

new Engineering Building is #1 on the list. TTU has met our obligation with match funds and the planning is proceeding. If the funds are appropriated, money should be available on July 1 and we will break ground shortly thereafter. In terms of capital maintenance, there are big needs but also reasons to be hopeful. The university continues to do a good job in that regard.

Tech After Dark: This program was held on Thursday and there were approximately 84 students in attendance. This is more than double previous attendance. The event is for recruiting local students. On Saturday the college of Agriculture and Human Ecology will be hosting another of recruiting event with around 30 students. They have been doing a good job with these events and President Oldham encouraged them to continue.

Campus Improvements: The new patio is complete and includes a fire pit. There is more work being done on Centennial Plaza including the installation of a water feature. The new Science Building is nearing completion. They have started with the work on the external grounds. Work is scheduled to start next summer on the pedestrian mall that will be replacing a part of Peachtree Avenue.

At this time the President opened the floor for questions from the senate.

Question: There are concerns with the enrollment numbers in math classes this spring. It seems like a mass exodus from these classes. Is this across campus?

Response: It does not appear to be a systemic trend across campus. We are anticipating a drop in enrollment due to the continuing issues with COVID-19, but the exact affect is not yet determined.

Response from Senator Null: There has only been one request to drop UNIV 1020 and a few to drop English. This seems to be low.

Question: Will COVID-19 affect giving? There are a lot of disruptions now affecting athletes, schedules, and advising. How might these disruptions impact enrollment?

Athletes have academic progression requirements, so that will keep things in that area on track. Lee Wray says he has had discussions with Mark Wilson who indicated that student athletes must maintain 15 credit hours per semester therefore they will have to work out something to remain eligible to compete. President Oldham said the students who are struggling the most are those who need more handling. Hopefully as this continues they will get better at dealing with the unusual circumstances. He would like the faculty to assist as they can with more personal attention and be more aware of the issues and take appropriate measures. As for fund raising, there has been no negative impact, and in fact it may be a positive impact. There are a lot of dollars out there and donors are finding this a good time to make gifts.

Question: Will there still be the TSSAA tournament on campus? Will they be using the locker rooms at the Wellness Center like in the past?

Response: Lee Wray indicated that they are very aware of the concerns and taking significant precaution with regards to social distancing. As far as tailgating
Also, no direct answer about using the facilities at the Wellness Center. The athletes will be COVID tested before they are allowed to come to town for the competition.

Response from Senator Laningham: Thank you for waiving the online fees for the spring semester. This was the moral thing to do and we are glad that it is going to be implemented.

Response from President Oldham: It should be working correctly now. It was the intent for that to occur in the fall. The only courses that will be charged the online fees are those that are traditionally taught in an online format. This is mainly a few graduate programs and the e-

Senate President Stretz: In the meetings with the chairs, we have been discussing the issues with the summer schedule. There are concerns about the overlap of dates between summer and the other semesters.

Response from President Oldham: There have already been some adjustments. Now the fall 2021 semester will start on Thursday 8/19 (this is accommodating the holiday days for Thanksgiving) with Commencement on 12/18. Lee Wray said that the Provost plans to bring the calendar to the senate once there is a final decision. President Oldham said that the spring 2022 semester will begin on 1/10, this will be a 3- or 4-week break, with Commencement on 5/6.

Senate President Stretz discussed the questions that faculty are having about required student attendance in class. We were asked not to penalize students for not attending lectures live, but this seems to be leading to students not attending at all and this will surely impact success. What are your thoughts on requiring attendance?

Response from President Oldham: I am not a fan of requiring attendance. To my knowledge our case count is low and there has been no spread traced to class attendance. The indications are that any spread on campus goes back to social interactions among students and living arrangements.

Response from Senate President Stretz: The students are not showing a strong discipline to the current situation and seem to be edging away from classes.

Question: One of the current goals is diversity on campus. Students are talking about it. What steps are being taken? Where are we on making progress?

Response from President Oldham: There is a lot of work happening, including structural changes. Progress is being made. We are currently working to hire a recruiter who will focus on underrepresented populations. We are also working on restructuring the diversity officers on campus. They are meeting with students on campus. I hope to see the numbers start to improve, but recruiting is very difficult right now. We are not getting the data that we usually get from the ACT testing. We want to send out recruiters, but many of the schools are not allowing guests due to the challenging environment. However, we are continuing to push for that.

Question: The event this Friday, what is that?

Response from Lee Wray: That is a Race to Tech event.

Response from President Oldham: We did a lot of work for the Preview Days. There was a task force that made recommendations. There is also the network of Diversity Champions. These are faculty or staff from each division/unit/department, creating a cross-cutting initiative. We are also planning to have a Chief Diversity Officer. We are making good progress.

include the need for students to work in order to remain in school. Adjunct pay is extremely low, almost like they are donating their time. It is discouraging to faculty to not have actual bodies in the classroom. I think we need to do what is best to promote success.

Response from President Oldham: I have not heard many complaints. There is always more to conclusions. My plan is to get a complain into the hands of the people who are better equipped to evaluate the full situation and assess responsibility. As far as the diversity of the senate, I agree. This is why we need the diversity champions. We often miss the problems because there is no one focused on the issues. There are other things that we can do. I encourage you all to emphasize diversity during the hiring of new faculty.

Question: I really appreciate this discussion. We recently hired a deaf faculty. When I look at the reports from other schools, they are reporting the num reporting this?

Response from President Oldham: I have not seen that. The estimate is about 4 to 1 in quarantine versus active cases. We have about 40 to 60 active cases therefore the number in quarantine is in the

Question: What can you tell us about the decision made to come back to school after Thanksgiving?

Response from President Oldham: There was a lot of discussion about the fall calendar. The

Response from President Oldham: I do not know for sure.

Another Senator indicated that their department is currently searching for 2 positions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Approved: November 23, 2020