

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of March 15, 2022
FACULTY SENATE

<http://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate>

Approved @ FS on 3/29/2022

Summary of Discussion

Note: The taped recording of this meeting is available in the Faculty Senate office or in the University Archives.

President Bigioni: Okay, I will call this meeting of the March 15, 2022, Faculty Senate to order. I ask Secretary Nigem to call the roll, please.

Present: Anderson, Baki, Bamber, Barnes (sub-McBride), Bigioni, Bornak, Brakel, Case, Chaffee, Chou, Compora, Coulter-Harris, Day, De la Serna, Duggan, Duhon, Edgington, Elgafy, El-Zawahry, Garcia-Mata (Fayoumi- sub), Gilstrap, Green, Gregory (sub-Nelson), Guardiola, Hall, Harmych, Hefzy, Huntley, Insch, Jayatissa, Kistner, Koch, Krantz, Kujawa, Lammon, Lawrence, Lecka-Czernik, Lipscomb, Metz, Milz, Modyanov, J. Murphy, Niamat, Nigem, Pattin, Reeves, Rouillard, Shan, Smith, Stepkowski, Steven, Teclehaimanot, Topp, Van Hoy, Vesely, Wedding, Welsch

Excused Absence: Lee, Pakulski

Unexcused Absence: Ali, Chaudhuri, Hanrahan, Perry, Ratnam, Reynolds

Senator Nigem: Thank you, President Bigioni. We have a quorum.

President Bigioni: Thank you Secretary Nigem. Our next item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda. You see the proposed agenda before you. Unless there are any objections, we will adopt it. Are there any objections? Okay, hearing none, we will adopt this agenda. ***Agenda Adopted.***

The next item on the agenda is the approval of the Minutes. We have two sets so we are caught-up because of that technical issue that we had a couple of meetings ago. The February 15th and March 1st Minutes were sent out. You have those to vote on. First, let's deal with the February 15th Minutes. Are there any corrections or modifications to be made to those Minutes? Unless there are any objections, we will approve those Minutes. Hearing no objections. Those Minutes are approved. ***Minutes Approved.***

The next are the March 1st Minutes. Are there any corrections or additions to be made to those minutes? Hearing none. I see something popped-up in the Chat. Let me have a quick look. Okay, nothing to do with the Minutes. Unless there are any objections, we will approve those March 1st Minutes. Hearing no objections. Those Minutes are approved by general consent. ***Minutes Approved.*** Thank you.

We will move on to our next item on the agenda, which is the Executive Committee report. I will start that report by talking about the meeting we had with President Postel. In that meeting, we talked about our budget concerns from the start, the lack of access to data from the historical models, the outcome of using historical data in the models that is, and seeing how they compare, IBB vs. incremental. We had also talked about the fact that it's been very difficult to get to Matt and his team to come talk to us about those models. You might recall, in a previous meeting I had said that we had asked Matt to just supply us with the data and they declined to do that without commentary. They said that they were happy to present data with commentary, but not just simply hand over the data. So we had agreed that Matt would come to our Faculty Senate meeting with his team in order to do exactly that. The previous meeting, they were initially planning to come to, but ended up not coming to, and so we briefly talked about them coming to this meeting, but that was quickly stricken as a possibility. And so, currently, they're scheduled to come to our next meeting on the 29th of March. President Postel expressed support for that and that he would follow-up with Matt's Office to make sure that that happens. We have every indication that he did, and

that Matt and his team will come to our next meeting. So I hope that works out and we don't have any more unforeseen surprises and cancellations.

On that topic of budget, though, I wanted to have a quick side comment. Many of you have probably heard that deans have been asked to make some budget cuts in their budgets for next annual year. Many of those are seven figure budget cuts. All the numbers that I've heard so far have been seven figure budget cuts. That is related to an \$18M projection for a budget shortfall that Matt had told us about in a previous Executive Committee meeting. He broke that down for us as \$12M due to loss of tuition and fee revenue, and then \$6M for other things, which he characterized as contractual obligations and cost of goods. That has that \$18M structural deficit built into the budget for next year, and that seems to be what's driving this 'ask of the deans' to make these seven figure cuts to their budget. And of course, this is very concerning because there is not much to cut other than people. We'll have to see how that plays out.

I've had various conversations with people and someone brought up the point that we just got \$50M from selling off the rights to our parking, and if this is just a short term issue as enrollment turns around, that might be a way to fill such a budget hole. There's perhaps some merit in that thought. There's also some merit in recognizing that this is a contract negotiation year. And, you know, perhaps I'll leave it to you to fill in the details there that how an \$18M projected deficit might play into that. We'll have to see how that plays out, but nonetheless, our deans are confronted with this budget challenge at the moment.

Going back to our meeting with the President. We did talk about some of the things that have happened with regard to budget improvements in the President's tenure here. One of the questions that came up was how is the hospital doing? The point was made that the one-time COVID stimulus money that we got in Cares Act money filled in a hole in the budget to the tune of about \$20-\$28M last year, I believe. But of course, that money has gone away. In the meantime, they have implemented a supplemented payment program that enables the UTMC to be reimbursed at a higher rate to the tune of about \$25M a year. So those two sort-of balance out as the Cares money rolls off, those supplemental payments kick in. In principle, their budget should be approximately balanced now. So I thought that was a pretty straightforward explanation of the current state of the hospital budget. No doubt there are many other details, but that's a high-level picture of how the hospital finances have essentially stabilized.

There were other discussions. President Postel reminded us that with the decline in enrollment, UT has seen about \$100M less in revenue each year compared to 12 years ago. And, of course, we're legally obligated to balance that budget. Our budget has matched that, and of course, we've experienced many cuts over the years that represent that shortfall or difference in revenue. But nonetheless, that kind of puts it in perspective where we are with our decline in enrollment, \$100M less in revenue. Of course, the bulk of that is tuition and SSI since that's the bulk of our income.

One final point with regard to those sorts of budget discussions. President-Elect Gary Insch has been kind enough to take point for me on budget discussions with Matt, simply because he's better versed on the topic. It is often difficult for me to formulate the questions in a way that President-Elect Insch can, much more intuitively. So I appreciate that, and I appreciate his help there.

One final point with regard to meeting with President Postel. We just talked about hires and he highlighted the fact that we recently filled the DEI position. That's a fairly good summary of our meeting with the President.

Beyond that, I have just a few other things to talk about, smaller things to talk about. Just an update on where we are with the Constitution. Our informational sessions started today. In fact, Senator Rob Steven held the first information session this morning. We have all that information on the Faculty Senate

website. I sent out a reminder email, so it's not too far from the top of your inbox with all that information in it. And of course, you can navigate to it in the Menu on the Faculty Senate website. It's a ratification vote webpage, a Constitution modification webpage. So that is there. And I also have been talking to Senator Guardiola who chairs the Elections Committee, who will handle the ratification vote for the Constitution. I think we have a good idea of how to approach it with technology. Then the question becomes the roster, who's eligible to vote. That's relatively straightforward, conceptually, as it's the same people that are able to vote for senators. Then it just becomes a question of assembling those lists of names and email addresses for each college. That is done by the committee each year so that should be a relatively straightforward thing to do. It is still work, but we know how to do it. So that seems to be on track for getting the Constitution done this year.

The Executive Committee also has initiated the process of doing the dean's evaluations and so, you'll see more information about that in the future. We haven't got too far on it. We are just reusing the previous instrument with a little bit of modifications, which you will see. There's not a whole lot more to talk about on that topic, other than the fact that it's moving forward.

