

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Feb. 12, 2021

Faculty Senate Chair: YeVonne Allen	Faculty Senate Chair-Elect: Virginia Irintcheva	Executive Committee member, Academic Standards and Assessment Chair Jinger Doe
Executive Committee member, Curriculum Review Chair Katie Kolbet	Executive Committee member, Professional Standards Chair Melanie Purdy	Executive Committee member, Salary, Benefits and Budget Chair Matt Leathen
Administrative Faculty Committee Chair Ashlyn Moreno	Library Committee Chair Rob Lively	Part-Time Faculty Committee Chair Edwin Lyngar
Recognition & Activities Committee Chair Erin Frock and Sidney Sullivan	WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee Chair Dan Hooper	
Senators At-Large: Yuli Chavez Camarena Staci Miller Adine Stormoen Sidney Sullivan	Senator for Allied Health: Heidi Himler Julie McMahon	Senators for Technical Sciences: Sam Byington Jeremy Coggin
Senators for Biology: Amy Cavanaugh Jinger Doe	Senators for Computer Technologies: Steve Bale Cathy House	Senators for English: Lenaya Andersen Karen Wikander
Senators for History, Political Science & Law: John Kemp Ben Scheible	Senators for Humanities: Eric Bullis Gabriel Chavez	Senators for Math: Hieu Do Rebecca McCleary
Senators for Physical Sciences: Ed Corbett Olga Katkova	Senators for Social Sciences: Julia Hammett Paula Reynolds	Senators for Visual and Performing Arts: Candace Garlock Rossitza Todorova
Senators for Part-Time Faculty: Gwendolyn Clancy Heather Haddox	Classified Council Representative Chynna Sandgren	Student Government Representative Alyssa Fromelius

Absent: John Kemp, Rebecca McCleary (Proxy: Dan Hooper)

Guests: Amber Anaya, Elise Bunkowski, Araceli Cuevas, Julie Ellsworth, Anne Flesher, Alyssa Fromelius, Karin Hilgersom, Meeghan Gray, Estella Levario-Gutierrez, Ron Marston, Linda McGillicuddy, Marie Murgolo, Jim New, Joe Sanpietro, Brandy Scarnati, Nicole Scollard, Chynna Slocum, Kim Studebaker

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 p.m.

Chair's Report – YeVonne Allen

Chair Allen ensured quorum was met and provided her report. A moment was taken to honor and offer condolences to Dr. Melanie Purdy.

Governor Sisolak's proposed executive budget is now with the Nevada Legislature. The legislative session opened on Feb. 1 with presentations from different agencies including NSHE and Bill Draft Resolutions (BDR) being assigned to committees. Of note is BDR 383 which "Establishes statutory definitions governing Nevada universities, colleges, and community colleges that align with federal definitions and standards." The Faculty Senate Council of Chairs will be watching this and other BDR's closely along with Governor Sisolak's mention of a Community College Independent Authority during his State of the State Address. Chancellor Rose will reinforce the transfer mission of community colleges and the message of the

comprehensive community college. Resolutions from Faculty Senate containing faculty perspectives are impactful to legislators when making decisions.

The Senate Council of Chairs is also following discussions concerning wording in the budget that does not allow state appropriations to be used for Performance Pay / Merit. The effective date of FY22 for a 1% merit pool likely will be postponed. The Board of Regents next meets March 4-5, 2021. The Fiscal Sustainability Committee meets February 18, 2021.

Chair Allen also shared the COVID-19 update to the vaccination playbook and the Washoe County priority lane webpage link. NSHE predicts all faculty who want the vaccine will have the opportunity to receive it before the start of Fall 2021. Fall 2021 will be TMCC's Transition Semester with contingencies built in.

Upcoming events this Spring are the Chair-Elect Election, staggered Commencement, TMCC Budget Reduction Taskforce charge review, performance evaluation survey for Vice-President's and other administrators who supervise academic Faculty, and the VPAA search/forums. Chair Allen closed her report wishing everyone a happy and prosperous Lunar New Year. Today begins the year of the Metal Ox.

Chair-Elect's Report – Virginia Irintcheva

Chair-elect Virginia Irintcheva reported the Chair-elect Election is coming and provided the following timeline: March 12 nominations open, April 2 nominations close, April 9 voting opens and May 7 voting closes. The results will be announced May 14. The VPAA search continues with semi-finalists being interviewed. Forums will be held with the finalists.

