

Transparency Advisory Group Minutes September 26, 2019

The Transparency Advisory Group held its third meeting on September 26, 2019 at 4 p.m. in the 8th floor conference room of Andy Holt Tower on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus. Six members of the committee participated via Zoom conference call.

Committee Members Present:

- **Tiffany Carpenter**, UT System, associate vice president for communications and marketing (chair)
- **Sally Badoud**, UT Health Science Center, assistant vice chancellor for communications and marketing
- **Terry Denniston**, UT Chattanooga, chief of staff
- **Lannett Edwards**, UT Institute of Agriculture, professor
- **Edie Gibson**, UT Martin, executive assistant to the chancellor
- **Scott Gordy**, UT Institute for Public Service, information technology manager
- **David Manderscheid**, UT Knoxville, provost
- **John North**, WBIR, senior investigative journalist
- **Tyvi Small**, UT Knoxville, interim Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement
- **Katherine Bolton**, UT Chattanooga, student
- **Carey Whitworth**, UT System, assistant vice president for government relations

Other Attendees:

- Dennis Hengstler, UT System, associate vice president for institutional research
- Ryan Stinnett, UT System, interim general counsel
- Melissa Tindell, UT System, director of communications

Updates Since Last Meeting:

Ms. Carpenter told the group that 18 suggestions have been submitted through the online portal on the transparency website. Of those requests, seven were individuals requesting that the salary database not be added to the site. The group discussed that the data is public information and already requested annually by multiple news outlets and should be included. The most recent salary database will be pulled on October 1 and added to the site. The database will only include base salary and will not include supplemental income.

In addition, the portal has received requests for legislative bills affecting the university, crime statistics and safety policies, which have been added to the site. Additional requests for diversity information will be covered as the data dashboard rolls out over the next year.

Status of Outstanding Items

Dr. Hengstler reported that the System Office of Institutional Research is almost ready to launch the Educational Experience portion of the Transparency Dashboard. Dr. Manderscheid requested that the database launch be held until a change could be made to show the 25-75 percentile averages and possibly adding a statement that says "89% of Tennessee high school

applicants are offered an admissions pathway to UT Knoxville.” Dr. Hengstetler said the change could be made in the next three to four weeks. Ms. Carpenter stated that she would wait until that time to launch the database on the site and announce it publicly.

Secure FOI Portal

Ms. Tindell updated the group on the progress of an FOI portal. After looking at options, the University is in the process of securing a contract with JustFOIA to fulfill the needs for a secure FOI portal. The portal will allow requestors to securely submit proof of residency and eventually pay for records with credit or debit cards online. The portal will also allow the communications office to track incoming requests. The System Office of Communications and Marketing has held informational sessions with campus and institute communicators regarding the portal and hopes to have the System office and Knoxville campus online by end of the year. The other campuses and institutes will come online once the first two portals are created.

Other Items

Ms. Carpenter reminded the group that there would be one more meeting before the group sunsets. Mr. North commended the university’s efforts and suggested we continue to look for more ways to publicly tout the efforts. Ms. Tindell informed the group of previous media surrounding the efforts, including a statewide media release, a President’s Column focused on the initiative, and social posts. She will work on another President’s Column – possibly for November – to talk about what has been done in the first year of the initiative. Mr. Small suggested looking at website analytics to see what information has been the most visited or beneficial. Ms. Carpenter said she would pull that data before the group reconvenes in January.