



To: President Bigioni, Gary Insch, Members of Faculty Senate

From: Deborah Coulter-Harris, Committee Chair

Date: 1 February, 2022

Subject: Report: Faculty Senate Committee on Student Affairs - Recent Activities and Plans

### 1. Prior activities:

- The **subcommittee on underserved student communities at UT met with the Muslim Student Association (MSA)** on December 10, 2022. Although members of the MSA stated they had not experienced racism or conscious or unconscious bias against them, **the most critical issue for the Muslim Student Association (MSA) is that EID, the most important holiday after Ramadan for Muslims, falls on May 2 and 3, the very dates of Spring semester, 2022, final exams.** As EID is as important as Christmas is to Christians, they want to be able to take their exams that are scheduled for these dates on an alternative day of exam week. This will require communicating to all faculty regarding this issue to ensure Muslim students are accommodated without prejudice.
- **I attended the recent panel discussion on Antisemitism that was held via webex on Thursday, 27 January, 2022.** UT student panelists included members of University of Toledo Hillel. One member stated that faculty who ask her about providing comments and opinions regarding the holocaust made her uncomfortable. Hillel members also expressed that some faculty are not always agreeable to Jewish students' absence from class during Jewish holidays; these holidays sometimes fall on assignment due dates and exams. As there are two disparate religious groups with the same concerns, Dr. Shery Milz suggested that these holidays be added to the Academic Calendar and to faculty syllabi.

### 2. Upcoming Committee Plans:

- We mentioned planning a meet and greet with members of the UTSG if COVID rules relax. UTSG elections are held in April, so we will have to nix a meet and greet with both current and future SG leaders. We still would like to have a pizza party a week or two after Spring break, and we agreed to invite current SG leaders as well as the leaders of the groups listed in the chart below. **I will ask President Bigioni if Faculty Senate has funds for such an event??** If COVID goes away, and we can fund the agreed upon pizza party, and locate a room in Student Union, this will be a wonderful event.

### 3. Committee Meeting held 28 January, 2022.

- We also discussed the need to check on the progress of upcoming reports and to **firm up the dates of report submissions** that will be sent to UTSG Leaders and to the Faculty Senate for our sub-committees on Mental Health and on Underserved Communities and Racism.

#### Teams and Issues Note:

Issues	Team Members	Appropriate Contacts	Date of Completion
Fall 1.	1. Karen Green 2. Deborah Coulter-Harris	N/A Completed but monitoring	7 November – 2 December, 2021
Fall 2.	1. Sally Harmych 2. Sarah Aldrich <b>KUDOS!!</b>	N/A Completed	7 November – 2 December
Spring 3.	1. Carolyn Lee 2. Lucy Duhon	Already in progress. UTSG concerns regarding mental health issues.	Firm date for delivery? Memorandum for Record (8)
Spring 4.	1. Mohamad Samir Hefzy 2. Shery Milz 3 Berhane Teclehaimanot.	<i>MSA already contacted.</i> The Sub-committee on Underserved Communities and Racism need to plan a Webex or Zoom meeting to meet with the following communities: <i>-Black Student Union (BSU);</i> <i>-Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA)(LGBTQ);</i> <i>-Latino Student Union (LSU);</i> <i>-University of Toledo Hillel.</i>	Memorandum for Record (9)