Administrative Report – Dr. Karin Hilgersom, TMCC President

Dr. Hilgersom opened her report with support and condolences for Dr. Purdy. Three items were reported on today: Fall term planning, the biennial budget, and a process for consultations with the Senate related to executive level administrative assistance and instructors.

With the assistance of faculty working with department chairs, deans, and the VPAA Fall scheduling is in the works. The Fall term is complicated. Vaccinations should be completed by August for NSHE. Information is always changing and some vaccinations may not be as effective on COVID variants. Next year is a snapshot year where the base will be adjusted by legislature and its effect will be felt in the subsequent biennium.

A transparent and reasonable budget for the next biennium will be presented by Elise today which has assisted the Leadership Team in decision making.

An estimated savings of \$500,000 (possibly more) will be realized with the decision of streamlining the offices of the IT, Finance and Facilities. Recommendations from the Interim Executive Directors Dr. Ayo Akinola and Elise Bunkowski assisted with reaching these significant savings.

Dr. Hilgersom noted the need for consultations with the Faculty Senate, and that a quick presentation would not go far enough. Preferably, Senate leadership will work collaboratively with the President to develop an assessment that takes a deep dive into the effectiveness of the interim structure. This assessment would be deployed in January 2022. The assessment would be developed soon, deployed in January 2022 (completed with recommendations soon after).

Questions and comments received were: thanking Dr. Hilgersom in working with faculty leaders and a question on the most recent CDC information on vaccinations and exposure. There will be more discussion in the COVID-19 Management Team as this information had just become available from the CDC.

Administrative Report- Dr. Marie Murgolo, Vice President Academic Affairs

VPAA Murgolo reported the semester is off to a good start, Fall planning is ongoing with information being incorporated as it comes, and Fall will likely be a stage 3.5 transition period. Scheduling is being done in a way that won't have to pivot during Summer. The goal is 50% room density while keeping in mind scheduling is ongoing. A summit with the academic leadership team, Senate Leadership, chairs, directors, and coordinators for departments will be held to discuss options for Fall. Invitations will be coming.

Questions and suggestions circled around when should instructors resubmit their schedules for Fall, communicating information directly to faculty, and PPE Requirements. VPAA Murgolo advised to wait until the summit has occurred and communication is sent to the instructors. The PPE requirements will still include masks, cleaning, and washing hands.

Budget Update – Elise Bunkowski

Elyse reviewed the shortfalls for each year and how the CARES Act dollars were spent. In FY 21 there is a \$7.5M reduction and a registration shortfall of \$2M. The CARES Act Dollars in round one were \$1.7M and in round 2 were \$6.1M. Round 2 CARES dollars can be used for budgetary holes. Round 1 CARES dollars could not be used for budget shortfalls. There was a \$338K shortfall.

In FY 22-23 there is a 12% reduction of \$4.5M. The estimated registration shortfall is \$900K. NSHE funds received were \$282,352.

In FY 23 the shortfall will be \$2,499,904.06.

Questions Elyse received were whether there will be more buyouts, more CARES funds forthcoming, any mining tax revenue, and a request for an update from Student Services.

The buyout program has completed with some buyouts pending approval. It is unknown whether any more CARES funds will come. We will need to make sure the Legislature understands CARES funds are for this fiscal year only when the Legislature decide how mining tax revenues might be spent and funding for NSHE.

Vice President of Student Services Estella Levario-Gutierrez reported she is working with the Executive Directors to adhere to a ½ on ½ off employee population which would alternate every other week for the Fall semester.

Approval of the December 11, 2020 Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes for December 11, 2020

Movant: Senator Amy Cavanaugh

Second: Senator Yuli Chavez-Camarena

Vote: Motion passed with 21 ayes and 1 abstention.

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the February 12, 2021 Consent Agenda.

Movant: Senator Amy Cavanaugh

Second: Senator Julia Hammett

Vote: Motion passed with 24 ayes.

Committee Reports

- **Academic Standards and Assessment Committee – Jinger Doe**
The committee met on February 5, evaluated and approved the academic calendar and reviewed passport objectives and taskforce formation. Please contact Jinger if you are interested in joining. The committee also began PUR reviews. The next meeting is Feb. 19, 2021.

A motion was made to approve the TMCC Academic Calendar. The motion passed with 26 ayes.

- **Administrative Faculty Committee – Ashlyn Moreno**
The committee will be reviewing the data from their survey of Administrative Faculty and will hold Professional Development events this Summer. Sidney Sullivan will be the chair for the rest of the semester while Ashlyn is on family leave. Congratulations Ashlyn.

