

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of September 01, 2020
FACULTY SENATE

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

Approved @ FS on 9/15/2020

Summary of Discussion

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

President Brakel: Welcome to our second Faculty Senate meeting in the fall semester. At this time I will ask our Executive Secretary, Kim Nigem to call the roll.

Present: Ali, Anderson, Barnes, Bigioni, Brakel, Case, Chaffee, Chaudhuri, Chou, Coulter-Harris, Day, de le Serna, Duggan, Duhon, Elgafy, El-Zawahry, Garcia-Mata, Gibbs, Giovannucci, Gregory, Guardiola, Heberle, Insch, Jayatissa, Kistner, Koch, Krantz, Kujawa, Lawrence, Lecka-Czernik, Lee, Lundquist (substitute for A. Edgington), Metz, Milz, Modyanov, Molitor, J. Murphy, Niamat, Nigem, Oberlander, Pakulski, Pattin, Perry, Ratnam, Reeves, Smith, Stepkowski, Steven, Teclehaimanot, Thompson-Casado, Tiwari, Topp, Van Hoy, Wedding, Welsch, Zietlow

Excused Absence:

Unexcused Absence: Bailey, Lipscomb, Longsdorf, L. Murphy, Wood (substitute for Pakulski), Taylor, Templin

President Brakel: I think we have a quorum if I counted it correctly.

Senator Nigem: We do have a quorum, President Brakel.

President Brakel: Thank you. So you have before you, today's agenda; I will entertain a motion to adopt the agenda.

Senator Kistner: So moved.

Senator Lawrence: Second.

President Brakel: There were changes to the agenda. Please put 'yes' in the chat box to adopt the agenda. I think we've got the votes in and the agenda has been adopted.

That brings us to the **Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report:** Since our last report, President-elect Terry Bigioni, has been representing Faculty Senate at the University Rocket Restart meetings because I teach a class at that time. Last Tuesday, I had an e-mail from a Senator concerned about the lack of communication coming from UToledo administration concerning COVID-19 reporting as the person felt that the messaging was being done by local media outlets. I responded that there was supposed to be a dashboard on the UToledo web page by the start of the semester. That dashboard was released last Wednesday and has been slow to update. Late last week, there were additional e-mail communications from the administration concerning COVID related issues. The FSEC discussed this situation at our meeting last Friday and decided to request that the Provost's Office address COVID communication issues and to provide faculty an opportunity to address their COVID concerns that have arisen during our first two week of classes.

During the summer, I was asked by a couple of people if Senate was going to release a statement concerning events surrounding George Floyd. While Faculty Senate's at other institutions did release statements, as your leader of Faculty Senate, I did not want to release a statement that the Senate did not

have an opportunity to endorse. I drafted the resolution that is on our agenda today and it was vetted through the Executive Committee at last Friday's meeting and tweaked further yesterday to establish the right tone and message. It is fitting that we approve this resolution as we also will hear from Vice-President for Diversity Willie McKether about the recently adopted Strategic Plan for Diversity at today's meeting.

I also received a question regarding the printer migration to zone printing that is underway across the university. The issue pertains to printers that are in faculty offices. The previous understanding was that printers in faculty offices that were purchased from grant funds or out of a faculty's personal funds were exempt from removal. I asked the Provost to address this in her report today.

President-elect Bigioni as part of his constitutional duties as President-elect, and in working with the Committee on Committees, has been working on filling out the various Senate committees. Many of the committees are nearly filled and should be fully filled this week. If you are contacted to serve on a committee, please do so as part of your responsibilities as a Senator.

Last, the FSEC is concerned that we might not be aware of some faculty concerns as we are not fully face to face on-campus. We want to make sure that we are addressing your concerns. If senators or non-senators do have an issue that we should be aware of, please do not hesitate to send us an e-mail or phone call.

This concludes the Faculty Senate Executive Committee report. Does any Executive Committee member have something they wish to add? Hearing none, we will proceed then with the Provost report. Provost Bjorkman, you are on.

Provost Bjorkman: Thank you, Dr. Brakel. Good afternoon everybody. As we begin our third week of the fall semester, we continue to focus on a priority of keeping our campus safe for our students, faculty and staff. Dr. Amy Thompson is joining us also this afternoon and she will help provide an update on some of the surveillance testing we're conducting as well as the new dashboard that is in place to monitor and track our cases within the community. But before we move to that discussion, I have a few brief announcements I'd like to make.

First, just as a reminder that applications for the University's Associate to Professor Program is Friday, September 11th. That program is designed to help prepare associate professors for promotion to the rank of full professor. The application and guidelines for that are available on the Provost website. Last week we sent out an announcement regarding applications and nominations for the 2020-21 MAC Leadership Development program. Faculty who are interested in that should submit their applications also by September 11th. And again, the application and guidelines are available on the Provost Office website.

I also wanted to remind you that the deadline, if you want to participate in the Inclusive Access E-textbook program, is fast approaching, if you wanted to use it in a course for your spring semester. So please contact the bookstore for additional information and note that orders have to be completed three weeks prior to the opening of spring registration, which means that orders should be completed by the end of this month. I am pleased to report that in fall of 2019, over twenty-five courses and 140 sections participated in this program. Approximately sixty-five hundred students collectively saved about \$1.2M by participating in this. During the spring 2020 semester, we had thirty-one courses, one hundred and

seventeen sections, over fifty-three hundred students, saving about \$970,000. So this has been a good process for helping to save our students some money.

