
FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2017

Faculty Senate Chair: Cheryl Cardoza	Faculty Senate Chair-Elect: Mike Holmes	Executive Committee member, Academic Standards and Assessment Chair Brian Ruf
Executive Committee member, Curriculum Review Chair Haley Orthel-Clark	Executive Committee member, Professional Standards Chair Scott Huber	Executive Committee member, Salary, Benefits and Budgetary Concerns Chair Steve Bale
Library Committee Chair Corina Weidinger	Part-Time Faculty Issues Committee Chair Marynia Giren-Navarro	Recognition & Activities Committee Chair Olga Katkova
Senators At-Large: Yevonne Allen Erin Frock Kate Kirkpatrick Brandy Scarnati	Senators for Allied Health: Julie Muhle Patti Sanford	Senators for Applied Industrial Technology: Clifford Bartl Mike Schulz
Senators for Biology: Meeghan Gray Dan Williams	Senators for Business Division: Ben Scheible	Senators for Computer Technology: Ed Corbett Judy Fredrickson
Senators for English: Elizabeth Baines Robert Lively	Senator for History, Political Science & Law: Fred Lokken	Senators for Humanities: Tom Cardoza Wade Hampton
Senators for Math: Anne Flesher Blisin Hestiyas	Senators for Physical Sciences: Dave Boden Patrick Guiberson	Senators for Social Sciences: Haley Orthel-Clark Micaela Rubalcava
Senators for Visual and Performing Arts: Candace Garlock Corina Weidinger		

Absent: Fred Lokken

Guests: President Karin Hilgersom, Dr. Barbara Buchanan, David Turner II, Valerie Kelly, Julia Hammett, Lars Jensen, Hieu Do, Tanja Hayes, David Misner Jr., Natalie Brown, Terry Mendez, Andy Hughes, Jonathan Lam

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes February 3, 2017

Chair Cardoza asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 3rd 2017. Senator Hampton made the motion and Senator Orthel-Clark seconded. When asked for corrections, Erin Frock noted that her name was listed under absent senators but that she was indeed there. The motion was amended to correct that mistake.

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from February 3, 2017 as amended

Movant: Senator Wade Hampton

Second: Senator Haley Orthel-Clark

Vote: Passed unanimously

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the consent agenda

Movant: Senator Anne Flesher

Second: Senator Wade Hampton

Vote: Passed unanimously

Chair Report—Cheryl Cardoza

- **Board of Regents Update**

- **Facilities Master Plan Revision.** Cheryl reported that at the March Board of Regents Meeting, TMCC's administration had added two items to the Facilities Master Plan which were approved by the Board.

1. EATS Building
2. Sports Facility

Cheryl went on to say that Dr. Hilgersom had promised to take two other items off the agenda that would have asked for official approval of the soccer field, and authorize the fee increase for it. Administration did take these two items off the agenda even though they still appeared in the published version. Cheryl added that we have to remember that the Facilities Master plan is a planning document and that just because an item is added to it, doesn't mean we have to build it.

Scott Huber asked to address this issue. He pointed out that the Sports Facility seems to be driven by just a few and that most faculty, classified, and a majority of the students are being left out of the process. He called for a college-wide discussion of the issues. He argued that all of us need to discuss the cost ratio, the necessity for it, the benefits, the long term, and long term disabilities of this. Scott proposed a motion: Given the fact that the Sports Complex proposal has not been vetted adequately within the greater TMCC community, and given the fact that the financial liabilities to the institution have not been adequately explored, it is in the best interest that President Hilgersom withdraw the proposal as an action item from the agenda for the Board of Regents special meeting in April. Ben Scheible made the motion, and Wade Hampton seconded.

