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# OPEN MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 18, 2021

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**Date:** March 18, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 pm

**Location:** BlueJeans

**Attendees:** Lauren Sanew, AmberAnaya, Julia Bledsoe, Jeffrey Metcalf, Barb Painter, Jane Zhang, Hannah Thomas-Ganter, Carol Gribbin, Carole Chouinard, Barb Evans, Renee Caudill, Tina May, Chynna Slocum, Rachel Blackburn, Natalia Delaney, Sarah Gill, Katt Warner, Samie Perez, Jackie Draper, Sarah Jacobsen, Janet Bicker, Helen Scott, Cynthia Olivo, Dawn Ingraham, Jennie Allen, Gina True, Laura Meacham, 3 Guests

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

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1. **Roll Call**

- Julia Bledsoe, Chynna Slocum, Rachel Blackburn, Sarah Gill, Katt Warner, and Tina May all present.

2. **Approve Minutes**

- Rachel Blackburn makes a motion to approve, Carole Chouinard seconds the motion. No discussion on the minutes. February 2021 minutes are approved.

3. **Board Members Report**

- **President’s Report – Julia Bledsoe**

- Julia shares a little information from Classified Council’s meeting with President Hilgersom.
  - There is a lot going on with the legislature. The President attended the hearing of the Ways and Means Committee, it seemed that there was a bit of animosity towards NSHE who seem to be talking of changing the Count Year to this year to somehow help with the budget. However, changing the Count Year was not discussed during the legislative session.
  - TMCC is receiving \$13, 868,000.00 through HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.) As long as no additional funds are taken from us through some sort of legislative maneuver, or changing of the Count Year then TMCC should be in pretty good shape.
  - We are not looking at any more cuts or layoffs in terms of personnel, which is really good news.
  - Briefly discussed people continuing to work from home and what has been learned from the past year of working remotely due to COVID. This is being explored and is on the agenda for the Leadership team to discuss.

- **Vice President’s Report – Chynna Slocum**

- **Notes shared from Faculty Senate Meeting for February and March:**

- **February**

1. Employee of the Month form has been updated to be clearer and the Committee is now using the new scoring criteria.
2. Due to the volume of nominations, the committee has been asked to move the nominations that are strong candidates, but not awarded to the next month.
3. Improving communications to more effectively communicate with everyone who submits a nomination as well as the person who was nominated.

4. Employee of the Year – currently nominations are being accepted and will be through April 16, 2021. They require a bit of extra work so please start thinking about who you would like to nominate and start working on those submissions.
- March
    1. Dr. Bubnova talked about the legislative priorities, which are in the NSHE budget including the Student Financial Aid Programs, Faculty and Staff Compensation, PEBP benefits and Community College Governments
    2. The Library received a donation of books from the Raggio Family that will be put on display at the Library shortly.
    3. The Tutoring Center announced that they desperately need tutors. Let Brandy Scarnati know if you know of anyone who may be able to help.
  - Chynna also gave a couple brief statements about the IAC meeting from February
    - John Albrecht gave a presentation and training on open meeting law
    - President Hilgersom presented the TMCC updated Strategic Master Plan which was approved and supported.
    - Dr. Murgalo gave an update on several programs; all of which were fully supported.
  - **Secretary's Report – Katt Warner**
    - No Report - Katt announced to please use the link available in the chat for the attendees google sign in form.
  - **Treasurer's Report – Sarah Gill**
    - \$1615.89 Employee Recognition
    - \$1618.50 Emergency Loans
    - \$5924.87 Operating
    - \* Hospitality expense pending of \$60.00
      - Someone did donate some money through Foundations that will go into the Emergency Loan Fund
      - If anyone is interested in donating to Classified Emergency Loan fund, you can do that by going onto the Foundation webpage under donations and fill out the information. Please make sure that you put in the notes that you would like it to go to the Classified Council Emergency Loan fund. Then reach out to us and let us know that a contribution has been made.
  - **Hospitality Report – Rachel Blackburn**
    - Classified Council Hospitality Recognition Form is now available on the Classified Council website under our forms section. So if you have somebody in mind please go ahead and submit those.
  - **NSHE Representative Report – Tina May**
    - Presented at the Board of Regents on March 4, 2021
      - We introduced the new 2021 NSHE Classified Council Executive Board.
      - Discussed the NSHE Classified Council initiatives
      - The establishment of the system wide Grant-in-Aid
      - The benefits for Classified dependents
      - Establishing of the system wide Classified Distinguished Retiree program, including Grant-in-Aid for those who have achieved Distinguished status at their respective institutions
      - Addressing disparities in the Classified benefits between institutions in comparison to our Faculty and Professionals in the hope of creating more equitable benefits for all Classified Staff

- Working with NSHE Leadership to identify alternative solutions for layoffs; such as flexibility, position assignments, and work load sharing. Simply trying to consider every option before layoffs.
- Still monitoring the budget

4. **Returning to Campus – Julia Bledsoe discusses this topic**

- Stage 3 / Vaccinations are available to everyone April 5, 2021
  - Things at this point are still in a state of flux. Vaccinations are available to all now and people should be preparing to return to campus; likely June 1, 2021.
  - Most departments and divisions are working on their Stage 3 Plans. There were no questions, comments, or concerns at this time.
- Homecoming
  - Julia brings up a form that HR has regarding a waiver asking for exceptions for returning to work that will allow employees to continue to work remotely. She does not expect that the form will be as lenient. HR is looking at going back to using the FMLA criteria. If anyone is thinking about continuing to work remotely you'll need to go through HR.
  - Each department and division will need to communicate with your supervisors on when you are to return to work.

5. **Announcements**

- Statement: Serving on the Classified Council
  - Julia is working on the online forms and email for nominations for Classified Council. We will be seeking nominations for Classified Council Officers. We are hoping that you will be seeing an email Monday with the nomination form link.
  - If anyone has questions, comments, or concern for any reason; or if you would like to serve please reach out, [classifiedcouncil@tmcc.edu](mailto:classifiedcouncil@tmcc.edu)

6. **New Business**

- Call for new business. Hearing none.

7. **Next Meeting April 15, 2021, 1:00 pm**

**Adjourn 1:24 pm**