I appreciate the efforts that our faculty are making to help reduce this textbook costs for our students; these are quite significant savings. I also want to remind you that students, faculty and staff should register by midnight on September 15 if you would like to participate in this year's International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Conference, the 17th Annual conference will be held virtually this year, from September 23rd through the 25th. Students, faculty, and staff at UToledo may register for free. Over the past 17 years this conference has received national and international attention with attendees from 45 states and 36 countries. It brings together researchers, service providers, advocates, and elected officials to collaborate and learn from one another. For information on how your class might participate in the conference, please contact Dr. Celia Williamson. I would also like to recognize the work of Prof. Joe Dake, the Chair of the School of Population Health, for his leadership of the contact tracing team for UToledo that has provided training to over 200 contact tracers. These contact tracers have collectively provided over 4,000 volunteer hours of service since March, and conducted over 3,500 interviews with COVID-positive individuals and their close contacts. Prof. Dake has served as our liaison between the University and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department for the contact tracing effort, which is very important to try to keep people safe. Our nurses, our public health, and physician assistant students are playing a key role in our regions' efforts to curb the spread of Coronavirus by serving as volunteer contact tracers – so this is a very good experience for them.

Dr. Brakel mentioned the question about the ComDoc copiers and printers that were being delivered this week. I think they are going into U-Hall this week, the second and third floor. I was asked about the installation of printers in the Math Department to see if any mistakes were made in the roll out of the new equipment in their department. We are looking into this. When a concern about the printers is reported to our office we check with the deans and chairs. I would remind you that the plans were rolled out and deans and chairs had time to review them and to sign off and approve these plans for their colleges and departments. There's information about the resources and support for the new copiers and printers on the Office of the Provost website where I've added a link that will take you to the IT website that provides that information. But just to give you some background, the only printers that were exempted from the ComDoc program, and this is from the beginning, were any active grant funded or personally purchased printers by an employee, specialty printers and printers already supported by a non-Rico service contract. Every dean and chair, every area was allowed to review the plan that was proposed for their area to provide feedback and to change things if they weren't happy with it. Faculty were allowed to keep personal printers in their offices if either (A.), it was bought on grant funds and the continuing support was coming from grants to pay for supplies, toner, and paper etc., or it was bought by a faculty member with their own personal money and there were no University funds or was not supplied by the University and for these, the supplies were being paid by the faculty out of their own pocket. So those printers should have been identified on the U-Hall sheets and not touched. My assumption is that the chair would have talked with faculty and identified these. If there is any error and ComDoc accidentally removed a printer that should not have been because it fell into those categories, please let the dean of the college know, and they will talk to ComDoc and to IT about seeing if we can get those recovered. We have had some mistaken removals in the past and we've been able to correct those. But, those were the rules that were set in place from day one in terms of how they were rolling these out. I was also provided the information that after things get rolled out, if the plan is not completely adequate or if there has been a change in need,

some employees can get a ComDoc desktop printer for their office as needed. That will, of course, have to come out of the supplies budget for that college or department. A lot of people have had questions about the ComDoc rollout, which was designed to give us a much better bang for the buck, if you will. It is designed to save us some money and get us new quality printers that are much more capable than the old ones that we had and also will be replaced fairly regularly as part of the contract. This was actually done as a statewide initiative, so many of the universities in the IUC participated in this, and because of the bulk agreement that we were able to work out by working together, we were able to get much more favorable costs for these.

So that concludes my report this afternoon. Again, please don't hesitate to contact me at provost@utoledo.edu if you have concerns or need additional information. I try to be responsive to questions and concerns that I have whenever I can. It sometimes might take me a little time, because it kind of varies sometimes. It is a challenging time. I really want to let you know, we're here to assist you and respond to your concerns any way we can. With that, thank you, and I'd be happy to answer questions before we move onto the COVID-19 discussion. President Brakel, do you want us to move on to that discussion and bring Dr. Thompson on board?

President Brakel: Yes. I didn't hear any questions or comments there, and so we will move on to the COVID-19 communication of faculty questions they may have. Provost Bjorkman and Dr. Thompson, please go ahead.

Provost Bjorkman: I am going to let Dr. Thompson start out and she can give you some background information, and then we both will be happy to answer any questions.