President Hilgersom requested a chance to clarify. She argued that shared governance relies on representation and that she had made presentations about the Sports Facility at key committees where faculty are represented: President's Cabinet, the IAC, and Planning Council two times. She argued that no one had been frozen out, and that we all must understand that this is an SGA proposal not a faculty one. She then remarked that your representatives must not be letting you know what's going on. Cheryl Cardoza pointed out that she serves as the faculty representative for all of the committees Dr. Hilgersom just mentioned and that she has informed her constituents of the information presented and that she had, at all of those meetings, pointed out the primary concerns she had been hearing from the faculty, which included the \$9 per credit fee among other things. Dr. Hilgersom admitted that Cheryl had done an effective job presenting concerns, and that the main concern, cost, ultimately led to the item being pulled from the March Agenda.

David Turner, SGA President, pointed out that SGA has to abide by open meeting laws which means posting notice of their meetings on all campuses. He suggested that we attend SGA meetings if we have concerns. He also argued that the SGA survey was done very carefully and that the survey faculty passed out is not credible because it is biased. Turner asserted that Department Chairs forced faculty, especially part-time faculty, to issue this biased survey to their students. The SGA survey, on the other hand was posted to all students, and all were given access. Cheryl stated that the SGA survey was problematic and that it did not support the \$9 credit fee being proposed for the project. Dr. Hilgersom agreed that the survey did not support the \$9 fee which is why they are looking for a better bid. The first bid gave a worst

case scenario estimate which everyone thinks is too high. She also argued that Financial Aid should cover the fees for students, so it shouldn't really affect them.

Senators asked which demographic would be hurt and how students without financial aid could afford the extra fee. David answered that SGA is setting aside scholarships to help. \$15,000 and a \$10,000 emergency reserve fund. SGA is trying to make sure no one will be hurt by this project. Senators then asked about other elements that might increase costs: coaches, irrigation. Dr. Hilgersom responded that we would not hire coaches, but that we could offer stipends for them. For irrigation, she offered the idea that we could rely on a gray water system to maintain the turf. She is hoping for a bid of only \$15 million instead of the original \$22 million. She ended by saying that most community colleges have fields for recreation. We can also attract youth sports to our campus. She ended by saying that she's just trying to meet all the needs. Wade said that we already have a recreational par course for exercise, but others pointed out that recent construction has ruined the path.

Lars Jensen asked to address David's comment about the faculty survey being biased. He pointed out that the two surveys are compatible, that the results from the faculty survey actually match the SGA survey when you look at their question about the \$9 fee increase. Lars went on to say that there is no real proof of concept here. He thought using discretionary funds for sports clubs now would be a better idea. Then we can see if we have demand. After five years, there's a proof of concept. Dr. Hilgersom argued there is proof. The NJCAA shows that this kind of facility is not only common but drives enrollments up, not down. She mentioned the prospect of intramurals and the Aces Baseball people wanting to use the soccer field for their new soccer club. She said there was a lot of excitement in the community. One senator remarked that the process seems clear since students aren't really speaking against it. She voiced some concern about the faculty survey. David agreed saying that there were 30 students waiting to make public comment at the March BOR meeting but didn't get the chance.

Another senator asked if we would seek funding from the state for the project. Dr. Hilgersom explained that because we want to fund this with student fees, we would need to get revenue bonds which would be serviced by the fees. At the March Board of Regents meeting, CSN got a proposal approved for three new student centers that would be funded by student fees. Administration there, through in \$2 million from reserves to help offset the costs to students. Dr. Hilgersom would like to mimic this in our process but isn't sure how much we can afford to give to the project. Brian Ruff stated he would like to see a financial burden report showing the cost estimate for increased maintenance, water and insurance to the campus. President Hilgersom agreed. David suggested that minor soccer leagues need fields, that there's a shortage. Another senator remarked that it was his sense that the purpose of the field is to bring people to campus. In his opinion, though, a theatre would bring more people than a sports field.

