

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2022

Faculty Senate Chair:
Virginia Irintcheva

Executive Committee member,
Academic Standards and Assessment
Chair
Jinger Doe

Executive Committee member, Salary,
Benefits and Budget Chair
Matt Leathen

Part-Time Faculty Committee Chair
Pat Miller

Senators At-Large:
Yuli Chavez Camarena
Jennifer Pierce
Adine Stormoen
Sidney Sullivan

Senators for Biology:
James Kuzhippala
Sharif Rumjahn

Senators for History, Political Science
& Law: **John Kemp**
Michael Miller

Senators for Physical Sciences:
Sameer Bhattarai
Olga Katkova

Senators for Part-Time Faculty:
Heather Haddox
Amanda Williams

Faculty Senate Chair-Elect:
Amy Cavanaugh

Executive Committee member,
Curriculum Review Chair
Katie Kolbet

Administrative Faculty Committee Chair
Ashlyn Herold

Recognition & Activities Committee Chair
Rebecca Eckland

Senator for Allied Health:
Heidi Himler
Julie McMahon

Senators for Computer Technologies:
Steve Bale
Topher Reynolds

Senators for Humanities:
Eric Bullis
Gabriel Chavez

Senators for Social Sciences:
Marynia Giren-Navarro
Haley Orthel-Clark

Classified Council Representative
Sarah Gill

Past Chair
YeVonne Allen

Executive Committee member,
Professional Standards Chair
Marynia Giren-Navarro

Library Committee Chair
John Kemp

WebCollege Faculty Advisory
Committee Chair **James Kuzhippala**

Senators for Technical Sciences:
Jeremy Coggin
Wyatt Ziebell

Senators for English:
Lenaya Andersen
Karen Wikander

Senators for Math:
Hieu Do
Rebecca McCleary

Senators for Visual and Performing
Arts: **Candace Garlock**
Rossitza Todorova

Student Government Representative
Darian Richards

Absent: Yuli Chavez-Camarena (Proxy: Natalie Brown), Hieu Do (Proxy: Rebecca McCleary), Heather Haddox (Proxy: Misty Kinser), Olga Katkova (Proxy: Sameer Bhattarai), Katie Kolbet, Sidney Sullivan (Proxy: Adine Stormoen), Wyatt Ziebell (Proxy: Sam Byington)

Guests: Jeffrey Alexander, Ayodele Akinola, Amber Anaya, Karin Hilgersom, Archana Kumar, Ron Marston, Stephanie Mead, Barb Painter, Micaela Rubalcava, Joe Sanpietro, Brandy Scarnati, Kim Studebaker, Cecilia Vigil

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

Chair's Report – Virginia Irintcheva

Board of Regents / NSHE Update: The March 3-4 Board of Regents meeting approved the Data Science Associates Degree, Bachelor of Architecture and tenures were approved. Congratulations to Lenaya Andersen, Sharif Rumjahn, Rebecca McCleary, Cecilia Vigil, and Rossita Todorova. NSHE institutions presented their budget priorities. TMCC included Merit, COLA, and Part-Time Faculty pay increases in the presentation.

TMCC Updates: A statement from the Senate Council of Chairs that was sent to the Regents and NSHE leadership regarding the mask mandate is included in today's meeting packet.

A review of the employee vaccine mandate will likely be on the June BOR Meeting Agenda. Virginia is asking for input on the employee vaccine mandate.

Dean's evaluations have been sent. Please take a few minutes to provide answers. Results will be used in the Fall. A new Part Time Senator Amanda Williams was elected to finish the semester. Chair-Elect nominations open today, please nominate yourself or someone you think would be a great fit.

Chair-Elect's Report – Amy Cavanaugh

The work of the Sabbatical Subcommittee to reenvision the sabbatical process is ongoing. The next meeting is March 25 at 11 a.m. The Faculty Senate will continue meeting on Zoom for AY 22-23. Committees may decide their meeting modality. Please have the decision made by April, so the incoming committee chairs may plan for the coming year.

Past Chair's Report – YeVonne Allen

The Stance Against Bullying Policy finalized in 20-21 is forming an implementation taskforce. The taskforce will review supervisor training, provide feedback on the process behind the policy, and assist on the finalization with the procedures. The plan is to meet about three times over the next two months to complete these items. Please email YeVonne by Wednesday, March 16 if you are interested in joining the taskforce.

Administrative Report – Karin Hilgersom, TMCC President

Dr. Hilgersom thanked Rossi Todorova for spearheading the recent art show to benefit the Ukraine. Rossi noted \$7,700 was raised and provided a link to support Ukraine: <https://standforukraine.com/>.