Vice Provost Thompson: Sure. Hi everyone. It is good to see you. As you noticed, we have sent out communication at the end of last week that just kind of reminded you or perhaps reinforced some of the information that was on our Rocket Restart manual in case you have a student who may be COVID positive or exposed, and how to handle some of those situations in the classroom. Again, I want to say special thanks to Faculty Senate and Grad Council for sitting on our planning meetings each week. It is very helpful to have the voices of shared governance in our meetings. I just want to also say that if you have not had a chance to visit the dashboard, MarCom updated that today with our new numbers from last week. So those numbers are actually the exact same for week two as they were for week one. In week one, you might have noticed that we had sixty-one COVID cases. In week two, we also had sixty-one COVID cases for a total number of one hundred and twenty-two COVID cases. So the dashboard, again, has been updated. The way that MarCom is updating this is every Monday, all the data is collated and uploaded into our database, and then Tuesdays mornings, MarCom actually upload that into the public dashboard that you view. So that is usually occurring on Tuesday mornings from the week that is prior. Also this week we have going on is our random testing. We have signed up over four-hundred people to participate in our random testing, both today and tomorrow. I also want to remind all of you that as faculty, staff that we have set aside testing availability each week for you to go online and register to have the salvia based PCR test. So again, if you are interested for whatever reason, you don't have to be symptomatic; in fact, that type of testing you should not be symptomatic, [so] go and participate in that testing. If you are symptomatic or if you hear of a student becoming symptomatic, that is where we are using UPMC and also the Main Campus at the University Health Center. So, that is kind of our latest updates in terms of our numbers. I am encouraged actually, by the fact that we are remaining very constant. I can tell you that I am on IUC calls, and in terms of what we are doing regarding testing, we are ahead of most other institutions. Some schools are not even doing random testing at all, any kind of asymptomatic, they are only doing symptomatic testing. Many other schools don't even have a dashboard

at all. So I think the fact that we are doing some of these things and so far our numbers are staying fairly consistent. Walking across campus on a regular basis, I just want to thank our faculty and students for you know, doing their part and wearing their face coverings and helping keep our classrooms safe. I know there are a lot of things that we're asking you to do. I know there are some questions, and I am happy to take any of them at this time.

Unknown Speaker: The numbers you've provided, are those numbers for the University or are those numbers for the state or county?

Vice Provost Thompson: We are only reporting our own university numbers, those that are faculty, staff and students. You can get other data, for example, like local data looking through either the State Department of Health or through our own local Health Department.

President Brakel: Okay, a question in the chat is, from the current tests completed at UT, what was our percent positive and why is this data not included on the dashboard?

Vice Provost Thompson: Sure. Thank you for that question. So, our testing is a little bit complex, and let me explain why. So we have three different buckets that our data is coming from. First of all, UTMC, the data is we are only testing symptomatic people at UTMC. So the people that are going there are already exhibiting symptoms or are sick. So that is the first kind of data point is you're looking at positivity rates. If you were to look at that, it would be very, very, very high because they are all symptomatic that are going there. The second piece is our Ezoba test of which we are inviting several thousand people to get between three and four hundred people to participate. We could use your help in encouraging people to participate in the random sample testing when they get their names pulled in the email invitation to participate in that. So what happens also, when we get those tests results is that is often spread out through a number of days that we get those data or results. So in some cases the people are getting their own results on the apps before we even get those results. The third bucket, if you will, is what we call self-reported data, and there's really no way to know what our denominator would be of those numbers because it is self-reported. So I will give you an example of how this data comes in. If you can imagine from a reporting standpoint, all of our students are perhaps coming from lots of different counties, right? So, if you have somebody that hometown is in Cleveland and they put their address as Cuyahoga County and they get tested, the results will go to Cuyahoga County Health Department and the contact tracing will go through that health department. I had a mom call me over the weekend and told me that her daughter was COVID positive. The result went to Cuyahoga County Health Department. We would have never gotten that result at the Lucas County Health Department for us to actually count that as a number. So that is why it is very important that either faculty, staff or student, if they are being tested somewhere else besides UTMC or our Ezoba sight, especially if they are testing positive that they alert one of our designees that are listed on the COVID website. And again, just as a reminder from a student perspective, that is Valarie Walston in Student Affairs; staff is Human Resources; for faculty it is the Provost Office, Beth Gerasimiak who works with me. By alerting us then we can actually help tally those numbers so that those are included in that third party bucket, if you will, and what it also allows us to do is begin contact tracing. Provost Bjorkman mentioned the fact that Dr. Dake is helping to oversee our contact tracing through the Health Department. So we have a group of about ten tracers that are doing our contact tracing. So if somebody self-discloses to us, that is the first thing we do is make sure that we have their name and we start following up with them, doing all the tracing of people that they would have become involved with or contact with. Our system is a little more kind of complex that there is also a lot of data cleaning that is involved with this. We have to also kind of verify those self-reports and go back and make sure that somebody is just not saying I am COVID-positive. How do we know that? We have to verify with

other county health departments, or make sure that we have some kind of result that we can see. So this takes time, right? It is clunky because you have so many different data sources coming in.

President Brakel: I have another question also in the chat. Can you tell us again how non-symptomatic members of the UT community can get tested? Senator Lawrence has put the link in as well in the chat about how you can register to get that done, but if you want to touch on that quickly.

Vice Provost Thompson: Yeah. Thank you for posting that Senator Lawrence in the chat. So you go and click on the button and it will take you to a registration page. Again, for faculty and staff, you can register each week and you will go during the random testing time that we have. Again, this is a saliva based PCR test. What we do is we bill insurance, and for whatever reason, if your insurance won't cover it, the University will help cover those costs.

President Brakel: The next question came from actually two different sources, and that is, can the dashboard be updated more than once a week? One person is actually suggesting either daily or at least three times a week.