Julia Hammett described how she saw the project so far. She stated that she first saw the plans in January and that she brought up concerns. When it was put on the BOR agenda, she was told that it would be tabled and yet the amendment to the master plan went forward. She said that this was a problem and brought up a number of concerns about timing, about plans not being fully vetted with permanent employees here on campus. Those people need a say. She went on to say coaches can't just be people with stipends, that they would need to be serious considerations which could be costly. She said that the

Master Facility plan showed a loss of approximately 500 parking spots. All of this brings up concerns about need. We can't use reserves for merit pay, but we can for this.

Dr. Hilgersom countered that Julia's comments were full of misinformation, that the president had been clear about what she was pulling from the March BOR agenda. The funding for the project and its authorization were not put forward. NSHE encouraged the submission of the Master plan so that TMCC could seek other funding sources. Dr. Hilgersom continued with a discussion of parking spots. The EATS building will take up 144 spots, but the Athletic field will not use any parking spaces. She said concerns raised at planning council were vague and unspecified, that as this is an SGA initiative, we need to respect the student government leaders for exercising their rights.

Julia Hammett clarified her information sources: an email from the president about what was being pulled and the packet submitted to NSHE for the BOR agenda item. The loss of parking spaces is shown in the newly approved Facilities Master Plan. Julia also pointed out that she has a reputation for integrity and would never willfully misrepresent the facts.

Mike Holmes noted that operation and maintenance costs need to plan for coaches and staff. He mentioned travel, but Dr. Hilgersom said TMCC could not pay for sports teams to travel. Mike said in his observations of the submission to the Board of Regents that the projected costs only covered the soccer field and the Fitness building plus \$7 million for rough grading (which doesn't specify cubic yards) and \$1 million for retaining walls. The proposed fitness building at 20,000sf will cost an additional \$8 million. He asked if they had to be done together. There should be a current fitness utilization study before we embark on funding the building for Phase II. Dr. Hilgersom responded that she also found the \$8 million for grading to be troubling and was seeking a better bid. She wasn't sure when Phase II would start. Concerns were raised about how long students would have to wait to see a return on their money. A decade? Anecdotally, some say that our current fitness room isn't used much because of the location. Dr. Hilgersom said a rough estimate suggests we could get both a track and a small gym for \$15 million. Administration is waiting for the official estimate to see if that's possible.

Mike argued for a cost analysis of all the associated costs for the facility. Dr. Hilgersom agreed that it was a good idea to do that. Steve Bale remarked that personally he didn't question the SGA's right to initiate a project. If they had \$15,000,000 in the bank and they could pay for it, that's one thing, but to put up a small portion and put the rest of the debt to the college or students is disingenuous. The problem lies in the process. It's problematic to put so much time and energy into putting up a soccer field right away when eight years working to get merit for professional faculty have resulted in no hurry. Another senator voiced concerns about the \$9 credit fee being a permanent increase for students. Dr. Hilgersom said that the fees would only cover debt service and it would sunset eventually. She said the new bid could bring the fee down to the equivalent of \$5 a credit though she was leaning toward a flat fee of \$60-80 a semester.

Students at UNR pay \$80 to belong to their new fitness facility because they want to be healthy. When asked how long before the fee would sunset, Dr. Hilgersom stated approximately 20-25 years.

David argued that the current fitness center is not being utilized by students because of the location. The proposed gym would be free for student use and closer to other fitness facilities like the soccer field.

Another senator talked about the great benefits of teams but wondered whether WNC's baseball field was still in use. She was answered by a senator who plays baseball. According to him, WNC had a nationally ranked baseball team, but the facility was hemorrhaging cash. He saw something similar at another institution where he worked before TMCC. Dr. Hilgersom said that baseball at WNC failed from a combination of costs and politics. Baseball is more expensive than other sports like soccer. WNC is actually using their baseball field for soccer now. CSN also has soccer and is part of NJCAA. We were careful to look at balance. Expensive sports like football and swimming will costs too much. TMCC can't pay for uniforms or travel. Sports teams will have to engage in fundraising for those.

