
MEETING MINUTES – OCT. 16, 2023

Monday, October 16, 2023

In Attendance: Brianne Lee, Anne Flesher, Ron Marston, Natalie Russell, Hallie Madole, Gretchen Sawyer, Cheryl Jones, Elena Bubnova, Staci Miller, YeVonne Allen, Brayson Gomez, Juana Reynoza-Gomez, Melissa Olsen, Jeffrey Alexander, Karin Hilgersom, Ayodele Akinola, Julie Ellsworth, Mark Maynard, Kim Studebaker, Nicole Scollard, Kim Harrell, Kofi Poku, Estela Gutierrez, Mike Peyerl, Steven Bale, Rick Bullis, Geoff Hawkins, John Hughes, Ben Davis, Olga Mesina, Cecilia Vigil

President's Update – Dr. Karin Hilgersom

President Hilgersom attended the ACCT conference in Las Vegas last week. Regent Del Carlo, Carvalho, Perkins, and Cruz-Crawford attended as well. She met with Guardian, a company that focuses on online high school diplomas for non-traditional routes to high school completion. They have started working on retention efforts in Higher Education and they will be working with Associate Dean John Hughes on some new and exciting ways to retain students.

She also met with Interact. They discussed a program that recently helped WNC see a 10% jump in enrollment. We will be working with them to implement these initiatives as well.

One of the sessions she attended was through Phi Theta Kappa in which they were awarded a million dollars to start a national campaign to remove the stigma from Community Colleges. All the advertising is open source so MCO will be looking into how we can integrate this great work into our own advertising.

TMCC will be renewing the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Membership every year moving forward. It is a large cost, \$13,000, and it is an identified area of savings for the college at this time.

Mental Health Professional Introduction & Presentation – Dr. Olga Mesina

Dr. Mesina presented on her new positions. Here are some highlights of the things she has been working on. The presentation is attached below.

- She has created a partnership with the Division of Welfare and Social Services (DWSS) where we can help the student with the set-up of their SNAP benefits.
- She has implemented and is holding Safe Talk Suicide Prevention training.
- In September, she held an event where students could do some journaling activities around mental health in partnership with SGA, and in which they received extra credit from their professors if they participated.
- She has also created a group called Las Platicas where students who identify as Latinx or Hispanic can come discuss challenges they are facing or seeing their community face.
- She will also assist students who are in an emergency and are at risk of dropping out, with funds and other resources they may need.
- She is the first counselor that will be here year-round as she is administrative faculty and on a 12-month contract.

Single Use Plastic Initiative – Sustainability Champions

Dr. Cecilia Vigil presented on the removal of single use plastic from campus. We are a green campus and are winning sustainability awards and this is the next step in the process of setting the example for other organizations within Nevada. See the presentation below for more information on the harmful impacts of plastic on the environment and ourselves, and

ways we can help share in responsible movements in sustainability both at the college and at home. Planning Council supports this initiative.

Webpage Revision Updates – Rick Bullis

Faculty Senate has requested that if there are changes made to the website there is a revision date at the bottom. Elena has passed this along to Cal Anderson and this will be implemented moving forward.

Committee Updates

Academic and Student Services Committee - Estella Levario Gutierrez and Dr. Jeffrey Alexander

TMCC High School has expressed interest in growing and thus needs a larger space. Dr. Alexander has worked with them to provide space in the Sierra building.

Dr. Alexander is looking into ways to provide “prior learning assessment” credits for things students already know when coming to college. He saw a report from the Front Range Community College in Denver that shows positive results in retention and enrollment when credit is given in these ways.

We are still working on a partnership with Jump Start and Pyramid Lake High School. The DREAM course is almost ready for roll-out and we are doing final interviews for the Native American Advocate/Diversity Coordinator.

Budget Committee – Mike Peyerl

NSHE has developed a salary committee. It's comprised of representation from across all of NSHE: two presidents, two students, and faculty senate. The business officers have developed five scenarios regarding COLAs for FY 25 and turned them into the committee. They range from the full 11% with a registration fee increase, to another version which is a 9.5% increase with a registration fee, and a delayed scenario in which we get the full 11% in October 2024 and there would be a one-time surcharge to the students. The final suggestion will be presented to the Board of Regents at the November/December meeting. At that time, they will seek approval of the plan through a Regent vote.