Vice Provost Thompson: I understand that, and that is something we can certainly try to work towards. Again, as I was explaining to you, data comes in across lots of different times and there's data that comes in that we have to actually validate and clean. So even if we get, you know, eight cases today, we need to take the time to go back to actually make sure and verify that those are indeed true cases. This takes a lot of work and a lot of time. So that is the issue why we have been doing this once a week as a way of trying to look at it as a snapshot in time.

President Brakel: I think that answers the next question that is in the chat. Is our COVID taskforce seeing the data more often than weekly?

Vice Provost Thompson: Do you mean our COVID taskforce?

President Brakel: Yes, the COVID taskforce.

Vice Provost Thompson: So, for example, we met this morning and I announced our new numbers, but that is the first time they had gotten to hear that number because it was just being updated this morning.

President Brakel: But you just alluded a moment ago that you are receiving data at various other times and you are double checking that data, and so it sounds like it is coming in to you more frequently than once a week.

Vice Provost Thompson: It does, but what I am saying is, we can't necessarily report it as we receive it because it might not actually be validated data.

President Brakel: Right.

Vice Provost Thompson: Correct.

President Brakel: Senator Gregory has a question about communication and messaging meeting COVID protocols. Go ahead, Senator Gregory.

Senator Gregory: I do. I didn't want to ask it unless we were finished talking about the testing part, but let me just throw this out there and you can manage it however you want. So, one of the things that I like about the COVID dashboard a lot is that it is this one-stop shopping. I mean, I think the reason why everyone is able to start asking all these questions about the numbers is because it is right there and we all know where it is, and that is awesome and I love that. I was wondering if, and I almost feel 'bad' asking

because I know how much everyone is trying to coordinate and how hard it is to fit all of the pieces of this experience that we are in together. But I've noticed lately that there is certain kinds of information about COVID related protocols that are maybe getting a little less decentralized. I know that I really loved that Rocket Restart manual because it was this, again, one-stop shopping place where I could go and remind myself because it was there in writing. I could remind myself what to do like, if I have a dry cough -- what do I do next? What are my steps? What do I call first? Where am I supposed to go etc.? So when MarCom took that off the Provost site, and kind of buried it under the signage page, I got so stressed out. And I've noticed there are a couple of other policies that came out recently in unexpected places, like I think our most recent travel policy came out in UT news and now it is being linked to on the dashboard. But if there is any way we could keep that restart manual or even just a website that says, you know, the way the first Rocket Restart had it listed when it was updated? I would be very, very grateful because honestly, I am to the point where I am starting to have trouble tracking all of the different things that are coming in and I am so worried that something is going to fall through the cracks, and it is high stakes, right? I want to make sure I can track it.

Vice Provost Thompson: That is very helpful. So for those of you that haven't visited yet, MarCom just pulled down the Rocket Restart page and now it is the Keep the Campus Safe page, and it looks very, very different. So take a look at that. Senator Gregory, if you have ideas for how we can suggest to MarCom how to communicate some of this information, please send those to us. I mean, obviously, we want to make sure that all of you have the tools and the information that you need to push that out to your colleagues and students as well. So thank you.

President Brakel: Right. Senator Garcia-Mata asks where can we report when we see behavior that does not comply with the guidelines? And I think Senator Steven, you may have put a link there. Do you want to try to answer that question?

Vice Provost Thompson: So I think it kind of depends on who it is and what the behavior is. Right? Because if there is a student involved, and I do want to back up for a second and talk about the face covering issue. So one of the things that we've been working on in the Provost Office is getting a revised face covering card that is much smaller in principal. So that is on the Office of the Provost webpage that you can either pass those out to students in the classroom, or you can also pass those out like if you were in the library or somewhere else to someone else -- it doesn't matter if it was a student that is not wearing a face covering. So those are available for you to download, print-off and have available to you. If it is a student, you can use the Report a Concern page where you can go and type in the students' information and report them to go through the Office of Student Conduct. And again, through the staff side, that would go through the supervisor of the individual if you knew who the student was, if not, you can go through HR. On the faculty side of the house, if you had a concern about another faculty member, that could either go to the chair or it could also go through Faculty Labor Relations. So there's kind of several different ways that you can report that type of behavior. Good question.

President Brakel: Provost Bjorkman in the chat just put a link there for the reporting, Rocket Care form as it is called. I'm looking. I missed one. Senator Tiwari asks, is there a number that the taskforce is looking at that will trigger panic such as the closure of certain facilities etc.?

Vice Provost Thompson: So there is not a quote unquote "trigger number" per se, because we are working constantly with the Toledo Lucas County Health Department. You know, a lot of those types of issues would be triggered working with them, so there is not a "magic" number per se. One thing though that the president has talked to us about is, you know, if for some reason you were to see some type of spike, that would be something we would try to communicate with versus waiting rapidly, versus waiting,

for example a week for those results to come out. So those are those conversations we have been talking about and we actually talked about that earlier today in one of our meetings.

President Brakel: Let's get some clarification with regard to the number of cases because we've had sixty-one cases the previous week and also this week and we said that was the same. Just to make sure, should that be interpreted as that we have one hundred and twenty-two cases on campus or do we really have sixty-one? Is it an accumulative factor of sixty-one or [is the] sixty-one total new? Do you understand what I am asking?