Another topic. As many of you know, our own Senator Melissa Gregory is now Interim Dean Melissa Gregory for the College of Arts and Letters. So she has rolled off Faculty Senate and the College of Arts and Letters will hold a special election to replace her. She was also the chair of the Core Curriculum Committee. Temporarily Scott Molitor is on that committee and he is sort-of shepherding things. If it gets to the point where we need to do some business and have a proper chair, he's volunteered to play that role. But then we would need to approve him as a chair of that committee for the short remainder of this semester; according to our Constitution, that demands a vote by the Senate since Dr. Molitor is not currently a sitting senator. So that's an update there.

Then, the final thing that I want to talk about is COVID. There are a couple of points to talk about. One is, there was a COVID operations meeting this morning. The question came up, where are we with regard to masks in the classroom? And I've certainly got this question from a lot of people as I talk to people in the halls as well. There's no real update there, although by the end of the meeting there seemed to be a motivation to tackle that question. Lucas County is currently green with the new CDC guidelines and so it seems that the door is open to update that policy.

On a related point, there was also some discussion in the Executive Committee about the meeting format and I've carved out a spot in the agenda later on, toward the end of the agenda, to discuss this point. So maybe you can begin to think about it now. We could continue online for the rest of the semester, or we could take the opportunity to fill a room and see each other, and meet each other, and know each other in the flesh rather than in the pixel. We can have that discussion. Certainly opinions are varied, but I'd like to hear the opinions of you senators on that topic. So we'll get there toward the end of this meeting.

And that's the final topic that I had to talk to you about, so that concludes my Executive Committee report. Are there any Executive Committee members who would like to add anything to that? Senator Rouillard?

Senator Rouillard: Going back to the conversation that we had with Dr. Postel. It was very confusing to hear him say that we have lost \$100M of revenue in any one year. The first time that I heard that figure was maybe a year-and-a-half ago, and it was presented as a loss of \$100M in revenue over a period of 10 years. And the implication is always that the drop in enrollment is driving this \$100M revenue loss. If you look at Audited Financials, and the financials for the fiscal year 2021 are now posted, the drop in tuition and fees revenue amounted to about \$3M. The drop in SSI, actually, it was an increase. We got about an extra \$2M. So, I don't think that we can say that the enrollment drop is the only reason for revenue loss.

There are lots of other reasons, including investment income decreases, including hospital revenue decreases, although those are up of recently. I think we need to be careful to blame enrollment drops for all revenue drops. The enrollment drop is concerning. There's no doubt about that. But, there are lots of other things that are driving this as well.

President Bigioni: Thank you for that. So with regard to the \$100M, it was also my impression that was an aggregate number, and that question was asked of the President. And correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm pretty certain that his response was that, currently the revenue generated by UT is \$100M less than 12 years ago. And then, as to why, you bring up a good point with regard to how much is really enrollment? I don't know the answer to that question.

Senator Rouillard: We pressed him on that, and he really seemed to indicate that there were years where it amounted to up to \$100M. When I tried to suggest that, you know, if you look at that over a 10-year period, that's about \$10M a year. He kept saying that was for one-year. So I left that conversation feeling more than a little confused.

President Bigioni: I should note that he has indicated, although I don't have a 'firm' commitment, he's indicated that he will also join us next meeting, so there may be an opportunity to ask that question directly. Okay, are there any other additions from EC members or comments? Does anyone have any questions for me or anyone else on the EC? Okay then ---

Senator Niamat: There's a question in the Chat Box.

President Bigioni: Oh, thank you. Let me see if I can find it. I see it. The question is from Senator Niamat. The question is, "how is the budget cut determined for each college? Is it mainly based on the student enrollment and SSI?" I do not know the answer to that question. Perhaps the Provost does, and perhaps after her report, you may want to ask that question again. But, I do not know the answer to that question.

Are there any other questions? Okay, then, well, that would conclude that item of business. The next item of business is the Provost report.

Provost Bjorkman: Thank you, President Bigioni. Good afternoon everyone. I hope everyone had a good spring break and you are enjoying the warmer weather. I know I am. It's officially spring next week. The vernal equinox is on March 20th. Set your calendars. We are now on the final stretch of this semester. I'm going to try to keep my remarks brief today because I see you've got a pretty packed agenda, but I will address the question that was in the Chat at the end.

The University Commencement teams are working hard to prepare for spring Commencement. We're getting ready to celebrate that major event, as we look forward to celebrating with our graduates and their families. More information will be coming soon on the details of Commencement, but for now, there is one important reminder I want to give you. The deadline to order academic regalia, if you're planning to participate in Commencement, and I encourage you to do so, is just a little over two weeks away on Friday, April 1st. Orders have to be made in person at the bookstore as the payment is due when your orders are placed for your rental regalia.

I also want to say, with the ongoing invasion of Ukraine weighing heavily on our minds, I just want to mention that the federal government, you may have already heard this, has recently outlined several immigration measures to assist citizens of Ukraine who are currently in the U.S. The details of those measures are outlined in the communication we sent out, the Provost's Office newsletter we sent out today. Any international students from Ukraine, or others from Ukraine who have questions on these

measures can contact the Office of International Student and Scholar Services, OISS, in the Center for International Studies and Programs.

I want to remind you also that the final date to submit midterm grade reports for spring semester is on Sunday, this coming Sunday, March 20th. As you know, those midterm grade reports are really an important component of our student success initiatives. They do play a critical role in improving the retention and graduation rates of our students. And I do greatly appreciate the high level of participation among our faculty.

In the same vein, I want to give some feedback on the excellent outcomes of the Starfish early alert reporting for this spring semester. These alerts have a significant impact on the success of our students. Early alerts this semester impacted over 10,600 individual students and over 1,400 course sections. Once again, I am very appreciative of the faculty efforts to provide that important feedback to our students at a time when there's still a chance for the students to do something about it.

Another important retention initiative we've implemented over the past few years is our early registration initiative for our current students. That early registration actually opens tomorrow for graduate students and priority registration for certain groups of undergraduate students, and ends on April 13th with freshmen registration, and from then on, it's open for anyone. This year students will actually have the option to register at once for the entire 2022-23 academic year for both fall of 2022 and the spring of 2023 semesters. That is part of our efforts to help with retention of currently enrolled students. So, please encourage your students to register when their window opens over the next four weeks. That, of course also gives them the best opportunity to get the classes and the schedules that they want. But especially before they leave campus for the summer break. Student should also be reminded that even if they register early, they will not have to pay their tuition for fall semester courses until the August due date.

So, I was going to conclude there, but I'll just give you a brief synopsis of the answer to the question in the Chat. The budget cuts: We actually used data very extensively in trying to define what the budget cuts were. We knew what we had to establish in terms of the hole that we have in our budget -- and I wish more than anything that I had a printing press in my office, but I don't, and I think I'd get arrested if I did that. So, I'm not doing that, but we do have to address this budget hole.

And by the way, I do want to emphasize, the \$100M decline is over a 12-year period. If you think about it, the rule of thumb that we usually use for just estimating things: for every 120 student FTEs that we lose, we lose about a \$1M [and some] dollars. So we have declined from a high of almost close to 25,000 student FTEs, down to where we are currently at, about 13,000. That's a pretty significant decline, so just bear that in mind.

Then the recipe that we used, essentially, we pulled the student credit hours that are generated. We looked at those for all the colleges, taking into account both where the student lived and where the courses they took lived. We took that into account. We have an induced credit hour matrix that shows where the students credit hours are generated, and we took that into account. All of this was done in a very intentional and very data driven way to parse out what we needed to request. There was a small component of an across the board cut, but it was a very small component of that. We did that for the simple reason that we felt like, look, there is a budget hole, which we have got to fix. And, it's not any one person's fault, or any one college's fault, it's across the University, everybody has a share in that. We felt like it was important to say that all colleges had to make at least some contribution. That does, by the way, include the support units, the academic support units, including the Provost's Office, including the Honors College, Libraries, University College and COGS. So, everyone received numbers. The numbers we came up with were very, very data driven. We have tried to explain those to the deans. I will tell you,

the deans are meeting with Dr. Postel and myself tomorrow to have further discussion about this. So we will see what comes out of that. Hopefully that answers the question that was in the Chat.

