

Faculty Senate Meeting with the President
November 27, 2023
via TEAMS

Members Present:

Michael Allen, Sean Alley, Megan Atkinson, Teddy Burch, Melissa Comer, Kris Craven, Mark Creter, April Crockett, Andrew Donadio, Dennis Fennewald, Mary Lou Fornehed, Steve Frye, Syed Hasan, Samantha Hutson, Krystal Kennedy, Matthew Langford, Jane Liu, Mark Loftis, Jennifer Mabry, Ann Manginelli, Lori Maxwell, Holly Mills, Wendy Mullen, Michael Natrass, Linda Null, Brian O'Connor, Joseph Ojo, Hyewon Park, Mustafa Rajabali, Richard Rand, Christopher Reames, Steven Seiler, Lee Ann Shipley, Scott Smith, Troy Stiles, Sandi Smith Andrews, Amber Spear, Leslie Suters, Kyle Turner, Hannah Updegraff, Brenda Wilson, Kimberly Winkle

Members Absent:

Steve Canfield, Scott Christen, Yun Ding,

Q: Are companies dropping degree requirements for employment?

A: This may be a somewhat disorganized movement. Not yet a concern for us, but we must extoll the value of earning a degree. We have banded with other institutions in a marketing campaign about four-year degrees (larger salaries, lower unemployment rates, longer life expectancy). It is a question of the value to the employer versus the value to the individual, and though we are concerned and aware, we are not yet worried.

Q: THEC's current role in approving concentrations – why does it have interest?

A: We don't receive approval for new concentrations from THEC, only new programs. Its interest lies in eliminating duplication of effort. Historically, the state did not want excessive duplication of degrees across the state to keep costs down; this did not necessarily apply to Liberal Arts, and this predated LGIs and local boards. It is now an unnecessary bureaucracy.