Vice Provost Thompson: Okay, I am getting really excited right now, I get to talk about public health. So this is kind of the issue. So you have sixty-one in week one and sixty-one in week two, so cumulatively, you have one hundred and twenty-two cases. But once again kind of challenging about this and if you look at other national dashboards, they use this number call recovered. And what is really hard to know about this is, first of all, some people test positive or asymptomatic, so how do you categorize somebody that's recovered who is, for example asymptomatic? The other thing is, everybody has sometimes different variables of what recovered is. So out of that hundred and twenty-two, for example, how do you designate who are recovered? Right? So there is not really a great way to do that. So, you know, I can use the example that we have people living in isolation who, when you test positive, you have ten days that you are in isolation, assuming on the tenth day that you have no symptoms and no fever. Right? So technically that person coming out of isolation would be 'recovered.' So we have people coming in and out all the time of those types of situations. So, again, how do you define that? There's not really a fantastic way to do that, but you can say accumulatively, we have those numbers. But how many 'active' cases? We had sixty-one new cases last week. Does that make sense?

President Brakel: Right. Senator Steven says, although you don't have a percentage for all data on the dashboard, can the percentage of the random tests that are positive be given?

Vice Provost Thompson: Yeah, that is something we can absolutely talk to MarCom about and we can take forward to them.

President Brakel: President-Elect Bigioni, you put a comment in. Would you address that? Please.

Senator Bigioni: Which one, the first or the second?

President Brakel: The first one.

Senator Bigioni: I just wanted to say Vice Provost Thompson, the description that you gave with regard to the complexities of the data set was incredibly enlightening, and it would be great if there would be some way of translating that to the dashboard because I think that is sort of information that a lot of faculty are craving. They want a better overall picture of what is going on than the roll up numbers so far. And I understand the dashboard is still new and it is developing, but right now it is leaving a lot of questions. So that was the nature of my comment, is somehow getting your brain inside the dashboard that we can all tap into it. So, that is all.

Vice Provost Thompson: Sure. Thanks, Senator Bigioni, I appreciate that.

President Brakel: Senator Ratnam asks how many days should one self-quarantine when a person tests positive, symptomatic vs. asymptomatic?

Vice Provost Thompson: So they are the same actually. So there's two important kind of numbers for everybody to keep in mind. The first is an exposure. This is some of the information that we sent out last

week. So, if you are around somebody less than six feet for fifteen minutes or more, whether it is mask or no mask, and you are designated as a close contact, you will be asked to isolate for fourteen days. It does not matter if you get a COVID test or not, it doesn't matter, you will be asked to isolate for fourteen days. Now, the other situation is, let's say you develop symptoms that are congruent with COVID, so you will count from that day, ten days forward and when you are getting close to that tenth day, we're looking to make sure that you are becoming symptom free and that you have not had within 24 hours any fever and that you are not using any fever reducers. So those are the numbers that we're using both for symptomatic. Then for asymptomatic, because you are not having symptom onset, where we start day one is when the test was collected and so we go from, not when you get your results, but we go from when the sample was collected and go ten days forward. Does that make sense to everybody? So, fourteen days if you are exposed and ten days if you either have COVID symptoms, or if you are asymptomatic and you tested.

President Brakel: Senator Krantz asks can the contact tracers be used for follow-up information to interpret the recovered category?

Vice Provost Thompson: That is something we can certainly talk about. I'm just going to be honest with you. Right now everybody is, I mean, the county is overloaded right now. I mean, when you think about the fact that when we first started a person might have three or four contacts. Now it is not uncommon for a person to have twenty contacts, twenty-five, or thirty contacts. That is an enormous amount of time. We started out with five contact tracers, and we already have ten contact tracers. So I think we just have to also keep in mind that the volume of hours that we're doing on this is already pretty intense. So if there is something we can work towards, I am all for it, but right we are just trying to support isolating people and getting a hold of them. The other thing I would love to tell you is that people want to necessarily share all their information of who they have come into contact with, and some people not so much, and that makes the job a little harder sometimes; there's some real obstacles to that.

President Brakel: Right. Senator Heberle, you put a couple things here in the chat and I'm wondering did you get your questions answered.

Senator Heberle: Those were not questions; they were just comments about how helpful, what Dr. Thompson said about the fact that the dashboard is not cumulative in terms of the numbers, but that might also be clarified on the dashboard because otherwise the people are thinking we have one hundred and twenty-two cases, you know, point blank, then people might be really wondering what is going on. Thank you.

Vice Provost Thompson: Can I just answer a question that I think is really important?

President Brakel: Sure.

Vice Provost Thompson: So, one of the things that we've went round and round with the health department, and it's changed several times is this question, and I see Dr. Duggan is on the call and she should be answering these questions since she is an infectious disease doctor, is this issue of exposure. So you know, there are lots of things that define an exposure. Right? So even if you're wearing a mask or not wearing a mask, it depends on the environment. So if you are an individual who is actively coughing, for example even though you're wearing a mask, there are certain things that could trigger an exposure independent or not whether or not you're wearing a mask. I just want to be clear about that. But the Health Department and as well as the CDC has been using the definition of 'fifteen or more minutes at less than six feet,' and that has been defined as exposure. But again, some of this comes into question, what happens if you are, for example two hours in an area, but maybe you were seven feet away from

somebody? So there's lots of 'gray' areas that is not always easy to define what an exposure is sometimes.