President Bigioni: Thank you. I like your explanation of \$100M better. So, for what it is worth, right? I guess if it was linear, that would mean that we're about \$20M down compared to 12 years ago, which is far better than \$100M, of course. Are there any questions for the Provost?

Senator Steven: I have a question. I'm just wondering if the deans are expected to use data as well with respect to dealing with the deficit on a department basis? Or, is there any thought on how that budget is going to be dealt with? Or is it up to the specific colleges?

Provost Bjorkman: We haven't really prescribed to any dean how they should try to meet this target. We're asking them to do a good faith effort. I will tell you that we're really encouraging people to be using data because after all, in an incentive based budget model, that's what we're supposed to do. And so, I have not talked specifically with deans about, you know, they're still in the process of trying to work through these things. This is also something we'll be talking about with them tomorrow. But, I haven't heard of anybody saying that they're looking specifically at parceling those things out by departments. I have no insight into that right now, yet. But thanks for the question.

President Bigioni: Are there any other questions?

Senator Rouillard: President Bigioni, I have one. How will state share of instruction monies be allocated to the department, to the colleges? Is it going to be on the basis of FTEs, on the basis of headcount, or credit hour production?

Provost Bjorkman: It will be basically on a credit hour production. That is my understanding.

Senator Rouillard: Thank you.

President Bigioni: Are there any other questions? Okay, in that case we can move on to our next topic. Thanks for your report. Our next item on the agenda is a committee report by Senator Anthony Edgington from the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Senator Edgington: Thank you very much, President Bigioni. Let me go ahead and share with you. So, today the committee is bringing to you five new course proposals and seven course modifications. The first new course proposal is **PHPR 3620, Cosmetic and Fragrance Product**. "An in-depth course aimed at giving students a full overview and understanding of the product development process to create cosmetic and fragrance products. Students will learn the necessary strategies and tools, as well as implement them to create a new product in a workshop format. The class will focus on topics such as ideation, competitive and market analysis, development, and the interdepartmental teamwork required to successfully launch a product. A group project will be required and will be presented to the entire class."

The next four courses are all part of a new program in radiation therapy. The first is **RDON 1010, Introduction to Radiation Theory**. "The course provides an overview of the basics of radiation therapy and the practitioner's role in health care delivery. Principles, practices and policies of health care organizations will be discussed, as well as safety concerns and the professional responsibilities of the radiation therapist. Operational human resource concepts, billing and reimbursement issues are introduced. Additionally, the course also describes the inter-relatedness of standards of care, laws, ethical standards and professional competence."

The next course in that new program will be **RDON 3130, Principles and Practice of Radiation Theory I**. “This course provides an overview of cancer and the specialty of radiation therapy. Historic and current aspects of cancer treatment are covered, along with the roles and responsibilities of the radiation therapist. In addition, treatment prescription, techniques and delivery are discussed. Examines the management of neoplastic disease to include respiratory, central nervous, endocrine, lymphoreticular, hematopoietic, musculoskeletal, benign conditions and HIV related neoplasms. The epidemiology, etiology, detection, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of neoplastic disease are evaluated in relation to histology, anatomical site and patterns of spread. Examine the role of Radiation Therapy in palliative care. The radiation therapist’s responsibility in the management of neoplastic disease will be examined and linked to specific professional skills within their scope.”

Next is **RDON 3230, Principles and Practice of Radiation Theory II**. “This course is a continuation of RDON 3130 Principles & Practice I. It provides an overview of cancer and the specialty of radiation therapy. Historic and current aspects of cancer treatment are covered, along with the roles and responsibilities of the radiation therapist. In addition, treatment prescription, techniques and delivery are discussed. Examines the management of neoplastic disease to include Genitourinary, Reproductive, Gastrointestinal, Head & Neck, Breast, and Pediatric neoplasms. The epidemiology, etiology, detection, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of neoplastic disease are evaluated in relation to histology, anatomical site and patterns of spread. The radiation therapist’s responsibility in the management of neoplastic disease will be examined and linked to specific professional skills within their scope. (Course description based on the ASRT Radiation Therapy Professional Curriculum 2019 Principles & Practice of Radiation therapy I & II)”

The final new course is **RDON 4210, Senior Seminar in Radiation Therapy**. “This is the didactic capstone course for the program. This purpose of this course is to provide students the opportunity to express their knowledge of the principles of radiation therapy. The student will review radiation therapy cases and present the information in research papers and presentations. The second focus of the course is to prepare the student to demonstrate their cumulative knowledge of the program material.”

Senator Edgington cont’d: And one note real quick. I realize there was a mistake here. RDON 3130 is actually Principles and Practice of Radiation Theory I, not II. But those are our five new course proposals for this time. Are there any questions or comments on the five new course proposals? So, hearing none, I believe we can go directly to a vote. So in the Chat, please put ‘yes,’ if you vote to approve these five new proposals, ‘no,’ and ‘a,’ if you abstain.

President Bigioni: It looks like the votes are slowing down. It is a unanimous yes; plenty of yes votes to make that a good vote. *Motion Passed.*

Senator Edgington: Wonderful. We will move on then to our course modifications. We have seven course modifications. The first is **PHPR 3120, Pharmaceuticals Lab II**. “Change to course description. NOTE: The catalogue description referenced PHPR 3025, a course which is not an active course. The catalogue description has been updated with the correct information.”

Next is **BIOE 4410, Bioengineering Design Project I**. “Modified prerequisites (see next column). NOTE: One of the prereqs (BIOE 2300) was recently renumbered from BIOE 4300. We want to include BIOE 4300 in the prereq list to prevent the need for issuing permits for students that took BIOE 4300 instead of BIOE 2300.”

Next is **MET 2210, Technical Thermodynamics**. “Modified prerequisites (see next column). Proposed changes only affect MET students.”

Next up is **ENGT 4050, Senior Technology Capstone**. “Course not repeatable for credit. Registration restriction added (see next column). SLOs added. Instructional method Face to Face and Online.”

Next is **ENGT 3050, Fundamentals of Electricity**. “Change to course description. Change to prerequisites (replacing MATH 1340 with MATH 1730). NOTE: We do not have sufficient students for a section of EET 1010 to run in Spring but rather only in Fall. With this change, a student wishing to transfer to EET can do so in Spring and take ENGT 3050 instead of EET 1010, then proceed that Fall to EET 2010 and be in step with their sophomore year.”

Next is **BIOE 4120, BioSignal Processing**. “Course is not repeatable for credit. Change to prerequisites (see next column). SLOs added. Course can be taught face to face, online, and blended. NOTE: Little or no content from BIOE 3300 Biomedical Electronics is needed for BIOE 4120. The content from EECS 2300 Electric Circuits (also a prerequisite for BIOE 3300) is sufficient. BIOE 4140 is a lab that goes along with BIOE 3300; the lab that is part of EECS 2300 is also sufficient preparation for BIOE 4120. Changing the prerequisite from BIOE 3300 + 4140 to EECS 2300 allows BIOE 4120 to be taken before or concurrently with BIOE 3300 + 4140, providing more flexibility to students. We are also updating the MATH prerequisites to reflect that Differential Equations is no longer MATH 3820/60, and has been MATH 2860 for a number of years now.

