

Faculty Senate Legislative Task Force

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(5 slides)

Charter

The LTF is part of the "Tell Our Story" initiative.

Its charge is to convey to the legislators good work that is going on at UTK in order

1. to improve their understanding of what goes on at UTK
2. to improve their perception of the value of the UTK
3. to establish communication channels so that the positive & negative impacts of pending bills on UTK from the point of view of faculty can be relayed to legislators.

Features of the Legislative Task Force

1. A faculty liaison for each state legislator
2. A student liaison for each state legislator, preferably from their district
3. A good-will trip of a subset of faculty and student liaisons in January, 2019
4. An “Invite your Legislator to Campus” day sometime in spring, 2019

Challenge: 33 State senators & 99 state representatives = 132 faculty & 132 student liaisons

Building Common Ground is a Two Part Process

1. Establish a Common Vision

- Relationship Building
- Training of liaisons: Do's and Don'ts
- Do: Co-experience the process of developing shared goals
- Don't: Don't insist on a pre-formulated common vision
- Listening to someone rant is a valuable journalistic process for gathering information on what is bothering them.

2. Establish a Plan to Achieve that Vision

- Problem Solving
- Explicitly make communication part of the plan

What happens at the beginning of the LTF?

my legislative activities reflect my religious beliefs

Profs are out-of-state crazy liberals who threaten TN heritage

once professors are tenured, they stop working



senator

Legislators & faculty are public servants

UT helps economic development in TN

Both rural and urban TN districts need help from UT

initial common ground



faculty member

Diversity is a crucial element of our society

Tenure is an essential element of a university

Humanities enrich living for all Tennesseans

Develop best practices for first outreach

A data gathering process: Ask legislators three questions.

1. What are three things you like about UT?
2. What are three things you don't like about UT?
3. What do you see as a common vision for UT and the state legislature?

Collate and analyze data. Identify best paths forward.

- Not a heavy lift for any individual liaison.
- Sign up sheets are being circulate.
- Not limited to faculty senators.
- Announce at next departmental faculty meeting.
- Interested faculty members email David Keffer dkeffer@utk.edu