16th Floor**

**304 Administration Dr.**

**Denton, Texas 76201**

**Roll Call:**

Present Committee Members:

Regents Shepard (Chair), Coleman, Doggett, Gallardo, Jester (Ex-Officio), and D’Abrosca (Non-Voting)

Present Administrators:

Dr. Carine M. Feyten, Chancellor and President; Ms. Katherine Antwi Green, General Counsel, Secretary to the Board, and Associate Vice President of Compliance; Mr. Jason Tomlinson, Vice President of Finance and Administration, Dr. Monica Mendez-Grant, Vice President for Student Life; Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Randall Langston, Vice President for Enrollment Services; Dr. Kimberly Russell, Vice President of University Advancement

1. **Call to Order:**

With a quorum being present, Regent **Shepard**, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee called the meeting of the Committee to order at **1:04 p.m.**

Regent **Shepard** reminded everyone that the meeting is being streamed live and asked that everyone speak loudly and clearly as they make comments during the meeting.

Regent Shepard took a moment to introduce Regent McDavid and Student Regent Lexi D’Abrosca to the Board.

1. **Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of May 16, 2019**

**Motion to Approve Minutes**: Regent **Gallardo**, motioned and Regent **Doggett**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0.**

The minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting of **May 16, 2019** were approved as submitted.

1. **Agenda**

**Motion to Take up Agenda Items**: Regent **Coleman**, motioned and Regent **Doggett**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0.**

**Item A.** An Introduction of the Academic Affairs Leadership Team

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus introduced the Academic Affairs Leadership Team.

**Item B.** Faculty Senate Report

Dr. Rose discussed the recent changes in leadership within the Faculty Senate as a result of the election process as well as the Senate’s appreciation for the construction improvements being made on campus.

Additionally, Dr. Rose informed the Regents about the Faculty Senate’s contributions to the upcoming Festival of Lights program, scheduled for December.

Finally, Dr. Rose informed the Regents about the Faculty Senate’s future projects, including updating the Faculty Handbook, and expressed appreciation to the Board Members for their service to the University.

Dr. Feyten made a few comments about how lucky the University is to have a Faculty Senate that works so collaboratively with the TWU Administration to achieve the University’s objectives.

**Item C.** Faculty Highlight Report from the Department of Music

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus introduced Dr. Joni Jensen, Professor of Voice and Director of TWU’s Choral Activities as well as TWU Choral students, Micah Gillman and Dianna Benoit.

Dr. Jensen opened her presentation by playing “*Unsung Saint*”, a piece of music she wrote for the inauguration of Dr. Feyten five years previously. Additionally Dr. Jensen presented Dr. Feyten with a written copy of the music, which recently received publication.

Additionally, Dr. Jensen provided information about the history of the Choir’s activities leading up competition participation as well as a slideshow of pictures of those journeys.

Ms. Micah Gillman told the Board about her beginnings as a student at TWU and about how delighted she was to attend the American Choral Director’s Association conference in March and how important the conference was for strengthening the professional skills of the Choir.

Ms. Dianna Benoit told the Board why the competition was such an important experience for her and how proud she was to sing with a group of such strong vocalists.

Dr. Jensen also showed the Board a brief video of the TWU Concert Choir’s performance at the 2019 American Choral Director’s Association from March 1, 2019 and invited everyone to attend any and all of the Choir’s future performances.

Finally, Dr. Jensen informed the Board that the Choir was recently invited to perform at the Texas Music Educators Convention in February of 2020, which is largest music educators convention in the nation. TWU will be one of only two colleges performing at this conference.

**Item D.** Faculty Highlight Report from the Department of Visual Arts

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus introduced Mr. Colby Parsons, M.F.A., Associate Professor of Ceramics in the Department of Visual Arts.

Mr. Parsons told the Board about his current work and research interests exploring the transformative potential at the intersection of physical material and digital media. He also provided the Board with information about how his background in ceramics gives him an aesthetic based in raw materiality and noted that he is also fascinated with the potential of new media to add motion and various kinds of interactivity to what is usually a static form of expression.

Additionally, Mr. Parsons noted that he is a recipient of a Graduate Research Associate Award which will provide funding for him to mentor a graduate student in his area of research.

Finally, Dr. Parson’s provided some pictures and information about a piece that he was recently commissioned to complete of TWU’s new mascot.

**Item E.** Honors Program Report

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus introduced Dr. Alfred G. Litton, Executive Director of the Honors Program.

Dr. Litton noted that TWU has two honors programs, the Honors Scholar Program, which enables first time in college students to be a part of a challenging yet supportive community by matching them with a faculty member in their field of interest to mentor them through their capstone research projects, as well as the Touchstone Honors Program, which allows transfer students and TWU students with no prior honors experience to have opportunities to develop their leadership and further their professional development.