And finally, **BIOE 4640, Medical Imaging**. “Adding spring semester. Course not repeatable for credit. Modified prereqs (see next column). Updated syllabus. NOTE: Updating prerequisites to reflect renumbering of BIOE 4300 -> BIOE 2300 and MATH 3820/60 -> MATH 2860”

Senator Edgington cont’d: So those are our seven course modifications. Are there any questions or comments for any of those seven modifications?

Senator Bornak: Would you mind showing the list of changes for the course for the Physics requirements for that first one?

Senator Edgington: PHPR, this one here?

Senator Bornak: Yes, I believe there was a change about involving Physics 2070 and the Technical Physics 2010.

Senator Edgington: I'll go through the prereqs here. I'm not sure I'm seeing the one you're -- right here, this one?

Senator Bornak: No, there were some requirements canceled out, like, no longer a D in---

Senator Edgington: Okay. Right here? Okay, so are there any questions or comments now based upon the seven course modifications? So hearing none. I believe we can go to a vote. So, again, ‘yes’ in the Chat if you approve, ‘no,’ if you do not approve, ‘a,’ if you're abstaining.

President Bigioni: Votes are slowing down. I see more than enough yes votes to make that unanimous and pass. *Motion Passed.*

Senator Edgington: Thank you all very much.

President Bigioni: Okay, thank you. Thank you for your report. The next item of on our agenda is an Academic Programs Committee report by Senator Patrick Lawrence.

Senator Lawrence: Can everybody hear me okay and see what we got? So we have two groups of proposals. I want to do these separately and vote on them separately, just as a procedure. So, the first

group we have here are actually the three proposals that Faculty Senate tabled at our meeting on February 15th when the question come up regarding scheduling of these core sections in Natural Science and Math, and to create which COBI had been discussing with them these changes to various, that the math requirements in the range of BBA degrees in the College of Business. Matt has a discussion about these courses, the impact of scheduling and resolved any concerns. So, we are bringing these three back on the table for approval. I can quickly just go over them again. In Accounting, we've got added MATH 1320 as a replacement for 1730. Same change for the BBA Entrepreneurship and Innovation. There's also a change there in the program name. They removed one course and replaced it with another requirement. And then the Marketing, BBA, again, the MATH 1320. They've changed adding five required courses from their list within electives and then adding two new courses that have already been approved by Faculty Senate. So before we proceed to the second group, are there any questions or discussion on these three program modifications for these three BBA degrees in the College of Business? Hearing none. These come as recommendations from the committee as a motion to approve, so we can proceed to vote, yay, nay, or abstain. It looks like we're good to go there.

President Bigioni: Yes. *Motion Passed.*

Senator Lawrence: So the second set are a group of program changes involving the MATH degree and the various concentrations. It is the same change. They're inducing total hours from 124 to 120. They are doing that by removing two elective hours and two hours in related fields. Same change for all of these set of BA and BS degrees in MATH of the various concentrations. Any questions on these proposals? Having heard none, these come recommended as a motion from our committee to approve. So, please vote yes, no, or abstain. That concludes my report.

President Bigioni: Okay, and for the record, that looks like that passes unanimously as well. *Motion Passed.*

Senator Lawrence: Thank you.

President Bigioni: Thank you for your report. The next item on the agenda is a Faculty Affairs Committee report by Senator Jason Huntley.

Senator Huntley: All right, thank you, President Bigioni. Hopefully, everyone can see my screen. The Faculty Affairs Committee has been hard at work. We've been deferred a number of times, just because of the busy agenda. So, let me point out that in the Fall semester, the Faculty Affairs Committee reviewed 14 different policies. We've been working with the Provost Office and other offices around campus to review the following policies. You can read faster than I can talk, but you can see there's a wide number of policies that were reviewed by the whole committee by members of the committee. We made comments back to the Provost Office, or the authority who is responsible for those particular polices. So, so far in the Spring semester we've been reviewing these policies and in fact, you may have seen today, email from the Policy Office noting some changes and some policies being posted for 30-day comment. What I'm really here to talk about today is the policy or proposed policy and changes on the very bottom, the textbook auto adoption or affordability policy.

So, for those of you who were present during our last Faculty Senate meeting on March 1st, you may remember that this was discussed. To be in compliance with State law, as well as Federal law, the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, there's a number of changes that need to be made, and I've highlighted here in red. We are required to disclose textbooks no later than the time at which students can first register for a course, and if the textbook book is not chosen by the time when students register, then this policy would auto adopt the textbook that was previously used the last time this was taught. Now,

this, as you can see here should be discussed, or we are supposed to work collaboratively with the administration, and then this ultimately is voted by either to affirm or decline by the Board or Trustees. So our committee did review this. In fact, we reviewed this specific language. I'll give you a couple of seconds. A textbook auto adoption policy, if adopted states that *“if textbooks and course materials are not selected by the first day of class registration, then the faculty members deemed to have selected identical materials from the prior semester offering of the course.”* This applies to the same addition to the textbook not simply the same title. So, this is one thing that we are supposed to consider. So our committee did review this auto adoption policy, although again, it is under consideration. It is not a proved policy right now. Our committee noted that this was somewhat in contradiction. It caused some problems with the multi-semester registration that you heard Provost Bjorkman discuss before. And specifically, this shows you back in September this was rolled out and as Provost Bjorkman mentioned, beginning tomorrow registration opens for students. So, if this new auto adoption policy were approved, for instance, faculty would have to now select textbooks, which would be used on the first day of the Fall semester. Or again, beginning tomorrow, when registration opens up, you would have to have a book that would still be used in the Spring of 2023, which is 10 months away.

Our committee also noted that there are a number of courses, departments, colleges that use textbooks that are released at very updated time. So they contain the most up to date information. And those are sometimes not released until weeks before the semester begin. Our committee also noted that there are often last minute changes to lectures or faculty because of medical leave, family, leave, etc., and sometimes those changes don't happen until a few weeks or months before the course actually begins. So with this auto adoption policy and with the multi-semester registration process, which begins in mid-March, that could complicate faculty being able to choose the textbook that they so desire. So, again, our committee had many discussions about this. I've also been in email contact and phone contact with the Provost Office to try to come up with some compromises. We've made some recommendations. So far, we've suggested that the Provost Office consider reviewing and are revising the multi-semester registration initiative, including thinking about, including or change in the language, such that the first day of class registration that a tentative textbook be listed; and that being made very clear to the students so they don't rush out to buy it. But that we allow some flexibility so that that textbook is confirmed in a reasonable window before the class actually starts, let's say, for example, 45 days. And again, this is under discussion, but that's our recommendation, [and] that's what we've been communicating back and forth with the Provost Office. So with that, that's our report from the Faculty Affairs Subcommittee.

President Bigioni: Thank you. Is there any discussion on this?

Senator Edgington: I just want to add to the list here. The other concern I would have is for those programs that offer a high number of general education courses, that offer multiple sections within one course. I'm thinking of, you know, myself and English Composition and the Math program. Instructors very rarely teach the same section from semester to semester. I mean, it's almost always different. I can't think of any times where we had to teach the same sections over and over again. So, I think this may work well for upper level courses, but I think for general education courses it would be really difficult to work out.

President Bigioni: So, I am not sure if that was directed towards me or Senator Huntley?

Senator Edgington: I'm sorry, just a general comment. My apologies.

President Bigioni: Okay. So perhaps, Senator Huntley, your committee can take that into consideration. Are there other questions or comments about this?

Senator Steven: I was hoping that they would seriously consider the possibility of making it optional like I had mentioned last time where it goes course by course; like, you have these introductory biology courses in our case where we do use the same textbook year after year for the most part and the changes are very infrequent, yeah, go with the auto enrollment. For the English courses where the books change every semester, no, that's not going to be on auto enrollment. So it would be, I think, in my opinion, a great idea to have it by course, whether or not it's going to be auto enrollment. And some courses, no, you just have a reasonable period, like 45 days before the course starts, as was suggested, to find out what your actual textbook is going to be.