Dr. Biden visited TMCC's Health Science Center to speak with students and faculty. TMCC was called America's college by our visitors.

During the March BOR, the Data Science and Bachelor of Architecture degrees were approved.

Budget planning has begun. The March meeting was exploratory for the Regents to understand the needs and wishes from all of the institutions. The NSHE office is working with the Governor's Budget Office to finalize the tentative budget number for NSHE. Once that has been completed, institutional budget planning can be completed.

The proposed Anti-Discrimination Resolution, has support from the institutional Presidents and the Chancellor. Public Comment can be made in June. YeVonne shared the link to the resolution: <https://nshe.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/file/BoardOfRegents/Agendas/2022/03-mar-mtgs/bor-refs/BOR-37.pdf>.

Ed Lyngar and Heather Haddox presented the survey results of Part-Time Faculty to Cabinet and are headed to the Planning Council next.

It looks as if TMCC will receive \$2 M in Federal appropriations which will be used for the Health Science Center project.

Administrative Report – Jeffrey Alexander, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Alexander congratulated the recent faculty members granted tenure and provided the following updates:

The AS Data Science and Bachelor of Architecture 5-year program were approved. The nearest accredited Bachelor of Architecture program in San Francisco. This is favorable for TMCC and Northern Nevada. The Dental Assisting Certificate and Fire Suppression Certificate were also approved.

Several campus-wide faculty searches are ongoing.

The syllabi content webpage has been updated with recommended statements.

There are Open Educational Resources (OER) content stipends available for the Summer. An announcement will be made soon. EPIC non-credit enrollment is up 139% from this time last year.

Year of Sustainability – Cecilia Vigil

TMCC's Sustainability Champions are advocating for a 22-23 Year of Sustainability 22-23.

Our planet is in crisis. Reducing planet warming is the highest priority. An international climate panel was formed in 2018 to keep temperature from going higher than 1.5° C. or 2.7°F. In 2021, a report noted we would not reach this goal and are hoping to minimize climate change by not going above 3.3° C. We have to reduce carbon footprint by 89%.

Higher Education will have a great influence on general public. The Sustainability Champions will meet with TMCC's constituencies to further gain support.

The action plan includes:

- Infrastructure (solar panels, water stations, dual flush toilets),
- Campus Community (integration in lesson plans, courses, curriculum, undergraduate research, bike/carpool to work)
- Ripple Effect (students will be Educated, Kind, Wise, Prepared)
- Let's Grow our Legacy (Bee Campus, Green Ribbon School) – Bee Proud!

Steve Bale moved and Topher Reynolds seconded to support Academic Year 22-23 as the Year of Sustainability. A motion of support was approved by the Faculty Senate with 27 ayes.

Approval of the February 11, 2022 Minutes

Motion: To approve the Faculty Senate Minutes for February 11, 2022.

Movant: Senator Eric Bullis

Second: Senator Sharif Rumjahn

Vote: Motion passed with 24 ayes and 1 abstention.

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the March 11, 2022 Consent Agenda.

Movant: Senator Jeremy Coggin

Second: Senator Eric Bullis

Vote: Motion passed with 26 ayes.

Digital Tenure Binders

Senate Chair Virginia proposed digital tenure binders to save paper, time, storage space, and to encourage responsible and sustainable use of resources. Questions and discussion circled around the following items:

- What format/modality would the binders be submitted (app, Google Docs, Adobe),
- Security issues/permissions (who monitors permissions),
- Timeframe for implementation,
- How will binders be returned to the faculty member?
- How will tenure-track faculty in Visual and Performing Arts would submit their work?
- How would the process for other faculty members to view tenure binders be monitored?
- Best practices from other institutions.

Solutions suggested were:

- Restricted permissions could be used (exists on Google Docs),
- Part of visual arts education is how to digitize one's work,
- Keeping data (HR & IT assist with issues),
- Faculty have a choice whether to submit a hardcopy or digital binder.
- Possible tips and tricks document for creating digital binders,
- Clear boundaries on size of electronic file

In keeping with TMCC's stated values of responsible and sustainable use of resources, the Faculty Senate requests that the VPAA begin accepting and encouraging the submission of digital tenure binders in lieu of physical binders.

Sharif Rumjahn moved and Eric Bullis seconded to approve the use of digital tenure binders. The motion passed with 26 ayes.

