

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on December 12, 2018

Location: Maxwell School Auditorium

Remarks: University Senate

*The Chancellor was introduced by the Senate Chair, Professor Ramesh Raina*

Good afternoon. There is a full agenda today so my comments will be brief.

Before I begin my remarks, I want to congratulate Teresa Dahlberg for her selection as Provost at Texas Christian University. Teresa has accomplished a great deal for the College of Engineering & Computer Science and for our university. I have no doubt that she will make a similar positive impact at TCU. I thank Can Isik for agreeing to serve as interim dean.

I also want to note that Provost Wheatly will address the two curriculum issues before this body: the path forward on SEM 100 and on Shared Competencies. In the interest of time, I will not duplicate her comments.

The Senate has a resolution on the agenda today on Bursar’s holds. I support the proposed recommendations at the end of the resolution and, if it is passed, will ask the University to work with dispatch to address this issue.

I want to mention two areas of progress on diversity and inclusion. One, the Disability External Review Committee has invited three firms to campus for interviews. After interviews with two of these firms, the committee has decided to provide feedback to them and ask them to respond. The final firm will be selected and announced by the end of January. Two, I have appointed the search committee for the position of Chief Diversity Officer, co-chaired by LaVonda Reed and Dolan Evanovich. I want to thank them and everyone who has agreed to serve.

The US Department of Education has released revised proposed guidelines for how universities must comply with Title IX. Comments are being received until January 28. I have asked the Task Force on Sexual and Relationship Violence, the University’s legal team and the Office of Equal Opportunity, Inclusion and Resolution Services to quickly review these changes and make recommendations to me on how we should move forward as an institution.

Once again, as I have been saying in each of the meetings since last April, I want to remind the Senate that we need to continue our efforts improve the procedures in Section 4.11 of the *Faculty Manual* for responding to complaints of sexual assault and harassment against faculty. We also need to ensure that new faculty we hire have consistently undergone an appropriate background check. I am looking forward to the recommendation that the Committee on Academic Freedom, Tenure and Professional Ethics, in collaboration with the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of Equal Opportunity, Inclusion and Resolution Services, will bring forward to this body this coming semester.

Concluding with a lot of good news:

* Our budget performance is running about $5 million better than we anticipated for the current year.
* Our fundraising performance through November 30 has booked $41,438,747 in new business, with cash in the door of $25,411,449.
* It is still early in the enrollment cycle, as of November 30 running about 4.2% for undergraduate applications ahead of last year.
* We reached the November 15th application deadline for our Early Decision I campaign with a 1.3% increase in applications. We expect to begin Early Decision notification in the coming days.
* The Graduate School has made key progress this semester by launching the Office of Professional and Career Development and the Research Excellence Graduate Funding Program, as well as working with GSO and others to double the child care subsidy for graduate students.
* Senior Dina Eldaway has been selected as Syracuse University’s second Marshall Scholar. She is an international relations major in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School and a citizenship and civic engagement (CCE) major in the Maxwell School. She will use the Marshall award to fund two master’s degrees in the U.K. For her first year, she will enroll in the migration and global development M.A. at the University of Sussex. In her second year, she plans to complete an M.Sc. in comparative and international education at Oxford University.

Thank you for all of your work this semester, please get grades in on time, and I hope that you have a restful holiday break. I will take questions after the Provost’s report.

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