Senator Huntley: Yes, Senator Steven, I appreciate those comments. I think the difficulty with this particular policy and adopting this is that again, it is Federal law. And there is a certain amount of requirements to receive Federal funding as well it is now State law. As a State funded institution, I think we need to carefully consider not complying with State law. And again, let's think about the spirit of this, which is to save students money instead of them having to purchase the brand new 2023 edition of a \$300 dollar textbook when, in fact, a used copy from the previous year could be selected by the bookstore at a reasonable savings to the students. I think that's really what's behind this policy.

President Bigioni: Any other questions or comments? Okay. So, Senator Huntley, in these discussions that we've had, said that the Faculty Senate should consider this. Do you feel like this is something we should vote on, or something that you should, your report said 'in progress,' so discussion seem to be continuing. Is that right?

Senator Huntley: Yes, discussions are continuing. We're working with the Provost Office. Last time I talked with them, they're actually consulting with Legal to find out if there's some way we can word things such that again, there's pre-registration with our multi-semester registration and we can allow some type of window to allow some flexibility for faculty if they find out that they have to give a course and they are not forced into using a particular textbook that they don't want to. So, I think the take home message is in progress. I can try to report on it at next Faculty Senate, if that's appropriate.

President Bigioni: Absolutely. Thank you. I guess one last opportunity for comment before we move on? Okay, hearing none, then we will move on to our next item of business. Thanks for your report Senator Huntley. So we actually have two reports from the Student Affairs Committee. The first is from Senator Deborah Coulter-Harris.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Thank you, President Bigioni. Good afternoon, Faculty Senators. This is just a very quick update and then an introduction into our third formal report of the fiscal year. Religious Calendar Issues: I met this morning with Senior Vice-Provost Amy Thompson, Cathy Zimmer, and Jewell Mundoe, the Coordinator of Student Advocacy & Support, to apprise her of our Committees' work on the MSA issue regarding final exams. (Missed Class Policy: 3364-71-14 – A-2). We made good progress on creating a step-by-step process that will accommodate students for religious exemptions; we will apprise Faculty Senate of this process in the very near future. We thank Provost Bjorkman and her office for supporting this issue. Our sub-committee on Underserved Student Communities will be the final formal report of this school year. Our Faculty Senate on Student Affairs sub-committee on underserved student communities has met or has plans to meet with the following groups:

1. Already met with Muslim Student Association: Aylia Naqvi, Ibrahim Haseeb, Kulsoom Ahmad & Nida Aftab
2. Forthcoming meeting tomorrow, 16 March: Deborah with Kirsten Kendrick, SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance). (LGBTQ+ and transgender issues)
3. Dr. Shery Milz with UT Hillel

4. Friday, 18 March at 5:30 -6:30 pm: Dr. Hefzy, Dr. Teclehaimanot, Dr. Milz, and Dr. Coulter-Harris with Nyreisha and the Black Student Union.
5. Dr. Milz has contacted the Latino Student Union.
6. Our Committee will have a Webex meeting on Thursday, 17 March, at 5:30 pm to discuss the upcoming pizza social on 1 April. Invites will go out tomorrow. I will apprise President Bigioni of the number of those who plan to attend for budgetary reasons.

The final report on underserved student communities will be presented sometime in April. This evening we are going to have a Faculty Senate Student Affairs sub-committee report on student mental health issues that the Student Government identified. This report was researched and written by Dr. Carolyn Lee (Senator Lee) and Dr. Lucy Duhon (Senator Duhon). I just want to remind faculty senators that the Student Government expressed concern for mental health issues. “Student well-being and mental health needs to be a priority of all individuals at the University of Toledo. While there are resources available such as the counseling center, many of these resources are overburdened and unable to support all students who need them. UTSC asks that Faculty Senate joins us in pushing for the improvement of current resource and addition of new resources that will continue to support the mental well-being of all members of the Rocket Community.” The University of Toledo Student Government Leadership later identified three issues related to Mental Health Services and support to students:

- Counseling Center Appointments,
- UTPD as Primary Response in Mental Health situations,
- Proposal for Mental Health Days for students.

That being said, Senator Lucy Duhon will now present our Committee’s third formal report as promised. Thank you so much. Senator Duhon.

Senator Duhon: Hello. I wanted to thank Senator Coulter-Harris for her wonderful leadership on this committee. We tackled a large number of problems and issues that the Student Government had sent to us. So I’m going to pick up where Senator Coulter-Harris left off. She identified the three sort of sub issues dealing with mental health that our subcommittee was tasked to look into, providing solutions for. The first of which was the Counseling Center appointments. The second of which was the UTPD as primary response in mental health situations. And the third of which was a proposal for mental health days for students. Last November, my fellow subcommittee member, Dr. Carolyn Lee, whom I would really like to thank for taking on the bulk of this work, met with Dean Lewandowski from the College of Nursing and the Interim Inaugural Executive Director for University Campus Health Services to discuss these three issues, and I will provide a summary of their discussion to begin with.

The dean recognized in their discussion with regard to the Counseling Center appointment availability the issue of student reluctance for group appointments if one-on-one appointments were not available, but she noted their ongoing efforts to increase counsellor numbers. The second concern [was] identified as the student wait time for scheduling appointments that it remains a challenge, but the dean also noted that availability at UToledo is often times faster than waiting on some community resources. She also noted that the accrediting standard for counselor to student ratio is one counsellor to every 1000 to 1500 students. Counselor staffing is difficult if they are hired on a short term annual basis and it is more difficult to recruit them. However, the Counseling Center has been able to convert one wellness officer position to a full-time position, and they are aiming to fill a recent resignation. The availability of the Psychology Clinic on campus and psychiatry appointments is a plus, but there may need to be more information given to students about what their options are. The Counseling Center is exploring options for third-party vendors also. The possibility of virtual counseling, some appeal for students’ privacy,

convenience, and neutral party are benefits. This may be an efficient model to provide timely access and services. Another key point that Dean Lewandowski made, is that UToledo has recently been selected as a JED campus. This involves a four-year strategic process to assess and build systemic change related to student mental health. Dean Lewandowski described a process that includes completing a comprehensive report on mental health issues and services, deploying a student assessment and having a JED site visit sometime this year. The goal is to use data to inform effective campus mental health services in the future. More information will be ongoing about the JED effort.

The second issue the Subcommittee on Mental Health was tasked to look into was the issue of UTPD, its primary response in a crisis situation. Here in Prof. Carolyn Lee's meeting with Dean Lewandowski, the Dean indicated that she appreciates the nuance of what the police presence can mean and she appreciates previous encounters with law enforcement that some students have experienced, but she did point out that UTPD does have a considerable amount of crisis response training and the reality is that situations can pose a safety threat, not only to the party involved, but also to others. She offered a reminder that the UTPD intersects with the EMS system. Students should realize the need to balance the preference of the response party with the priority of safety of individuals on campus. So, bottom line, is that UTPD as a primary response likely will not be changing. She did make a suggestion however that Student Government leaders meet with the UTPD for a conversation, to perhaps invite them to provide some campus education on why they come, while remembering that the mutual goal is the safety of others and all.

The third issue brought to the Subcommittee on Mental Health was the topic of mental health days. This has been discussed at other venues. As an institution we need to continue to assess and develop strategies related to mental health on campus for students and others. There are practical implications for the inclusion on mental health days across all courses and programs. Important considerations include how to adjust courses and assessments in high volume courses and the possibility of misuse of mental health days, if adopted widely. There's a need for consistency in campus communications that we are interested in student's mental health, and that we are invested in their individual needs and can provide strategies to support students. One Student Affairs Committee member suggested a syllabus template that would outwardly strengthen our specific commitment to student mental health and also provide the information on the availability of faculty and/or administrative support and campus resources. Dean Lewandowski recommended Dr. Denise Bartell, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success, as a resource to develop a syllabus resource template for this purpose.