President Brakel: Right. And so I think that takes care of Senator Gregory's question that she put in the chat. Senator Lecka-Czernik says, can we track how many of sick individuals do we have?

Vice Provost Thompson: Do you mean residents on campus?

Senator Lecka-Czernik: I think I was not clear with this question. I mean, the symptomatic individuals will be actually those who are developing the disease, yes? I think I know what you are going to say, so then forget about this question. Because I know we are actually talking about a positive, but we are actually talking how it is very daily...but I see on the dashboard that you are actually listing symptomatic.

Vice Provost Thompson: Yes, we do.

Senator Lecka-Czernik: So I think this is taking care of my question.

Vice Provost Thompson: Thank you.

President Brakel: Senator Lawrence asked a question and it was answered by the Provost in the chat, in terms of UT community response news about cases. Are we seeing students deciding to move out of the dorms, drop enrollment because of their concerns? The Provost answered that question – 'yes, there has been some of that near the start of the semester, but it ramped down a bit. Students are not having enough face to face, so it is a mixed the bag.' I don't know, Provost Bjorkman if you want to say anything more.

Provost Bjorkman: No. We are trying to monitor this and obviously students just like faculty and staff have also concerns as do their parents. Some have moved out. We've given a lot of exemptions to the first and second year on-campus living requirement because of these concerns. I think we did have some students who found that, although they originally thought they had three or four face to face classes they suddenly ended up having one or only one day a week. So there were some students who then decided, and parents who decided that they didn't want to be living on campus and so they moved out. Other students have been complaining because they don't have enough face to face classes and so yes, it is a mixed bag. Different people have different levels of comfort or discomfort and we are trying to work with everybody as best as we can. Thank you.

President Brakel: Right. Thank you. Senator Anderson asks, would looking at blood oxygen level be a good thing to check for COVID-19?

Vice Provost Thompson: Yeah, I have not seen that as a community strengthening protocol. If Dr. Duggan wants to jump in, she can, but, I have not seen that used on college campuses, or in the community.

President Brakel: Senator Duhon says the newly revised card in the...had mentioned handing them out in the library as well as in the classroom. As worded, are they just as appropriate to handing them to an anonymous student in the library as they would be to a known student in a classroom since consequences are stated in the Office of Student Conduct?

Vice Provost Thompson: Yeah, I mean, I don't know Provost Bjorkman, what do you think? I mean, I think they can be appropriate for either of those examples.

Provost Bjorkman: So, we actually did redesign them because we realized that otherwise, as they were originally designed we would have to have three or four different versions of them, and so we tried to

consolidate it into a common card that could be used whether it is for students, faculty, staff or visitors. That way, we don't carry around three or four different versions. We also redesigned it a little smaller so they would fit into the people's pockets.

President Brakel: Alright, that is all the questions I see in the chat right now. I think there was one that I received via email, and that is, has the Provost Office sent out to students the directive to report the COVID positive status to Student Affairs? A faculty member states that they do not understand that this is to begin to contact tracing and also [the individual] fears that faculty do not understand the need for them to report to the Provost Office COVID positive cases. Their fear is that people will fall between the cracks.

Vice Provost Thompson: I understand that. Maybe we need to do a better job communicating. I noticed that was on the very front page I believe of the new redesigned website. I know that was also in the Rocket Restart manual and it is also still on the new page where it got the contact people, where it says, please self-disclose this. So, you know, any ideas you all have to help us kind of get the word out, I would really appreciate that. The other thing I could really use your help is to help spread the word about our app, Campus Clear. If you have not downloaded that, I would really appreciate it. We need everybody to download that. Every day it reminds you to just kind of self-check your symptoms prior to coming to campus and again, this is anonymously, but we can at least monitor. This is one of our indicators, right? So, it helps us kind of monitor the level of symptoms that might be occurring on campus. And so, when you talk about President Brakel, where is kind of our red light, yellow light, green light, that app can help us kind of see where we're at with that. But we need as many people to do it on a daily basis as possible. So, if you can announce it in your classes, ask your students have they downloaded it? That would be a huge help to us.

President Brakel: Thank you. Any other questions? Okay, I am not hearing any at this moment in time. I'm double checking to see if there is anything that I missed. Vice President McKether is not on and I am double checking that. Hang on for just a moment. I am resending the invite to him just in case something happened.

So thank you, Dr. Thompson and Provost Bjorkman for bringing us back up to speed on the COVID related issues there. We look forward to continuing this conversation and hopefully, eventually we will get passed this hurdle.

Vice Provost Thompson: So thank you for all your great work. You guys are doing a great job, and I appreciate it. I want to keep this dialogue open, so please let me know if there's anything else that we can do for you.

President Brakel: Thank you.

Provost Bjorkman: I want to second that. And I also just want to say thanks to everyone who participated in helping us think through this. This is an unprecedented thing that none of us have ever been through before. So, everything is kind of a new thing, and we appreciate the feedback and it helps us to do better. So thanks.