Mike pointed out that there seemed to be conflicting scenarios. The gym will take 10 years. Won't students want it sooner? What is the expectation of the people who will be paying for the facility? Scott Huber noted that the proposed complex lacks validity. We need to follow appropriate procedure here. There are a lot of questions that are not answered yet.

Senator Corbett called the question.

Motion: Because putting this project forward to the Board of Regents in April is premature, Faculty Senate moves that the Administration not put the item on the Board's April agenda.

Movant: Senator Ben Scheible

Second: Senator Wade Hampton

Vote: Passed 18 in favor, 5 against, and 1 abstention

- **AAS General Education Discussions.** Cheryl reported on the AAS General Education discussions in CRC. The question has been asked about who verifies those and when they have to go through the committee for catalog changes, especially if it's just some typos. The Faculty Senate will look into this process.
- **New Policies.** Cheryl asked senators to review the new policies coming from the Board of Regents with their constituents. She reviewed them briefly, but asked for Senators to pay particular attention to the Accessibility policy. She asked if any senators or their constituents had issues with any of these that they contact her via email.
 - Excess Credit Fees
 - In-State Tuition for Veterans and Families
 - Handbook Revisions for Millennial Scholarship
 - Co-Enrollment to support Transfer Articulation
 - Accessibility, Service Animals, and Emotional Service Animals
- **Interim Dean of Sciences.** Cheryl announced that as of March 1st, Julie Ellsworth had been named as Interim Dean of Sciences. She congratulated the Division of Sciences for getting such a great dean.
- **NWCCU Sanction/General Education Assessment.** Cheryl Cardoza reported on the progress since NWCCU had issued a private sanction for TMCC's lack of compliance in the area of General Education Assessment. When the letter was received, Cheryl formed a General Education Task Force to address the sanction. Since what NWCCU wants is evidence of assessment, Cheryl charged the committee with coming up with a viable way of assessing any courses up for course assessment this semester. The Task force has been working diligently to create value rubrics like those used nationwide to measure the different competencies this institution has defined for General Education. Cheryl noted that she pulled task force members from the Academic Standards and Assessment committee and from people committed to assessment at TMCC. The task force consists of: VPAA Barbara Buchanan, Associate Dean of Assessment Melissa Deadmond, ASA Chair Brian Ruf, me, Meeghan Gray, Dan Lorantz, and Rick Bullis. Cheryl reported that already, the task force is well on its way in completing the work. More news on how that will work is coming. Just know that if your course needs to submit a CAR this year, it will also need a General Education Assessment Report, a GEAR. Dr. Buchanan is working on getting funds to offer additional assignments to people who can act as Assessment Leads, and is providing lunch at Assessment meetings on May 17th which is still a contract day. Melissa Deadmond remarked that she had just returned from training with NWCCU and was gratified to see that this is an endorsed path for GE assessment. Dr. Hilgersom commented that it is an excellent plan, but that we have to find a way to communicate it to PT faculty. Cheryl Cardoza pointed out that there are a number of mechanisms in place for that. To Dr. Hilgersom's suggestion that we should be gathering assessment vehicles and showing them to NWCCU, a number of senators protested that that will most likely violate copyright laws. Other senators wondered if fair use would cover this as NWCCU would not publish the essay. Mike Holmes requested clarification from NWCCU on any data expectations and Melissa said she would check into it.
- **Legislative Session.** Senators were asked to please pay attention to the updates sent out from the government relations email account, and encouraged to go to Carson City to make a statement and tell about the horror stories regarding our health plan, which as it stands, is not adequate. TMCC faculty are

professionals should not have this much trouble getting premium health care. Legislators really like to hear stories and are more inclined to fix something if they connect, so please send them to Cheryl.