Diversity Committee - Juana Reynoza-Gomez

Diversity Advocates

Micaela is serving as ArtFest/Earth Day liaison and the People and Cultural Awareness GELO subcommittee. As a result of the Butterfly Me Workshop with diverse TRIO students she conducted in September, there is now a temporary office mural that expresses the interbeing of students, cultures, and environments on campus. Micaela is also supporting Faculty of Color, and will be helping to bring back the HSI Task Force in the Spring of 2024. She is also working on interdisciplinary collaboration to develop cultural-environmental topics with Anthropology, Education, Math, and Science to develop 7th generation activities for Spring 2024.

Sustainability Champions Committee

Ecoblitz was a success, they had 134 participants (130 students) - with over 1132 observations and 307 species identified thus far. They are working on the par course and applying for a foundation grant to add educational signage. They are designing and welding a BBQ for the pollinator garden in the shape of a bee. A reminder that Earth Day is scheduled for 4/19/2024 in partnership with ArtFest from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Faculty of Color Committee

They are currently reviewing their mission, vision, and goals. Also discussing a name change. November 28, FOC is partnering with the Veteran's Center/ Katie Grace Foundation to host a “giveaway”. Items donated from the Katie Grace Foundation will be available for free to faculty and staff. Items include anything from electronics to accessories, clothing, and more.

LGBTQ Friends and Allies Committee

November 29 at 6 p.m. they will be hosting Drag Bingo Night. Tickets are \$20 for staff and faculty and \$10 for students. All proceeds go to the Wizard's Warehouse.

Facilities Committee – Dr. Ayodele Akinola

The Health Science Center expansion is 99% complete. The Childcare heat pump replacement project is moving forward. We are still hoping to get electric car chargers at the other campuses but for now, they are only located on Dandini. Those are just a few of the 31 projects the teams are currently working on.

Health and Wellness Committee – Geoff Hawkins

The Mental Health Carnival and Fun Run was a great success. There were 64 participants and 22 new people signed up for the walking club. There will be continued Sexual Health Testing happening on campus and students and faculty are encouraged to participate. The health tips will resume soon. Both soccer teams are doing exceptionally well this year, be sure and catch a game!

Technology Committee – Cheryl Jones

There is a new cyber security training coming out, it will come out yearly. Make sure and keep an eye out for it and complete it promptly. The AI Task Force is focused on policies around generative AI and will keep this group updated as they begin to implement and document. The Core Refresh will occur starting at 5 PM on Friday, December 15. The campus will be closed Monday and Tuesday for testing with the hopes of normal operation on Wednesday. See your direct supervisor for more information regarding the closure.

Part-Time Faculty Committee – Elena Bubnova (On Behalf of Gwen Clancy)

In partnership with Web College, the committee is working on a webpage specially for PT Faculty. They will be reaching out to PT Faculty for assistance with what should be listed on the page and they look to roll this out soon.

Constituent Updates

Student Government Association – Brayson Gomez

The SGA has been hard at work planning events and helping to represent the student voice and initiatives. The SGA passed a bill that created a mental health committee and is excited to get the committee up and running. The chair will be Olga Mesina, with the requirement that an SGA member and the SGA advisor will be in the meeting. The SGA had a successful welcome week with over 1,000 students in attendance. The SGA has many more events planned such as National Coming Out Day on October 11th, where students will decorate socks respective to their identity, and get the Scoop with the Presidents on October 23rd, in which students can participate in an open forum with SGA President Brayson Gomez and President Karin Hilgersom.

Classified Council – Hallie Madole

They are finalizing and updating criteria for all awards (EOM, EOY, Innovated Classified Employee) - these need to be reviewed by the President. They will present the finalized awards to the Cabinet next month. Please encourage everyone to participate in the Halloween Decorating Contest. They are starting to look for donations for the Holiday Raffle, if you or your area is interested in donating a basket or ham/turkey please let them know.

Faculty Senate – Rick Bullis

Faculty Senate has:

- Approved outcomes for Critical Thinking in TMCC's general education curricula.
- Advocated for Administrative Faculty to become represented at the Faculty Senate Executive Board.
- The Senate recently approved new courses in Economics, Radiological Technician Advanced Patient Care, Logistics, Media Production, Healthcare, Veterinary Nursing, and a whole series of internships in Computer Technologies, Marketing, Political Science, etc. In addition, dozens of additional classes have been edited and/or improved through the Curriculum Review Committee and the Faculty Senate.

New Agenda Items

Cheryl Jones will be bringing the cyber security annual training policy back to Planning Council for some revisions.