
OPEN MEETING MINUTES – MAY 20, 2021

Date: May 20, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: BlueJeans

Attendees: Alex Mathiesen, Carole Chouinard, Susan Elbe, Viola Pellissier, Rachel Blackburn, Katt Warner, Tina May, Chynna Slocum, Karin Hilgersom, Shari Mathiesen, Barb Evens, Ayodele Akinola, Jeffrey Metcalf, Chamaea Edwards, Estella Levario Gutierrez, Kelly, Sarah Gill, Janet Bicker, Nicole T, Valerie Lambert, Julia Bledsoe, Laura Meacham, Lauren Sanew, Barb Painter, Jean Lampson, Jennie Allan, Sarah Jacobsen

“We May Encounter Many Defeats But We Must Not be Defeated.” – Maya Angelou

1. **EOM Announced**

- Dr. Karin Hilgersom announces Shari Mathiesen as Employee of the Month for April 2021.

2. **Roll Call – Sarah Gill proxy for Julia Bledsoe**

- Katt Warner, Rachel Blackburn, Tina May, Sarah Gill, Julia and Chynna had some trouble getting logged in but joined later. All present

3. **Approve Minutes**

- Sarah calls for a motion to approve the minutes. Rachel Blackburn makes a motion to approve. Janet Bicker seconds. None opposed and no abstentions. April 2021 minutes approved.

4. **Board Members Report**

- **President’s Report – Julia Bledsoe**
 - Congratulations to Carole for EOY
 - Planning Council will have two seats to fill in addition to the seat of CC incoming President so if anyone is interested in filling those seats, I certainly encourage you to participate
 - Chancellor’s Sustainability Taskforce is going to continue and Julia will continue on as a volunteer after she retires through the summer. It sounds like it’s not going to be an ongoing committee and up to this point it has been largely informational. It has provided much information and learning about things that go on behind the scenes. Two of the items on the upcoming meeting agenda are distance education and NSHE Libraries. There has been talk about the Libraries becoming more efficient and cost effective.
 - The last meeting was largely about Computing System Services. Julia was surprised to learn about all the different entities that rely upon Computing System Services support. A few of the entities they support besides NSHE are Corrections, here in the North, K-12, and it looks like they may take on K-12 in the South.
 - Julia Chose to briefly discuss two of the topics from the survey sent out regarding return to work after COVID.
 - Vaccinations: the tallies for those who have either been fully vaccinated, are being vaccinated or plan to be fully vaccinated comes to 79.1%; so if that number holds true through the larger population then at least within NSHE we have a chance of achieving herd immunity and protecting the 3.4% who have underlying conditions and are not eligible for those reasons to get the vaccine. 14.1% do not plan to get the vaccine and 3.9% were unsure.

- Collective Bargaining: 34.9% still are looking for more information, 32.6% do not plan to join, 18.6% either are members or plan to join. The remaining responses were mostly that people are just uninformed, or misinformed so AFSCME's got a lot more work to do in terms of getting the message out.
- **Vice President's Report – Chynna Slocum**
 - Sarah shares that the Vice President, Chynna Slocum, has been working on Certificates while we have been working remotely for all the EOM dating back from June 2020 or so up until current. And the rest of the Board will be working on getting the certificates out to you all.
 - Rachel attended Faculty Senate in proxy for VP
 - They are in the beginning stages of figuring out a vaccine mandate. TMCC has never required any sort of vaccine and they cannot move forward until the Federal Emergency Use Authorization is no longer in effect.
 - They are also looking at using campus locations for vaccine clinics, so that should be coming soon.
 - They will be opening a building on Oddie Blvd. to be used as a Blackbox Theatre for the Theatre Department.
 - Regarding remote work, the institutions currently have authority to allow virtual work, but they don't have an actual set in stone mandate as of now. NSHE is going to vote in June and will be brining that to TMCC for fall implementation of whatever they figure out.
 - Chynna was able to log in and had a few things to add.
 - Congratulations to Shari for April EOM, and Arkaitz was recognized for March. And as many of you probably saw Carole Chouinard was awarded Employee of the Year and she would like to speak as well.
 - Carole expressed how grateful she is and to thank all of us for the great honor. She was so stunned and surprised and very humbled. She shared other words and wanted to thank you all for the recognition.
 - Chynna shared that this will be her last Classified Council meeting as Vice President. She will be going now to learn her new roll as a Mom. Thank you.
- **Secretary's Report – Katt Warner**
 - No Report
- **Treasurer's Report – Sarah Gill**
 - \$1555.89 Employee Recognition
 - \$1618.50 Emergency Loans
 - \$5423.95 Operating
 - The only change in our accounts from last month to this month was our \$500.00 contribution from Operating was transferred to Foundation Account (Faculty Education for Classified Staff) to go towards Book Scholarships.
 - We are planning on putting out some announcements on how to apply for that coming up this fall.
- **Hospitality Report – Rachel Blackburn**
 - No Report
- **NSHE Representative Report – Tina May**
 - The May 5th NSHE quarterly open meeting had to be rescheduled to May 12th due to technical difficulties.
 - The colleges on the NSHE Classified Council are CSN, GBC, NSC, TMCC, UNLV, UNR, and WNC.
 - They were pretty much covering their distinguished employee of the month.