- **Faculty Surveys.** Faculty Senate did not work on surveys for the Deans and Vice President last year because John and Cheryl ran out of time and also felt that it was too soon to do some of them. Those will take place this year. NFA and Faculty Senate worked together to craft the questions. As usual, the questions are based on the job descriptions of the Deans, they are not based on anything outside that job description. Mike introduced some ideas about leadership that were interesting and since they are relevant will be included. The Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Student Services are both being evaluated so everyone will get two surveys this year. The plan is to roll them out in April.
- **Equity Study.** The Equity Study is still ongoing. Jim New recently found an issue with the data. Because Administrative Faculty are moving to a new schedule for their pay, some anomalies have arisen. For example, a supervisor and a supervisee ended up in the same column, so now the consultants are going back to look at that data. Once that issue is resolved, the committee will reconvene and finalize the work.

Chair-Elect's Report—Mike Holmes

Given that Cheryl had covered so much in her report, Mike had only this to say: Skiing is fabulous.

Action Items

- **Bylaws Revision for Part-Time Faculty Senator (Second read).** Cheryl called for a motion on the bylaw revisions to install a PT Faculty Senator. Senator Ben Scheible moved to accept the revisions, and Senator Haley Orthel-Clark seconded. Senator Tom Cardoza started discussion with concerns about three things. (1) The bylaw revision does not prevent someone who has a pre-existing full time relationship with TMCC or NSHE who also serves as Part-Time faculty from being voted in as a Senator. There are people who already have an extensive say in how our institution is run, such as a Vice President, a Regent, or someone who works here full time but not in faculty role, who could use this clause to become a Part-Time Senator. (2) There is a conflict between two clauses in the bylaws about the term the part-time senator would serve. Section 4.3 needs revision to make that consistent. (3) Since the intent of the senator is to represent Part-time faculty, Tom thought limiting the vote for the senator to members of the PT issues committee was not democratic. The vote should be put to all PT faculty just as the At Large Senate seat elections do. Steve Bale disagreed. He felt restricting the voting to the Part-Time Issues Committee was fair since every Part-Timer can be a part of that committee. He was concerned with uninvolved PT faculty. Brandy agreed with Tom that a one year term is better for PT Faculty and that an open vote is a good idea. Marynia did not oppose a more democratic vote either. She then brought up the Part-Time survey to show that the respondents were very much in favor of a PT Senator on Faculty Senate. 71 percent stated that a representative on Senate is important because there is a disconnect. Having a Senator would help close that gap. Marynia also argued that Part-Timers have special needs that are not being recognized. Cooperation between the committee and the senator would create a big improvement in terms of satisfaction among the Part-Timers.

Cheryl suggested that we need to think about if we want to send it back for revisions and then bring it back, but in that case she would waive the read requirement to count the third read as another second read when it comes back. Tom moved to send back to the Part-Time committee, it was seconded by Ben. A vote was taken.

Motion: To send the Bylaws revision back to the committee for consideration of the three issues brought up today and brought back for a second read at April's Faculty Senate Meeting.

Movant: Senator Tom Cardoza

Second: Senator Ben Scheible

Vote: Passed 21 in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention

- **Phase-In Retirement Petition.** Lars Jensen presented a petition with 113 signatures voicing opposition to the phase-in practices recently revised by President Hilgersom. The rationale for the petition rested with notions that there is a decline in the quality of the workplace when benefits continue to erode. Past presidents have honored

faculty requests for five years of phase in. Lars remarked that it is ironic that during an economic upturn, faculty should be told it is too expensive to exit a career with dignity. 98% of the faculty who were asked signed the petition. While faculty recognize the right of the president to deny requests for five years, she should take care to honor faculty who have earned that right, and not punish the whole for exceptions. Steve Bale remarked that he signed only because the petition wording supported the president's right to use discretion in allotting these contracts. Dr. Hilgersom agreed and talked about the process. She discussed her ideas with John Albrecht, Professional Standards, other Presidents, and BCN. The consensus was that only TMCC was going for 5 years. Other institutions allow 2-3 years as a norm. She asserted that she didn't change the policy, she's just using it to do what is best for the institution. She will still decide on this on a case-by-case basis, but we have to be mindful of these retirement contracts which lock us in even in hard budget times. Locking into a phase-in retirement contract means not being able to hire new faculty or letting new faculty go because of a retiring faculty member.

