

## **Staff Advisory Committee**

### **March 29, 2018**

**Members Present:** Sherri Allen, Elizabeth Clemons, Barbara Fenlon, Jerry Keeton (Chair), Toni Nelson, Alan Robbins

**Others Present:** Leslie Crickenberger (Resource Person) Phil Oldham, Logan McCormick

**Agenda Items:** Chairman Keeton called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the President's Conference Room. Minutes from the January 11, 2018 meeting were distributed in advance. Chairman Keeton asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Barbara Fenlon made the motion and Elizabeth Clemons seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Keeton asked President Oldham for comments. President Oldham updated the committee on the campus improvements and building renovations. He stated there were at least 7 different construction fences up around campus indicating many projects are successfully underway. He indicated the projects are close to the 160 million dollar mark, which could be the highest simultaneous dollar amount dedicated to campus improvements and renovations to date, certainly the largest scope in regards to projects since the 60's.

President Oldham added that the legislative session is wrapping up and will have more on the FY 2019 budget soon as Dr. Stinson and her team are currently working its finalization. Tennessee Tech was at the top of the LGI (Locally Governed Schools) according to the legislature. The assembly will award the university around \$3 million. President Oldham also stated students will see a 2.6 % tuition increase effective in the fall semester. This would be the lowest percentage increase in 10-15 years. TTU is rapidly approaching a stable area in regards to tuition increases.

President Oldham updated the group on a projected 2.5 % pay increase to be distributed in conjunction with the yearly performance evaluations. This increase is a historical first, in that this is the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of salary increases for employees.

President Oldham asked the committee if they had questions or concerns they would like to discuss. Barbara Fenlon asked if someone who is on a PIP (Performance Improvement Plan) would be eligible for the pay increases. Dr. Crickenberger replied no, stating those who are on an active PIP are not eligible for pay increases. Very few employees would be affected, as there are usually only 3 to 5 active PIPs across the university.

Sherri Allen raised a concern regarding accessible parking. She has become aware of campus police now ticketing employees who have parking tags, yet park in visitor spaces. She indicated there were some inconsistencies between Policy 415 approved by the Board of Trustees and the policy posed on the campus police website. She asked for clarification as this concern directly affects her current parking situation. Elizabeth Clemens advised there are two divisions of the university police department; parking and enforcement. She advised Chief Nelson places high priority on addressing issues raised by all university patrons. Leslie Crickenberger also advised Libby Gays would be able to assist if an accommodation is needed due to a permanent restriction and offered to have Libby reach out to Sherri to address her questions.

Barbara Fenlon commented she has received feedback from the community on parking availability on campus. She indicated others in the community have expressed concern that it appears TTU does not care if community members visit the campus due to such limited visitor parking. President Oldham expressed TTU is a very supportive community partner. The university's priority with parking on campus is for students, faculty and staff first. If community representatives are coming to campus, the departments hosting those representatives are able to issue parking permits for those visits and coordinate parking requests with University Police. President Oldham advised our parking situation is typical of most university environments. The new west Willow Ave. lot is rarely ever full. President Oldham advised his walk from the Willow lot to campus took a short 8 min. Dr. Crickenberger advised parking complaints from faculty and staff have also decreased significantly. Elizabeth Clemens advised fewer cars are being towed for illegal parking as well. President Oldham advised more and more people are walking or biking to campus.

Jerry Keeton advised the multipurpose room in the University Center is nearing completion. The old stage has been removed and the room can now be bisected into two smaller rooms allowing for a more diverse variety of activities. The room is scheduled to be on line in 6 weeks and the University Center renovations will be nearing completion in September of this year. President Oldham advised the University Center will have around 20,000 square foot of additional student lounge and common area space, including a floating walkway from Centennial Plaza to the second floor of the new expansion. New green space will also be added between the Library and UC.

Toni Nelson advised she has noticed more and more bike, skateboard and motorized board traffic on campus. She asked if there could be a rules of the road communication to the students to remind them of how to operate those means of transportation. Elizabeth Clemens advised Chief Nelson addresses transportation along with pedestrian safety in each new student orientation session. President Oldham advised the university master plan will include more bike lanes and mega walkways in the future to encourage safe travel across campus.

Jerry Keeton advised the campus SOLO concert is Tuesday, April 03 with Judah & the Lion. Students may still pick up tickets. Ticket sales have also opened up to the public for the event.

There being no further questions or comments, Toni Nelson moved to adjourn and Sherri Arnold seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Logan McCormick, Recorder