President Brakel: Right, and thank you. Okay, did Vice President McKether get on? Hopefully, he can, and so we will skip that issue for the moment. We will move right now to the resolution on racism. So, as I mentioned in the chat, in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee report, I was asked this summer if Senate was going to release a statement regarding the events that were occurring this summer. And again, I didn't feel like I wanted to get out in front of Senate too far without having their input. Also, we had

said that our summer meetings were going to be really focused on the budget and back to school issues, which is why I did not bring it up at our summer meetings. So, drafted this, the Executive Committee vetted it, and we have this resolution that I'll read right now:

Faculty Senate Resolution on Racism and Equity

Whereas recent excessive use of force by some members of law enforcement and other individuals, particularly in communities of color across the United States has led to critical discussions on racism and protests across the globe, and

Whereas disparities in access to health care for minority communities have been manifested in the current COVID-19 crisis, and

Whereas, the lack of access to technology for the pursuit of a student's education has further revealed structural inequities in rural America and among those in precarious economic conditions, and

Whereas the University of Toledo leadership has made public statements and held public forums that support diversity, equity and the elimination of racism, and

Whereas the University of Toledo values diversity and has strategic plans to enhance diversity,

Be it resolved that the University of Toledo Faculty Senate supports the university's efforts in promoting diversity, equity and the elimination of racism and,

Be it further resolved that the University of Toledo Faculty Senate commits to the work of racial justice and equity in our roles of teaching, research and service. We will examine whether and how our personal privilege and position perpetuate systemic inequities and will endeavor to address issues of racism and equity that are impacting our colleagues, students, community, and society at large.

President Brakel cont'd: So that is the resolution that we're putting before you, and we need to entertain a motion to get this on the floor for discussion.

Senator Barnes: So move.

Senator Smith: Second.

President Brakel: Thank you. Now it is open up for discussion.

Senator El-Zawahry: I like it. The only thing I would ask is about some members of law enforcement, can we have some members of the community without pointing our fingers to any group?

Senator Heberle: I would like to respond to that because we did talk about it in the Executive Committee meeting. The discussions that we are referring to about racism in protest across the globe, the critical discussions were not raised because any individuals were committing violence against any other individuals, it is in part because the agents of state law enforcement are using force, excessive force against people in communities of color. So this specifying of law enforcement is crucial, because that is really what is driving, not causing, but driving or perpetuating the protest over and over and over again since forever, but in particular for the last ten years. So I would argue, it is very important. We're not picking on anybody, but members of law enforcement must be held to a higher standard than anyone else in term of their decisions and process of using force. So that is why law enforcement is in there, otherwise, we would not be responding to what the protests are primarily about.

President Brakel: And the reason we also used this language, we recognize that the individuals that are doing this are a very, very small number.

Senator El-Zawahry: I agree with what you guys are saying ,but the way I see it is also that law enforcement have been exposed to a lot of problems and harassment and violence against them and it stem also from everybody in the community, so why are we starting to work one side over the other? This is my point of view, but I respect your point.

President Brakel: Others?

Senator Anderson: This is Senator Anderson. We possibly might replace members of law enforcement by members in authority because I think our president could also be thrown in that category. Technically, he is supposed to be the lead law enforcer, so possibly [altering the language to] members in authority.

President Brakel: One of the things that was a concern is making sure that this was a statement that was more a-political as possible.

Senator Heberle: Well, as a member of the Executive Committee, I would also respectfully say that it is going to be political no matter what. But the idea of an elected person – law enforcement there are elected persons and not elected persons, so it might be thought about in terms of the distinction between those who are elected by the public and those who are working for as law enforcement. So that is one way of thinking about it. I certainly don't disagree with the sentiment that you're suggesting. But again, it really is police violence in communities that are being protested and that is what initiated the protests and so I just don't feel like we're actually responding to what the protests are about, unless we get specific like this.

Senator Ratnam: I agree, even if we have to mention or say certain members of the law enforcement. I mean, this whole protest is due to police violence. So saying just 'community' doesn't tell us anything. I think if you're trying to address what is going on, I think we have to include law enforcement. At least, that is my opinion.

President Brakel: Other thoughts?

Senator Stepkowski: Nobody likes it when law enforcement communities are exposed to violence.

President Brakel: Any other thoughts on this? Alright, so I've heard some recommendations, but no real substantial parliamentary things there at this moment. Am I incorrect?

Senator Zietlow: President Brakel, this is Senator Zietlow. I just wanted to say that I fully support this statement and I really like the fact that it speaks to both concerns about today, including violence of law enforcement, but also the district of the COVID prices, the racially disparate impact. To me, I think it is great. It is very well written. It is very straightforward and succinct, and I applaud the members of the Executive Committee for coming up with this. Thank you.

President Brakel: Thank you. So, call the question. Hearing no real agreement about the changes right now, we have a motion on the floor to approve this resolution. If you are so inclined put 'yes' in the chat box, 'n' for no and 'a' for abstain. It looks like that has passed. Thank you. *Resolution Passed.*

Did Dr. McKether make it on? So that brings us next to the Ohio Faculty Council representative. When we voted on this two weeks ago, I thought I had made it clear while the representative is the representative to the Ohio Faculty Council, and they had meetings once or twice a month. Right now it will be via Zoom. This member is a member of the Executive Committee and I really didn't [may not have] made that clear. Senator Gregory, I don't know if you are still on and if you want to speak.

