

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

Goal 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.

The first outreach is explicitly not an opportunity to argue with legislators or to push a specific policy.