Dr. Hilgersom then sketched out her ideas about finding a true Merit Pay system. She can't use reserves for salaries because it adds to the base. Those are only good for one time projects. What she wants to institute here is a system of promotions done in a responsible way. Turnover moneys from retirees could be used for promotions. She'd like to add a significant amount like 8% to the base. A committee would decide who gets merit. The majority of the votes on the committee should be faculty. This would make us more responsible stewards of the budget.

Dave Boden said while he respected the President's position, he had made plans for his retirement based on the practices of the past. Just last year, people were awarded five year plans. This decision blindsided him. He felt unsupported for working hard all those years. Senators called for a phase-in of phase-in so faculty who have made plans can make adjustments. It can't hurt to discuss it. Dr. Hilgersom pointed out that the practice leaves the institution in a tough spot because it's not just a reduction of workload but benefits in the mix. Ben Scheible pointed out that he is disappointed in the hand-out Dr. Hilgersom distributed to senators. He felt like #4 used a punitive tone: "As for Employment promises, I do not believe this body is as naïve as the assertion portends.

Promises, as you put it, related to benefits typically occur in writing and by the appropriate party." When asked for clarification, Dr. Hilgersom commented that if you don't have it in writing, it doesn't exist. Julia pointed out that a huge number of faculty signed this document which shows that there is opposition to this change. The president went on to point out that she will honor requests for five years for superstars. While she respects the mechanism for sharing concerns, she will still make the decisions. Tom Cardoza offered to make a motion. Senators objected as the wording of the petition did not make any kind of relevant statement. Tom moved that the Faculty Senate recognizes that the vast majority of TMCC faculty oppose phase-in contracts shorter than five years. Senators agreed that Senator Cardoza's wording could be voted on.

Motion: the Faculty Senate recognizes that the vast majority of TMCC faculty oppose phase-in contracts shorter than five years and endorse that voice.

Movant: Senator Tom Cardoza

Second: Senator Anne Flesher

Vote: Passed with 20 in favor, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention

- **Sports Complex Survey.** Scott presented a motion from the Professional Standards meeting on February 17, 2017.

Motion: TMCC faculty feel that the conclusion from the SGA survey regarding the sports complex was not supported by the data, therefore we request a comprehensive survey of all TMCC students to accurately gauge their support for increasing student fees to support the sports complex and soccer field.

Movant: Senator Dave Boden

Second: Senator Wade Hampton

Vote: Passed unanimously

NFA Report

Julia read the following into the record: The third concern of NFA is related to the treatment of professional faculty by the head of Student Services. There have been several incidents over the years, but recently, there has been a series of escalating improprieties that have risen to the appearance of creating a hostile work environment. Faculty leadership has been watching and deliberating about how we might proceed in the most effective and constructive way forward. We stand shoulder to shoulder with academic and administrative faculty, whom we assert have the same fundamental rights to a positive working environment, fair and equitable professional treatment by their supervisors, and the right to participate in shared governance fully without fear of reprisals. In this spirit, NFA and Faculty Senate leadership have completed the questionnaire forms for soliciting feedback for all deans, directors, and vice presidents who supervise faculty in Academics and Student Services. We pledge to conduct a constituent feedback survey in the coming weeks that is consistent with the bylaws we shepherded through Planning Council last year. We will protect the identity of rank and file faculty and staff while being mindful not to violate the confidentiality or encroach upon the personnel evaluation process of administrators. It is our goal to improve communication, as we move forward in shared governance through the mechanisms of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness. I thank you for your time.

Administrative Report by Karin Hilgersom

Dr. Hilgersom had to leave for another obligation and could not deliver her report.