Additionally, Dr. Litton provided the Board with a little history about the beginnings of the Honors Program. He noted that a few years ago, the decision was made to introduce the Touchstone Honors Program to serve transfer students because no other University was serving students who achieved a two-year degree from another University. One of the major goals of the Touchstone Program was to shorten the timeline for transfer students to feel comfortable at TWU from 6 months to 6 weeks.

He noted that TWU’s Honors Program is very competitive with respect to other Texas Universities and that diversity is an important component of the Program.

He noted that within the Honors Program, 87 cents of every dollar goes to scholarship, programing and research support and that 67% of the Honors Program students are able to participate in a study abroad program. Additionally, 68% enter a graduate or professional program within 5 years, 70% complete TWU Honors Scholar Program within 4 years, and 55.5% graduate with zero student loan debt.

Finally, he noted that Honors Programs are going to have to move from a quantitative to a qualitative program to keep pace with the increasing number of dual credit students who come to college with some college basics courses already completed.

**Item F.** Open Educational Resources Report

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus, introduced Dr. Kris Helge, Assistant Dean of Academic Engagement Services.

Dr. Helge informed the Board that Open Educational Resources (OERs) are teaching, learning and research materials that incur no cost to access, use, adapt or redistribute. He explained that the use of OERs reduced the expense to students and shared the steps that TWU has taken to promote the use of OER and the impact of those activities, providing as an example three members of the Biology department who are planning on transitioning to using OERs in their courses, an action that is estimated to save students $346,698 collectively.

Dr. Helge also explained that, of all of the expenses associated with a college education, college textbooks have incurred the largest increase in cost. The use of OERs enhances the affordability of higher education and can foster a student-centered learning environment. The use of OERs also allows students to access their materials on the first day of class, rather than having to wait until they have funds to purchase their textbooks.

Finally Dr. Helge invited Dr. Shazia Ahmed, Associate Clinical Professor and Laboratory Instructor, in the Biology Department, to talk to the Board about Biology’s decision to begin using OERs as department-wide as possible. She shared the Biology’s department’s excitement to transition to OERs and also outlined some roadblocks to implementing the OER transition as well as a plan to put in extra time and energy to overcome those roadblocks.

**Item G.** SACS Fifth-Year Interim Report

Dr. Carolyn Kapinus introduced Dr. Barbara Lerner, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Partnerships.

Dr. Lerner provided the Board with an overview of TWU’s Fifth-Year Interim Report and feedback received from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The Fifth-Year Interim Report was designed to allow SACS to ensure compliance during the ten-year comprehensive review. TWU submitted its Fifth-Year Interim Report in March and received feedback about the report from SACs in July.

1. **Recess Academic Affairs Committee Meeting into Executive Closed Session**

Regent **Shepard** announced that the Committee would recess into Executive Closed Session for the purposes of discuss personnel matters relating to appointment, employment, evaluation, assignment, discipline, or dismissal of officers or employees pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code at **2:33** **p.m.**

Regent Shepard noted that Dr. Carolyn Kapinus would remain in the room to provide necessary information and consultation to the Board regarding the items to be discussed.

Regent Shepard directed all other members of the public and staff to leave the meeting room for the Executive Closed Session discussion.

1. **Reconvene to Open Session and Take Any Possible Action Regarding Matters Discussed in Executive Closed Session**

At the conclusion of the Executive Closed Session, Regent **Shepard** reconvened the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee into open session, a quorum being present, at **2:56** **p.m.**

Regent **Shepard** suggested moving action on the first closed session agenda item, approval of Emeritus Status for Dr. James Johnson, former Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, to the consent agenda at the Full Board Meeting.

**Motion to Move Agenda Item A.1.: Approval of Emeritus Status of Dr. James Johnson to Consent Agenda During the Full Board Meeting**: Regent **Gallardo**, motioned and Regent **Doggett**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0.**

Regent **Shepard** suggested moving action on the second closed session agenda item, approval of tenure for the new Dean of the College of Nursing, Dr. Rosalie Mainous, to the consent agenda at the Full Board Meeting.

**Motion to Move Agenda Item A.1.: Approval of Tenure for the New Dean of the College of Nursing, Dr. Rosalie Mainous, to Consent Agenda during the Full Board Meeting**: Regent **Gallardo**, motioned and Regent **Doggett**, seconded. The motion passed with a vote of **4-0-0.**

1. **Presentations and Recognitions**

Dr. Kapinus provided a presentation, which highlighted Dr. Rosalie Mainous, the new Dean of the College of Nursing.

1. **Adjourn**

With no further business coming before the Academic Affairs Committee, Regent **Shepard** adjourned the Academic Affairs Committee meeting at **2:59 p.m.**