October 31
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, 2022
Meeting with the President Notes
Via Teams
In attendance: President Maxwell, Secretary Killman, Past-President Luna, President-Elect Allen,
Senators Smith-Andrews, Rand, Null, Liu, SSmith, Manginelli, Lee, Turner, Meadows, Park, Mullen,
Fornehed, Brachey, Upole, Alley, Frye, Rajabali, TSmith, Fennewald, Reames, Burch, Langford, Cravens,
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Spears, Pickering, Hermann-Turner, Shipley, Howard
Guests: President Oldham, Lee Wray, Melissa Geist
Absent: Senators Comer, Duncan, Swartling, Canfield, Weathers, Ding
Call to Order: 3:35pm
President Maxwell called the meeting to order at 3:35pm and welcomed each of the members, the President and chief Ray. She requested that the questions be addressed in order to help with some of
the specifics and additional bullets listed for each.

The issue of trained officers has been around for a while, so we moved to having security officers, which
is a bigger distinction, but they can lock and unlock doors, do basic security checks, etc. We are down to
5 certified police officers, potentially 7 with the new hires. It is not where we want to be.

Question:
We have been losing officers since before the summer. Why was this group not prioritized last summer
long before individuals got these really large raises͍tŚǇǁŽƵůĚŶ͛ƚƚŚĞƐĂĨĞƚǇŽĨƚŚĞƵŶŝǀĞƌƐŝƚǇŶŽƚďĞĂ
priority if there are tens of thousands of dollars to be given in raises?

Answer:
Safety is my top priority. ĂŶ͛ƚƐĂǇǁŚǇŝƚǁĂƐŶ͛ƚďƌŽƵŐŚƚƵƉĞĂƌůŝĞƌ͘ŽŶ͛ƚƌĞĂůůǇŬŶŽǁ͘/ŵĂŬĞŝƚclear in
cabinet and budget discussions that campus safety is a top priority. Consistently added additional
resources and addressed a number of concerns.

Comment:
Not suggesting these are decisions that you need to be making. The point is the questions stop at the
level of the CFO.

Response:
WŽůŝĐĞĚŽŶ͛ƚƌĞƉŽƌƚto Dr. Stinson, police report to student affairs.

Topic: Library
Question:
The TTU library funding allocation is the lowest in the state of Tennessee. Faculty Senate has brought
this issue to you for more than four years with no correction. Why do faculty and students at TTU have
less access to resources than faculty and students at all other Tennessee universities? Why should the
TTU community continue to have confidence in the VP of Planning and Finance, Dr. Stinson, when she
continually refuses to prioritize library research allocations?

Answer:
Again, this is a unit that does not report to Dr. Stenson. It reports to academic affairs. Of total E&G
budget, about 2/3 goes to academic affairs. There is plenty of opportunity for academic affairs wanted
to prioritize library resources. In fact, this year they have. Provost Bruce moved about $110,000 into the
materials budget of the library and from the central budgeting with the revised budget we have moved
an additional $150,000 of recurring money. So that brings the recurring materials budget to $260,000
above what it was previously. Provost Bruce is working

These are tuition dollars that are used for international travel. They are E&G budgeted tuition dollars.
It's not indicated when they are collected to be a special fee. There was a commitment made that we
would maintain an appropriate allocation of those funds toward study abroad and it has been honored. We could have rolled it over into study abroad and continued that, but there was no requirement to do
so. Why would we? There was no demand for it at that time.
There was further discussion related to the study abroad funds that ended with President Oldham
sharing that he asked Provost Bruce if there are sufficient funds to satisfy the current demand for study
abroad and received the answer of yes.
Comment: There was this unmet pent-up demand. Why was that not anticipated? We knew there were going to be
students who didn't get to do trips that wanted them. Seems to me that it would have been prudent to

Comment: The theme that's happening and the heart of why we're talking about this vote of no confidence is that
there's leftover money, right? And in some cases, it's leftover because of the raise pool. I sat in every
cabinet

The board has looked at all this as well. And the board has let me know that they support the decisions
that were made. Individual board members may feel differently, but as a unit, the board supported the
actions taken.

Question:
It seems with the money available for the library that there is an attempt to try to make an equitable
decision about how the money will be spent. You have a committee, right, that you mentioned?

Answer:
Provost Bruce is arranging one, yes.

Comment:
Trustee Alcott ƐŚĂƌĞĚŝŶƐŝŐŚƚĨƌŽŵƚŚĞƌĞĐĞŶƚďŽĂƌĚŵĞĞƚŝŶŐĂŶĚŚŝƐĚŝƐŵĂǇǁŝƚŚsWsĞƚƚĞƌ͛ƐĂŶƐǁĞƌƐ
related to raises at various levels of employment. Oversight is the board. The President works for us,
the Vice-President works for the President, AVP Vetter works for Dr. Stinson which is potentially a
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big raise like some. The faculty are talking about staff raises, not faculty raises. We are not saying WE
ĚŝĚŶ͛ƚŐĞt enough. We wonder where the magic money is ʹ ǁŚĞŶŵŽŶĞǇƐƵĚĚĞŶůǇĂƉƉĞĂƌƐ͕ŝƚ͛ƐĐŽŵŝŶŐ
from someplace. The finance director and HR are together and we all need to know who has what and
what money is available.
Frankly, I'm going to be suspicious when a hire is held up. I think that money which was budgeted for
the year, that money disappears into that place where we can make up money.

Comment:
I would like to stipulate that the Tennessee Tech University Faculty Senate does not disagree that it is
important that we maintain our state mandated fiscal reserves and that we do not have negative audit
findings. What we are suggesting is that those are not the criteria whereby we evaluate the CFO.

Response:
I didn't say that that's my evaluation criteria for Dr. Stenson. No more than my evaluation criteria of
Provost Bruce would be whether we have SACS accreditation or not. The question you guys were posing
is different than evaluation͕ŝƚ͛Ɛ confidence and confidence insinuates integrity and following rules and
doing things appropriately and that's the way I addressed that question.

Comment:
I again suggest that we are not measuring confidence on personal integrity, but budgetary expenditures.

Discussion about confidence and a vote of no confidence continued. President Maxwell made several
points related to the deliberative process of faculty senate and spoke against comments by President
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40 years since thĞƌĞ͛ƐďĞĞŶĂǀŽƚĞŽĨŶŽĐŽŶĨŝĚĞŶĐĞĂƚdĞŶŶĞƐƐĞĞdĞĐŚ and was clear to dispute the
inference that faculty senate would measure confidence on personal characteristics rather facts.

Comment:
Everyone has their own perspective of administration and the philosophy behind it. Look at it from the
perspective of the students. I'm here for the students. If I'm here for the students, I see the students
gaining something from the university. The things that have just been mentioned in this meeting. Police,
safety, library, education, academics research are all relevant. Administrative staff are the people who

are in direct contact with students. The research office is a direct influence on all research that happens,

support. I'm proud that 2/3 of the budget goes to support academic concerns and has direct control within academic affairs.
Question:
Is it in the strategic plan to address the salary inequities across campus? If so, is there a timeline