Committee Reports

- **Part-Time Faculty Issues – Marynia Giren-Navarro**

Marynia provided an update on the Part-Time Faculty survey beyond what she had already reported. 39 percent of Part-Time Faculty participated in the survey. PT faculty indicated that the primary motivation for teaching at TMCC was 81% for personal enrichment, and 60% for income. Only 60% indicated they knew about the PT Faculty Issues committee, which means we have to do a better job at spreading the word. Also 71% of those who responded have unique needs that would be best represented by a senator. 91% are aware of the email policy, and 91% have good contact with their Chairs and coordinators. The PT Support Center received a lot of praise.

75% are aware of services, 73% of Part-Timers who utilize it find the support helpful. Thanks to John and Brandy for doing an outstanding job. John and Brandy were also praised in the narrative portion of the survey. Another item of interest was Professional Development. It was possibly due to the stipends Cathy has provided for the Part-Time faculty who participate in certification program. John Fredrick provided an update on the Part-Time Newsletter at the meeting. If anyone wants to communicate news, please contact John. There was discussion about Learning Commons, and the biggest need was a small office for meeting students and a small conference room for meetings that can be utilized by Part-Time Faculty. The Part-Time Faculty of the Month for February was Stephanie Shaddock-Gilbert. March's winner has been chosen. The Part-Time Faculty ceremony will take place on May 5, 2017 in the Vista building. The committee also talked about administrative withdrawals, which will be incorporated into the newsletter. There was also a brief presentation on StarFish and graduation applications are due April 1, 2017.

- **Professional Standards – Scott Huber**

It came to the committee's attention that we have a retention specialist for online teaching. She has done a nice job of increasing retention among students basically by advising them how to do the work and how to communicate with their teachers. There were concerns that she might be coaching students to negotiate with their Professor about polices within the syllabus, but that's been straightened out.

- **Task Force: Range Enhancements – Steve Bale**

Steve reported on the Task Force first. Members wanted to be able to look at the annual plan potentially as one of the elements to be used, but the committee is looking at modifying the annual plan. The Task Force will stay on hold until the annual plan is revised so we don't have to do the work multiple times.

- **Salary, Benefits & Budgetary Concerns Committee – Steve Bale**

Salary and Benefits will meet on 4/21/17. Steve encouraged anyone who feels compelled to come and participate. The committee has a lot of important things to talk about. They will elect a new Sabbatical Subcommittee Chair, and are looking at modifications to the sabbatical policies. The committee will also address travel applications and award travel funds. Finally, the committee will elect a new Salary and Benefits Chair, so any of you who wants to take over the job come with my blessings.

- **Academic Standards and Assessment – (ASA) - Brian Ruf**

ASA met on February 10, 2017. The committee had an extended meeting because their January meeting was canceled. The first part of Brian's report covered the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities year one report which gave us kudos for all the recommendations except for the Assessment of General Education. The committee finished comments on the Entrepreneurship Program Unit Review and are half way through the Sociology PUR. Only strengths and weakness need to be compiled at the next meeting which is 4/21/17 at 10:00 am in SIER 209.

- **Recognition & Activities – Olga Katkova**

The committee's conversation was about Professional of the Month. Nicole Shumabuku was awarded for February. There will be more awards for March, April and May. Olga gave an update on the Distinguished Teaching and Service awards. People who were nominated had to submit paperwork by March 5, 2017. As Olga is not the Chair of the Selection Committee, she does not know how many people submitted, but everything is on time. The Reno Gazette Journal decided to support the award for teaching again which is excellent news. Olga is thankful to Gretchen who negotiated it. The committee's last meeting will be on April 9, 2017.

