

## **Message from Melissa Shivers for March 2, 2015 Senate Meeting**

Below is an introductory message from Melissa Shivers who will be speaking at the March 2 meeting about the Lunch Hours Initiative:

*We hope you'll consider participating in "Lunch Hours" - a new initiative from the Dean of Students office designed to create opportunities for students to interact with faculty and staff*

*Beginning in late February, students will be able to invite a faculty or staff member to lunch – free of charge – through "Lunch Hours." The Dean of Students office has partnered with Aramark to provide both the student and UT faculty or staff member this free lunch on several Tuesdays and Fridays throughout the spring semester at either Presidential Court Café or the University Center.*

*We want to make this as easy as possible for faculty members to participate. Students will extend the invitation to you. Of course, you are under no obligation to participate, but we hope you will. If you do, the student will contact the Dean's office to receive lunch passes to be displayed at the dining facilities' pay stations.*

*Our goals for the program are to encourage students to become better acquainted with faculty and staff members they admire; for faculty and staff to take advantage of opportunities to mentor students; and to create the environment for interaction without creating an awkward financial situation.*

*It's important for you to know that this initiative is a response to the 2014 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), in which UT seniors' ranked opportunities for interaction with administrative staff and offices significantly lower than their peers at similar institutions.*

*We hope you'll heartily support "Lunch Hours" so that it becomes and remains a Rocky Top tradition in the years ahead.*

Sincerely,

Melissa S. Shivers, PhD  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Dean of Students