Senator Gregory: I am still here, President Brakel. You probably did make it clear and I just didn't hear it. I'm sorry about that.

President Brakel: So Senator Gregory had a concern about being able to continue as the Ohio Faculty Council Rep. and also be on the Executive Committee with the various duties there as well. That said, one thing I probably should've also said, right now the Ohio Faculty Council meets on a Friday and that is

typically when this Executive Committee meets, so sometimes the representative will have to miss the Executive Committee meetings. So I need to bring this back because officially Senator Gregory, if I am not mistaken, you informed me that you are resigning from that position. Correct?

Senator Gregory: I would very much love to. I actually have a standing meeting on Friday afternoons that kind of interferes with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and I guess it also interferes with the Council meetings. I'm so sorry. I agreed because it didn't seem like anything to it at the time. I thought, I thought sure I can absorb a two hour meeting once a month, but it looks like I can't fit it in.

President Brakel: Right. And so with that, we need to find another representative to the Ohio Faculty Council representative.

Senator Gregory: I do have someone to nominate who said they will be willing to accept the nomination, Senator Ally Day. So that is one nomination put on the floor.

President Brakel: Senator Day, do you accept the nomination?

Senator Day: Sure.

President Brakel: Okay. Are there any other nominations? Did I hear somebody speaking? No. Okay. Hearing none. It looks like we have one person being the nominee for that position for this year. We will vote 'yes' in the chat. Okay, that looks like that has *carried*. Thank you.

Dr. McKether, did you make it on? Okay, I am going to take the fall for that one with the confusion yesterday; I apologize for sending out multiple web invites. I did have a little problem with my mouse changing things yesterday, but hopefully we got that corrected. So, I will take the issue with that. Are there any items from the floor that we need to address?

Senator Heberle: President Brakel, this is not necessarily an item to address. In fact, because I'm kind of new at all of this I am not sure how I am going to address this. Can I just take a second to make an announcement? I guess that is what I am doing.

President Brakel: Yes, announcements are okay.

Senator Heberle: Super. Well, I've been tuning into meetings from a coalition recently organized at the beginning of summer called Save Ohio Higher Education. It is a little hard to say, but it is SOHE. It is a coalition of faculty who are AAUP representatives from campuses of student organizations of individuals interested in sort of a larger picture, and sort of drawing our gaze back from the immediate prices of the day and trying to think about how all kinds of things are coming together and being made more clear by COVID crisis, etc. etc. So that all sounds very grandiose, but basically it is a number of people who were coming together across the state to try to start joining forces more across the institutions of higher ed. So we have scheduled a number of, I would say we, but I'm kind of tuning in, I am not an official representative of anybody in terms of this organization and many of the other members are not either. But the coalition is organizing in coordination with student organizations on different campuses. We just had a meeting with the Ohio Student Association, OSA, which is a lobbying advocacy organization that initially had paid organizers to setup across the state. We are setting up a number of forms. One of them is happening really quickly this Friday, and it is titled 'Where Does the Tuition Go?' It is being driven by students who are concerned, again, not just with the COVID crises, but sort of how the prices of funding has become this ongoing constant sort of refrain in the context of higher ed. and why tuition keep going up etc. The next forum will be on faculty governance, and I am helping more and organizing that one. That would be on the first Friday of October. So that faculty governance one will be a kind of one on one

for anyone who is interested in revisiting or visiting for the first time the AAUP red book: the differences with the AAUP chapters and unions do, ways in which faculty governance has become more like a line of communication between faculty administration rather than an actual force for change or policy or what faculty have become and how it sort of shifted or drifted from its original understanding and AAUP documents. So that forum is going to be on the 1st of October. I thought I would put it in the chat here, if it is appropriate, the announcements. And then, once I sort of clean up the information I have, perhaps the Senate can send it out. And again, I am not sure what the protocol is here, send it out to senators and you can communicate with your constituents about it. Because part of our goal is to help faculty understand more generally about what the differences amongst senates are, what faculty governance is about, putting it in a historical perspective etc. across the state so that then students and faculty together can be more involved in save higher education in Ohio, which we feel is pretty threatened these days. So, that is all I have to say right now. I am going to try to figure out how to put this in the chat. But if anybody has any questions, you are more than welcome to communication with me personally, or communicate with anyone else who is involved in this on campus. Again, it is 'Save Ohio Higher Education.' You can communicate with me personally, because I would love to get more people involved. I've been trying to reach out to students to get them more aware of what is going on across the state etc. That is what I have to say, and if it is okay, I'll put the information in the chat.

President Brakel: I want to be careful with that because I am not sure how many faculty are still involved with that vs. the Union. We want to make sure that we keep that separate. But you could Google, Save Ohio Higher Education and you will find that site. I know the Ohio Faculty Council has had some discussions facing this as well.

Senator Heberle: This is certainly not an endorsement. I am not asking for any action here.

President Brakel: Right. Okay. Are there any other items from the floor? Hearing none, I will entertain a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5: 20 P.M.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Nigem
Faculty Senate Executive Secretary

Tape summary: Quinetta Hubbard
Faculty Senate Administrative Secretary