- They also discussed their reopening's; most of the colleges will be reopening 100% in the fall. Most of the colleges Staff will be returning full time in June or July
- COVID Vaccination status was discussed and how the colleges were proceeding with vaccinations. Promoting staff to get vaccinated and where and how faculty and staff could go and get vaccinated.
- Julia discussed collective bargaining and how many bargaining units have been approved. The union are trying to get two other units approved.
- Monetary impact from COVID was also discussed and the colleges discussed how the furloughs were not going to continue after June.
- We provided the PEBP benefits link for open enrollment so people could check that out as well.
- Another big thing that was discussed was the survey that was sent out discussing classified staff and what they have experienced over the last year and other things that they might want NSHE to look at and possibly work on for them like collective bargaining, restoration of longevity pay, and remote planning. A lot of people were interested in how colleges were handling working remotely.
- The survey will be sent out again to UNLV to collect more data due to it being sent out to the wrong server the first time.

5. **Classified Council Elections / Nominations**

- The elections were supposed to close May 21, 2021. As noted by many of the Classified Employees and several of the Council, the elections email never had been received by anyone. Julia will talk with Cal and work on getting the elections email sent out.

6. **Classified BBQ (No Symposium FY21)**

- Katt shared that date for the BBQ was decided to be Thursday, July 22, 2021 from 11 am – 1 pm. It was discussed how to decide about vegan or vegetarian meals for those who do not or choose not to eat meat. Should we do a survey do 10% of expected attendance and call it good.
 - A classified employee spoke up and said that from past events that 10% of expected attendance is a good idea.
 - There was a brief discussion about what would be served at the BBQ and Julia said that the President's office will be primarily taking charge of the order and making those types of decisions.
 - We are asked to provide one or two sessions of Professional Development to coordinate with the Classified BBQ.
 - Julia asked for suggestions and a possible mental health session and information on benefits were a couple topic discussed.

7. **Recipe Book / Recipe Swap**

- Tina shares that we have had several responses and at this point she will need to start coordinating with the café and asks how we would decide on what recipes would go to the café.
- She'll start putting together the recipes received. Maybe we could have some hard copies put together to offer at the Classified BBQ.
- She throws out thoughts of how the recipes get chosen to go to the Café. Maybe we could vote or maybe pull from a hat. Do you all want a dice roll or a choice?
- It was mentioned that some of the recipes may be contingent on what ingredients the café has on hand. Items that they would normally keep in stock. Tina suggested something could be considered is if the café did not have an ingredient and Classified employees agreed to it, that some of the funds from Classified Operating could be used to purchase those ingredients.

8. **Announcements**

- Julia makes a suggestion based on what she has recently gone through in preparing for retirement is that if anyone has sick leave hours banked they may want to consider donating them to the catastrophic pool. If you don't do that you get paid out for a certain amount and the rest just goes back to the state.
- You can donate up to 120 hours per year.
- Sick time automatically gets banked after you have earned 720 hours or 90 days.
- You can also get paid out a certain amount of sick leave at retirement which depends on your years of service.

If anyone has any questions, or concern for any reason; or if you would like to serve, please reach out, classifiedcouncil@tmcc.edu

Julia was given thanks for all she has done and congratulations on her retirement by some of her fellow Classified peers. Julia expressed some of her thoughts and emotions.

9. **New Business**

- No New Business.

10. **Next Meeting June 17, 2021, 1:00 pm**

Adjourn 2:00 pm