Tenure Track Application Update

Chair-Elect Amy Cavanaugh informed the Senate that there is no minimum probationary period to apply for tenure. This would benefit the Spring start faculty when applying since they would have had to wait an additional semester to apply. The President and Tenure Committee must support the application. VPAA Alexander noticed this when reviewing system policies.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Academic Standards and Assessment Committee – Jinger Doe**
The committee met February 18 and March 4 to review PURs. The GenEd taskforces are progressing. Jinger has been elected to serve another term as Chair of the ASA. The next meeting is March 25, 2022 via Zoom.
- **Administrative Faculty Committee – Ashlyn Herold**
The committee approved proposed changes to the Senate webpage for Administrative Faculty Evaluations. The committee is also continuing to discuss having the Administrative Faculty Chair on the Executive Board. To have the AF Chair to join the Faculty Senate Executive Board there will need to be a change to the Faculty Senate Bylaws and time release stipulated in the NFA Contract. The AFC will pursue the change in the next round of NFA Contract Negotiations (not the upcoming negotiation). The next meeting for the committee is on March 25, 2022.
- **Curriculum Review Committee – Katie Kolbet**
Amy provided Katie's report. There was a light schedule of course / program changes submitted today. The committee will be discussing changes to the CRC website pages.
- **Learning Commons Committee – John Kemp**
The committee met March 3 and discussed the upcoming Earth Day event on April 22. The event theme is Investing in Our Planet. The committee will be contacting environmental organizations for tabling at the event. The next meeting of the committee is April 7, 2022.
- **Part-Time Faculty Committee – Pat Miller**
The committee met this morning. Amanda Williams has been elected to fill in the Part-Time Senator seat for the remainder of this semester. The Part-Time Survey was recently shown to the Cabinet and is headed to the Planning Council next. The PTF Newsletter will be sent out the week after Spring Break. The committee will discuss the Koffee Klatches and will create an agenda. The next meeting is April 8, 2022.
- **Professional Standards – Marynia Giren-Navarro**
The committee met today and agreed to withdraw the two action items on the agenda. One item became a moot point due to Dr. Alexander's swift web page change from required to recommended syllabus statements and the other was pulled for further wordsmithing by the committee. The next meeting is April 8, 2022.
- **Recognition and Activities – Rebecca Eckland**
The committee met on March 1. The Distinguished Faculty Award evaluations are underway along with the Professional of the Month nominations and awardings. Notes will be sent to all awardees to let them know their work is noticed. The next committee meeting is on April 5, 2022.

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

The committee met on February 25. The Merit Policy Survey has been sent out to Academic Faculty to collect information for future Merit Policy changes. The committee will begin to work on an Equity Study and drafting a motion for the next Senate meeting. The next SBBC meeting is March 25, 2022. Matt is also bringing the Merit Policy to the Senate for action today. This item came from the Planning Council, who is on their first read. It was requested to have the Planning Council wait until the Merit Taskforce, SBBC, and the full Senate all have weighed-in before they vote on the second read.

To approve the edits on the Merit Policy. The Faculty Senate approved these edits with 26 ayes.

- **WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee – James Kuzhippala**

The committee met today. The WebCollege has hired a new instructional designer. Blisin Hestiyas was voted in as the new committee chair. Online Standard 1.1 will be left as is. The committee will look at access to courses on canvas. The next meeting of the committee is April 8, 2022.

- **Student Government Association (SGA) – Darian Richards**

Darian attended the meeting with Dr. Biden and was able to have a conversation with her. Darian's term is coming to an end and she won't be running again. There are several people running for SGA President. The Nevada Student Alliance approved a resolution to establish a universal Nevada-wide form for DACA and International Students to allow a student to navigate between colleges and universities without having to reapply for aid. They are also establishing a DACA Renewal Fund of up to \$500 per student. Pasta with the President is coming up. Please encourage your students to attend. There are masks and hand sanitizer available in the SGA Office if anyone needs them. The Nevada Student Alliance are proposing to add a voting student member to the Board of Regents.

- **Classified Council – Sarah Gill**

The Easter Egg Hunt is coming on April 16 from 10-1 p.m. either in the Student Center or outside depending on the weather. The February Employee of the Month has been selected and March Nominations are open. The council is also calling for Employee of the Year nominations for Classified Staff. The deadline is April 15 at Midnight. AY 22-23 nominations open next week for Classified Council. The next meeting is March 16.

Old Business

None

New Business

Past Chair YeVonne gave the timeline for the Faculty Senate Chair-Elect Election.

- Chair-Elect Election Nominations Open - March 11, 2022
- Nominations Close - April 1, 2022
- Nominees Announced - April 8, 2022
- Elections Open - April 11, 2022
- Elections Closed - May 6, 2022
- Election Results Announced - May 13, 2022
- New Officers Take Office – July 1, 2022

Adjourn

It was moved by Chair-Elect Amy Cavanaugh and seconded by Senator Rossi Todorova to adjourn the March 11, 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting. The motion passed with 22 ayes.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:16 p.m.