I thought I would just do a quick summary of action steps taken since. The meeting Senator Carolyn Lee had with Dean Lewandowski, action steps taken by the Subcommittee, and a timeline of correspondence follows below. I guess I can kind of let you read through that. I don't want to repeat everything, but there's been some good follow-up, including response from Dr. Denise Bartell, Dr. Jeanne Kusina for the Center of Excellence in Teaching and Learning to consider working on a syllabus template for attending to student needs and endorsing inclusion of a statement reinforcing institutional instructor commitment to student wellness as well as a link to resources. However, the process requires Provost approval to add to our standard syllabus template language and alternative syllabus template approval of CTL.

One important communication back from Dr. Jeanne Kusina was a concern about potential biases related to mental health and the importance of considering both the ability, and the means of students to visit health care providers, to provide documentation of health issues as this can be kind of a barrier for students. However, Dr. Kusina expressed interest and continued collaboration towards the goals of addressing student mental health. The committee replied and thanked Drs. Bartell and Kusina for their replies and shared that we will report back to Senate as we are today with our endorsement of explicit language, addressing mental health in UToledo, course syllabi, and supporting a commitment toward ongoing education for faculty to learn more about mental health resources and how to help students. We also shared that our committee would be glad to facilitate time with Faculty Senate for any information

they might want to present or discuss with Faculty Senate. I wanted to add one last correspondence that didn't make it onto this prepared report. And that is, twice in the past 10 days or so, a subcommittee member for this report did reach out also to Student Government leadership about their interest in the topic of meeting with UTPD. But we have not heard a response yet, that response is pending from the Student Government. That is my report.

President Bigioni: Thank you for your report and all your work on this really important topic.

Senator Duhon: Thank you.

President Bigioni: And all of the Student Affairs Committee has done a formidable job this year. So, thanks to all of you.

Senator Duhon: Thanks goes to Professor Coulter-Harris. Great job leading this very large and active committee.

President Bigioni: Are there any questions or comments? I see a question in the Chat Box from Senator Day. "Is there a mind freedom international chapter still on campus that's a really great peer support and activist group that students can tap into?" Does anyone know the answer to that question?

Senator Day: I just know, I remember seeing flyers up, like, before COVID, maybe three or four years ago, that there had been some students doing mind freedom work. It's just really great. I would love students to know about it, because it's a really great way to sort of think about mental health resources outside of the medical system. Right? Because our medical system's really tapped and it can only do so much. But it helps to sort of organize students into pure support and it helps to sort of politicize students into actually thinking about what are some of the structural barriers that lead to the oppression of people with psychiatric diagnoses. So, I don't know if students know about it anymore so I just wanted to throw that out there.

Unknown Speaker: There is a student group called Active Minds that focuses on mental health and suicide prevention. They have an event on the 21st. It's listed on the internet. I don't know how active it is, though.

Senator Coulter-Harris: I want to thank Senator Day for that. And Senator Duhon, if we might add that connection into the report, please? Thank you.

Senator Duhon: Yes. Thank you.

President Bigioni: Are there any other questions or comments? If not, then thank you very much for your report and it makes a very nice segue to our next guest and our next item on the agenda, which is Dr. Sammy Spann. And of course, most of you know Dr. Spann. He is our Dean of Students, but is also currently serving as Interim Senior Associate Vice President of Student Affairs. So welcome, Dr. Spann.

Dr. Sammy Spann, Dean of Students: I am glad to be here. Good afternoon, hardworking faculty members working after 5 o'clock. I will try to be quick on sharing some information with you all. Lucy and Deborah did a great job talking about the mental health and the Counseling Center. That's a part of my presentation so I can actually cut back on that. We collaborate a lot with the Counseling Center and Dr. Linda Lewandowski. So, I'm going to share my screen and I'm going to go through [and] just kind of give you an elevators spill on what we do here in Student Affairs. I'll take some areas that I spent a little more time on than others. Do you see my screen?

President Bigioni: Yes.

Dr. Spann: Good. So I am going to go over a couple of things here. I am going to start with our Counseling Center. First off, thank you for having me. The vision of Student Affairs, I like to look at the Student Affairs as the ‘living room’ of the house, where everybody kind of congregates and it builds on the experience of students. So I'm going to kind of share with you a little bit of what we have. Our Career Services Center, we have a closet that is fully loaded with suits that students who have interviews can come to and get those resources. We're actually getting ready to purchase a headshot machine that we're going to have here in the Student Union. Students can take professional headshots. It is all digital. They can download it to their phone. They can print it. They can do passport pictures on it. It is going to be free to the community. We have our career studio, which is where you see the picture here of the clothes where students can come get. But also students who need additional items, such as coats and things of those nature, we're kind of incorporating that into this. The Student Union, as I told you earlier, is more like the ‘living room’ of the University. We're doing some renovation in here. Actually, the room that is the Advocacy Office that Lucy spoke of earlier with Jewel Mundoe, we're going to renovate that entire space. We're going to put someone from the Counseling Center [there]. I'm working with Dr. Natasha Sullivan and Dr. Linda Lewandowski with the Advocacy Office and also Julie Fisher-Kenny, someone from success coach, and we're going to create this as a center for student experience. I know we had the name before, and it might be a ‘curse-word’ for some of you all, because we didn't feel like it was properly designed, but we're going to rethink how that looks and what the services are. A lot of students come to my office for different things and needs and we want to try to create a centralized hub for that. We do collaborate with Rocket Solutions Central and the other offices, but we want to try to narrow down the places students have to go. Our Multicultural Student Office is led by a young lady name Leah Jones. She is the interim director right now, but she's been doing a remarkable job rebuilding, rebranding this area. They just finalized their strategic plan and they just actually also successfully got a grant through APLU to do some multicultural programming and heritage months to kind of get their area up and running.

The Recreational Center, some of you all use that. Continue to do that. We are going to do a little lightweight renovating in there. It is about 250 students. It's one of the largest student employers on campus so some of your students work in this space. We try to do leadership training with them as well. The Recreational Center, we are trying to expand hours based off of what the students are asking for.

The Office of Advocacy and Support. This area right here, I want to take a little time to talk to you about because it's relatively new to the University, but a lot of people see it as the, you know, the ‘school nurse.’ We want to kind of make sure we brand this in a way where it is kind of like the...person of the University. We are working to make sure the students are helped in many ways. You may receive the email from me, or this office saying that a student will not be coming to class today. I would like to say, one, thank you, because 99% of the faculty members take that email and they're very supportive. The reason why the email is going to be very broad because it speaks a lot about a student is going through a particular issue. It can be a student that is in the hospital, a parent has died, the student has something major going on that we can't talk about etc. And you all have been very, very supportive when email comes from me, or from this office, saying the student needs additional support of time, and you've been very accommodating. So, thank you very much for that. This office also has purchased a grant; we got \$100,000 dollars from APLU to do the Food Recovery Program, which is now duplicated in seven other universities in the United States. The Food Recovery Program is if your office is having an event, and you know there's going to be food leftover, we send a text message, a ‘push notice’ to the students who signed up for it to let them know what the food is, and where it's going to be located, and when they can come. We also do the Food Recovery here in the Union, and we open it up to everybody to get rid of the stigma of students in need. We send a text message out to those students first, let them know we are going to be

here. They congregate around the Student Union. Then when that 1 o'clock, 12 o'clock hour hits, there's a buffet that anybody can partake in. Even staff and faculty are welcome to come and enjoy that. That grant is actually running out but we have a donor who is given us quite a bit of money to continue that process.