- **Library Committee – Corina Weidinger**

Corina had three reports to give. The committee hosted a getting published panel on February 23, 2017. It was very successful. The next event is coming up on March 16, 2017, between 2:00-4:00 pm in SIER 108, we will have a panel discuss the opioid crisis in the United States, it is estimated about 10% of our students have drug addiction problems. Corina presented flyers to the event. There will be a panel from Washoe County Health District, the School Committee Health at UNR, and the Reno Police Department all joining together. The last event is the Poetry Reading. It will take place on April 20, 2017 from 2:00- 4:00 p.m. on the library patio. Corina reported that she will be stepping down at the end of the semester. The committee had an election and Josh Shinn will be the new Chair. Corina reminded senators that Sue Malick is an expert in genealogy. She asked me to let people know that if they want do research projects on the history of genealogy or research on family history she has many resources to help with that. The other issue the committee discussed was the weeding of books out of the library. Librarians will be removing from the library's collections. At the first meeting, this year, the committee found out that last fall they weeded 4,590 books, which are now gone. There was a rumor that a private company was hired to weed out books from the second floor of the library to make space for the new Learning Commons.

At the second meeting, Corina invited Ken Sullivan, the Library Director, to find out more about this. She reported that our own librarians did the weeding of books that have not been check out since the year 2000 but were asked to keep the more valuable ones. We have one more meeting on April 6, 2017.

- **Curriculum Review Committee – Haley Orthel-Clark**

The committee met on February 24, 2017. A subcommittee was formed to review the Associate of General Studies Degree, and was tasked to do 3 things. 1. Review general education requirements for the degree, 2. Look for other elective requirements for computer science (currently IS101 is the only course that could fulfill this degree area. The committee wants to get faculty to look into other options). and 3. Develop criteria to review the courses fulfilling the US Constitution. Degree seeking students at TMCC are required to complete a three credit course that is designated as a United States Constitution course. These courses are intended to introduce students to the origins, history, and essential elements of the Constitution of the United States and of Nevada. The CRC has not yet developed criteria that would enable the committee to review courses that meet the United States and Nevada constitution requirement. The committee was developed to establish criteria for approving courses those courses. Associate Dean of Assessment Melissa Deadmond provided an update to the committee regarding the Northwest Commission accrediting body's response to TMCC's Ad-Hoc report on General Education assessment. The

Commission determined that TMCC was not in compliance in terms of General Education assessment. They issued a private sanction. A Task Force was developed to help bring TMCC to a more systematic procedure for assessing the outcomes for GE courses. Faculty will be asked to apply rubrics to their courses based on which competencies they chose for their courses when they applied for GE status. The training for Leap Frog that was planned in March 2017 was cancelled due to delays in process, so the estimated roll out for Leap Frog is on hold. The next meeting for CRC is on April 7, 2017.

- **Student Government Association – David Turner II**

The SGA transferred \$10,000 to the Student Resource Committee for immediate use in Spring '17. The SGA has also approved the FY17/18 Activities and Programming Budget. This budget includes:

- \$10,000 for the Emergency Student Scholarship Fund, to be awarded by the Emergency Resource Committee.
- \$15,000 for Unrestricted Scholarships to be awarded through Foundation.
- \$10,000 for My Campus Improvement Fund.

SGA will recommend adding a position to the SGA Senate, a Faculty Liaison position. This would be a non-voting, advising member, who would be recommended by Faculty Senate

For the NSA: David will be proposing a resolution for NSHE to create a Nevada Open Education Resource. The Regents now understand that this is a database that needs to be created and supported through the state system. There are no mandates, other than calling upon NSHE to create the database. The student body presidents will be coming together to propose a resolution to strike out excess credit fees. There are members who feel there is enough proof to show that the excess credit fee is not working and instead of keeping students on track is causing students to drop out.

- **Classified Council – Saloma Helget**

Saloma had two updates. The first is a change in our leadership on the Executive Board. Gracie Tout, our current president, has taken a position at UNR. So, Heather Combs-Salley has taken on the role of President earlier than her term. The Council is now looking for a new board for next year. Secondly, it is now the end of year and nominations are open for Classified Employee of the Year. If there is someone you would like to recognize for their contributions for the past year, please email the committee by March 24, 2017.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjourned at 3:21 p.m.