- **Curriculum Review Committee – Katie Kolbet**

The committee met February 5. No more changes will be accepted for the catalog for the coming academic year. Today is the final day to initiate workflow for the next committee meeting. The next meeting is March 5.

- **Learning Commons Committee – Rob Lively**

The committee met Feb. 4. Chair Rob Lively took a moment to recognize Neil Siegel's service to TMCC and the Learning Commons and wished him well in retirement. Rob's term as chair will be finished at the end of the Spring term. Please contact Rob Lively or Senate Chair Allen if you are interested in serving as chair. On February 25 from 2-3:30 p.m. the Learning Commons Committee and Political Science Club are hosting a panel on the Electoral College with many fine speakers. On March 25, the Learning Commons will host a Roaring 20's panel. Rob reminded the Senate the librarians are available to join zoom classes to discuss Learning Commons resources and remote tutoring is available. The librarians are also able to scan text to faculty and students. Tutors are needed, please refer any qualified students to Brandy Scarnati or have them fill out the form found online. The next meeting of the Library Committee is March 4, 2021.

- **Part-Time Faculty Committee – Edwin Lyngar**

The committee met prior to today's Senate meeting. The survey for Part-Time Faculty closes at the end of business today. The results of the survey will be discussed at the next Coffee Klatch. The discussion groups at the Part-Time Faculty Open House were very popular and a lot of input was collected including the popularity of the longevity program. The next meeting is March 12, 2021.

- **Professional Standards – Melanie Purdy**

The committee did not meet in February, no report was given.

- **Recognition and Activities – Erin Frock and Sidney Sullivan**

Sidney Sullivan provided today's report. The Distinguished Faculty Award nominations close today at 5 p.m. Please send any nominations to Olga Katkova. Danielle Harris was recognized as Professional of the Month in December. January's Professional of the Month will be awarded next week. The committee will also continue with the Career Champions and nominations will be solicited soon. The committee next meets on March 2 at 2 p.m.

- **Salary, Benefits and Budget Committee – Matt Leathen**

Matt Leathen reported he was reelected as chair. The committee reviewed legislative information and a PEBP Resolution was drafted and approved in committee. The next meeting is 9-11 a.m. on Feb. 26, 2021.

A motion was brought forward to the Senate to approve the Resolution on PEBP Benefits. The motion passed with 26 ayes.

- **WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee – Dan Hooper**

The committee met today from 11-12 p.m. Dan's term will be completed at the end of the semester. Nominations are being accepted. Chromebook now works with the lockdown browser. Professional Development sessions are being scheduled in February and March. The committee is reviewing a resolution to publish courses before the semester starts, which is in Faculty Standard 2.8. The committee is suggesting to make this a standard across all course types and suggests another committee taking this up as it is bigger than the WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee. The committee is also reviewing some of the online standards. The committee next meets March 12, 2021.

- **Student Government Association (SGA) – Alyssa Fromelius**

The SGA and the Election Engagement Committee have established a partnership to work cooperatively. The SGA held several events in conjunction with the start of the semester: SGA Open House, school supply bags for welcome back week, a doughnut and coffee from Dough Boys for students, and Pasta with the President. Next week a virtual Club Fair is scheduled. SGA is also accepting applications for the SGA elections for next year.

- **Classified Council – Chynna Sandgren**

The Classified Council are working on a hospitality form for any employee in need of hospitality. Recipes are also being collected for the recipe swap cookbook. There is a live add/drop form now available for faculty. The council meets February 18, 2021 at 1 p.m.

Old Business

Agenda Item 10A Bylaw Revision Standing Committee Chair Section – second read

Senate Chair-Elect Virginia Irintcheva motioned and Senator Amy Cavanaugh seconded to approve the second reading of the Standing Committee Chair Section bylaw change. The motion passed with 26 ayes.

Discussion on the motion concerned how the transition document should be created and if it could be emailed. Chair-Elect Irintcheva suggested a list of items to that need to happen in the committee and to meet and discuss. Senate Chair Allen offered her assistance too.

New Business

Agenda Item 11A Bylaw Revision Pronouns – first read

Senate Chair YeVonne Allen and Senator Scheible introduced a Senate Bylaw revision where gender is stated as “his/her” be changed to “their.” The purpose is to eliminate gender bias for non-binary individuals.

A suggestion was made to match the verbs to plural pronouns. Chair Allen asked if there was any other input, to please contact her or Senator Scheible.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Senator Sidney Sullivan and seconded by Senator Julia Hammett to adjourn the meeting. The motion passes with 25 ayes.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:01 p.m.