The Cares Team, this is formally known as UBIT, University Behavior Intervention Team. We have a team of people from the Provost Office, I think Dr. Amy Thompson is on it. We have Chief Newton on it. We have the Counseling Center. We have a slew of people at the University, and we bring students to this Cares Team who have everything from depression down to suicide ideation and homelessness. We bring them to this table and we talk about them. We do what we call 'five touch points.' I think Julie Fisher-Kenny, Angela Paprocki, Amy Thompson, on the Provost side of the house had been very helpful in helping us do these, what I call 'five touch points.' If we get them to work on the student, we make sure five other people will be reaching out to the student, not in a telemarketing way; but for instance, if a student was to have, let's say, some food insecurities, then they come on the Cares Team, [and] two weeks later, we'll make sure we take care of them to help the student out. Two weeks later the success coach may reach out to him just to check up on them, because that is what success coaches do. Two weeks or three weeks after that, then maybe someone else is reaching out to them. So what we try to do with each student that comes through the Cares Team, we try to give them those touch points.

The student Conduct and Community Standard, this is also known by the students and the 'principal's office,' but it is way much more than that. They do a lot of programming education. They work with our Title IX Office, and Array Life to help get training on students. We do take students to the conduct product. A lot of times, a lot of people don't know that if a student is off campus in a residential area and they're acting un-Rocket-like, then we have opportunities to bring them in and put sanctions on them to try to correct the behavior or to encourage better community-based behaviors in that sense. But the Office of Conduct and Community Standard is two people working in this space and they have a lot on their plate.

The Student Involvement and Leadership, this is kind of like the engagement portion. We have over 400 student organizations. Everything that you see from the President's Backyard Barbecue, to Song Fest, to small little student org. meetings that go through this office. Parent and Family Weekend, we reach out to the parents, the ones who have signed up and just bring them into the University community. We send out a parent newsletter. Community service, outreach engagement is also a part of their portfolio in that space.

Title IX, although it reports to Student Affairs, it is much broader than just Student Affairs as it works with our HR, the Provost Office, the President's Office, pretty much there. Kind of like the overture of the entire University. They have been recognized nationally. They've been invited to three national conferences to present. They're doing a lot of education on this, so they are up and running and doing great things.

The Counseling Center, I will kind of default a little bit to what Lucy Duhan was talking about earlier. Although the Counseling Center is now under wellness, we have a dotted line and a supportive structure to where they are on our Cares Team. We work closely with them as such as well as the Office of Accessibility, to make sure our students are giving the appropriate amount of resources. So, we kind of like, tag team on a lot of students that we work with and make sure that they get the resources that they need.

I know that was really quick, but I also noticed that the 5 o'clock, and sometimes we turn into 'pumpkins' after that 5 o'clock hour, I know I do. I would take any questions that you may have, and one thing I would offer is, if Quinetta, you can, send me the roll, any of you on this call that are listening to my

beautiful voice, I will give you a free meal voucher to Phoenicia. And if you take a student with you, I will give you one to take a student with you to Phoenicia's. That's just another way of us trying to make sure we connect with our students and making a touch point with our students. So, if I get that, you can stop by the office, 2509 in the Student Union, and Cheryl will have that list and you are welcome to take a nice great student out to lunch on us. Thank you.

President Bigioni: What a fantastic offer. Thank you. And thanks for your presentation and teaching us all about what's going on in your office. Are there any questions for Dr. Spann? Maybe I'll ask a quick one to start things off. So, many of us have experienced some personal growth during the pandemic, and not the good kind, growing out of a suit or two, perhaps. If we wanted those clothes to find their way to the Closet that you told us about for the students, how do we go about doing that?

Dr. Spann: You can reach out to the Student Career Services, and I can get that information to Quinetta to send out to you, or you can directly call my office. My assistant will help direct. We ask that you clean them first, please. It does cost. We do take clothes to the cleaners if they haven't been cleaned and that does get a little pricey. The clothes are the same way as the food pantry; when you say, food pantry, everyone wants to help out and give 130 canned goods and no one has a can opener. The suits and dress clothes are the same way. Please make sure they're matching. Well, you know, students will take anything, but we just want to make sure we kind of make it look uniformed and that it is not just something thrown together. But to your point, also I'll say this, President Bigioni, if you don't mind. It has been a challenge. We, in Student Affairs and the University has been taught not to talk about the 'woes' of higher ed. as it relates to our students' mental health. If anything you all take away from today, especially a beautiful conversation that Lucy had earlier, know that that is something that is really plaguing and it keeps me up late nights, are our students' mental health. We've had quite a few suicide attempts, we've had some successes – well, I don't want to call them 'successes,' but we had some students follow through with it. And I say that to this group not to start a conversation, because the first thing I get is well, how many students committed suicide and why are we polarizing this? A lot of times our students' parents don't want it to be published as a suicide. We've had student parents come in and say it was with regard to COVID, and some, we can't verify or approve, but we do have a mental health crisis in the nation. We're no different than any other university. And I promise you, our students are not all in the 'mall' trying to take themselves out. But it's more so us for you to know as faculty members that we do need to make sure we give the students that extra time or to kind of take a little extra time to listen to what they're saying, or send them to us and we will help them out as well. So, I appreciate you bringing that portion up. I just want to make sure we drive that home, that we really need you all when it comes to mental health and supporting our students - and each other. Right? We didn't just gain weight during the pandemic. We also gained some mental stress.

President Bigioni: Absolutely. And, I learned something last semester that there is a "Report A Concern" button at the bottom of any UT webpage that can be used to connect students to the right resources.

Dr. Spann: Absolutely. Those reports come directly to myself and a few other people depending on what case. If it is a Title IX case, we guide it in that direction. But that is very helpful, even if you're not sure and you don't know what to do. Go there. We pull it together. The Cares Team look at some of those reports, and we make sure that we help get the student in the right direction.

President Bigioni: Great. Are there any questions or comments? Well, hearing none. Thank you very much. And thank you for all the great work that you're doing in support of our students. It's great to hear and great to have you looking after all of our students so well, so I appreciate it.

Dr. Spann: No problem. Thank you all for being supportive. I'm looking forward to seeing you some over at lunch.

President Bigioni: All right, sounds good. I'll be the first in line.

Dr. Spann: Take care.

President Bigioni: Thanks again. Our next item on the agenda is just a discussion of our meeting format. I introduced this topic during my Executive Committee report. The Executive Committee, we've discussed whether or not we should continue online, and the opinions are split, so I thought it would be good to broaden this discussion to hear what all of the Senate has to say on this topic. So now is your opportunity to give your opinion as to whether or not, you would like to see the rest of the semester of Faculty Senate meetings continue online, or would you like to perhaps take an opportunity in the last meeting, or perhaps last couple of meetings to meet in person.

I'll just open it up to comment. I see one comment in the Chat from Senator Topp. "Please keep all Faculty Senate online." Senator Bornak says, "Online allows for greater attendance flexibility, rather than having to travel to a room." Both Senators El-Zawhary – oh, I'm starting to lose track. But it seems like there is an abundance of comments about keeping it online. Senator Kistner has raised a hand. Go ahead.

Senator Kistner: How many meetings do we have left this semester?

President Bigioni: I believe three or four. Let's see. Working backwards, there ought to be three in April and we have one left in March. So, that would be four. [[correction: there are two meetings in April, so only three meetings remained]]

Senator Kistner: My comment would be then, let's stay online.

President Bigioni: Okay fair enough. Some people have additional questions. I see the question, "What is the advantage to meeting face-to-face?" Well, it is just to have the opportunity to meet each other. And this may turn out to be a face-to-face format next year. So that might be an opportunity to meet everyone before we meet next year. Of course, the inertia says keep everything on line. It's easy. We know how to work it and so on. But, I wanted to give everyone the opportunity to say whether or not they'd like to meet face-to-face. I am mostly seeing Chat comments and very few are in favor of face-to-face. The vast majority online. I don't know what fraction of the senators I am hearing from. There doesn't seem to be much discussion. Senator Hefzy has a hand raised. Go ahead.

Senator Hefzy: Maybe the last meeting when elections occur we meet face-to-face.

President Bigioni: Okay, how do people feel about that?

Senator Smith: What would that date be, President Bigioni?

President Bigioni: That will be April 26. That would be our last meeting and Chair Al Baker from the Board of Trustees will join us at that meeting, and perhaps he would prefer to do it online too. So, I suppose a 'wild card,' but in principle, he could call in even if we were in person. I see a little bit of interest in the last meeting face-to-face, so perhaps we could just poll everyone. I think leaving everything online for the rest of the semester seems to be the default opinion. Perhaps we can simply ask a question

about the final meeting and poll everyone whether or not they want to meet face-to-face there. Of course, are some advantages to it and some disadvantages.

I've drawn a line of demarcation, and let me write a question. Do you want to meet face-to-face for the last Faculty Senate meeting on April 26th? Go ahead and vote.

Okay, it looks pretty clear. Some yes votes here and there, but I probably don't need to carefully add this up. And in fact, you know what, we can add it up after the meeting, but I think the no's have it by a fairly good margin. If I'm wrong, I'll let you know in the next meeting, but I think the no's have it by a pretty good margin.

Okay. I appreciate your input on that. That means we'll leave it online for the remainder of the year. Okay, thanks. So that takes care of that item of business.

The next item of business on the agenda is items from the floor. Does anyone have any that they would like to bring up?

Senator Anderson: I had a medical procedure at the Medical Center over spring break, and before my procedure was even over, I received by email [a] parking citation for apparently parking in a wrong place. It got me wondering, how many other patients that use the Medical Center receiving citations? And in terms of appealing, I did appeal my citation. I won the appeal. How many people are appealing their citations and winning them? And, I think the Medical Center is a little bit unique in that part - part of it is a business and you have customers, and I don't think it's very nice, you know, for somebody that's coming to patronize the Medical Center to receive a parking citation. And for one's family members that might be visiting people that are in the hospital to receive a parking citation. So, I was wondering if a presentation might [be] in order, specifically for what's going on with that at the Medical Center?

President Bigioni: That's a good idea. I like that idea. I can certainly reach out to Parking. I've certainly heard similar stories and I see in the Chat that other people are reporting similar stories. For example, as faculty we have a certain class of parking permit and we're supposed to park in certain places. But if you're going to a clinic or UTMC as a patient, and you park in a spot for a patient, then there is this conflict, even though you're actually a patient. I've heard of people being ticketed for that. That sounds like perhaps what happened to you. So wires are crossing. It sounds like a good idea to bring some Parking people in here to hear more stories to sort out these sort of growing pains as we transition to this new format. I appreciate the suggestion. Does anyone else want to comment?

Senator El-Zawahry: Yes. I agree with the parking issue. It has been a disaster. I have raised this before several times with different people and nobody had taken any action at all. I received two citations myself. I parked in the right spot and they gave me a citation. I went to another spot, they gave me another citation and I was livid, because it's like, where do you want me to park? The other thing is, in the hospital everybody's complaining about the citations. I was sitting with the nursing staff in the ER, and they actually parked so far away. So whenever they are on call at night, they park about three blocks away. So they were all angry, like, even at night, what are we going to do if it is 3 am or 4 pm? Do we have to walk outside all of this distance? So that's a problem. And, I'm going to bring up another issue, which is the card, the ID card. So I lost my ID card and it was a process. I have to go online to register again for the ID card, and then they told me from one to three days. And I don't understand why one to three days. Then I had to go to get the card and then come back again and they have another card that I have to buy or get from the security. So, I don't know, for God's sake, we are in the 21st Century. Why are we doing this? I asked for the card from ProMedica and it took them 30 minutes. I don't know if the students have the same issue, are they going to be accessing inside or not? There's going to be something.

I think for our service it should be a very good service for the students to attract the students in here. These small things make a difference. The other thing is also, I'm going to bring up is the entry. So one time I was in the weekend on call and I tried to come inside and they told me the card expired. It's like, okay, can we reissue a card? No, we don't work over the weekend. And again, I'm on call, so I told them I'm going to call the police if they didn't come in, because I'm going to take your responsibility or make you responsible. But also, what if our students are coming to study or doing something in the hospital? It is all something like small things that appears to be not appropriate for some institution like ours.

President Bigioni: Thank you for your comments. I'll add to that. There are now more barriers with bringing people on campus from the community, and I've heard stories from various people that I run into in the hallways and it doesn't make UT the sort of place where people want to spend more time on campus, and that is not helping us. That is not a great way to build our enrollment and our image in the community. So I appreciate your comments.

I don't know how it's been restructured. Certainly there were Parking Services people that work for UT, to Senator Gilstrap's point. I don't know if we can necessarily get the parking company to come in, we can try. But there were UT people who were Parking Services people that we can certainly ask to come talk to us. But we'll do what we can do about getting someone in here to not just answer questions, but get feedback to make this work a little better for everyone, hopefully. Any other questions or comments?

Senator El-Zawahry: President Bigioni, I am going to add something about the parking issue. I am sorry to say it again here. But also the signage is not appropriate. It is not really clear. So when patients come, they don't know where to go. I'm a physician in the hospital for three years, it's a mess. So they need to have signage for where the patients are going to go, where the students are going to go, where faculty going to go. If someone from the faculty is doing the surgery, is he going to park in the faculty area, or the patient area? It's not clear to me why don't they have organization. If they don't know, I can volunteer to organize this for them better than what they are doing.

Past-President Brakel: You weren't at the Finance and Strategy meeting this month and that's happened right before break. Matt Schroeder had a meeting with the Parking people, and they are supposed to be getting out some more signage and other communications, and doing some other things here in the very near future. So, he's hoping to get some things resolving there. And it also sounded from that meeting that for next year, there may be opportunities to update the list of, shall we say, free event parking there compared to what they presently have. So, they are working on it from the administration standpoint, or at least they did a couple of weeks ago, and hopefully the house changes will be coming very quickly.

President Bigioni: Thanks for those comments. Okay, perhaps we've heard enough about the parking issue. Are there other items from the floor?

Senator Anderson: The mention of event parking, just like an issue that as far as I know, is not a problem, but it just seemed kind of strange. The Math Department hosted a statewide meeting in mid-October and we looked into arrangements for event parking. They said, okay, here's one lot that we just won't ticket. So if people park in that a lot, they're fine. Well, it just seemed kind of strange cause then anybody parking in that lot, they're not going to be ticketed. And, you know, to handle event parking that way seems strange. But, I was just happy that we were able to have parking for the event and didn't pursue it. But I don't know if that's another issue to take a look at of how they're handling event parking. Because I asked them, do the people need to get like a permit? Do they need to sign up and register their car? And they responded back, no, we just won't be patrolling that parking lot on those two days of the event so they won't get ticketed.

President Bigioni: Okay, thanks for that comment. Are there other items from the floor? Other topics to discuss? Any announcements to be made? Okay. Hearing none, then we can move on to our next item of business, which is adjournment. So if there's nothing further to discuss, then we can adjourn this meeting. Everyone, thanks for coming and all your input and we'll see you in two weeks. Thank you. Meeting adjourned.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Nigem

Tape summary:
Quinetta Hubbard
Faculty Senate Executive Secretary Faculty Senate Administrative Secretary