

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 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 Kate Kirkpatrick Brandy Scarnati Erin Frock	Senators for Allied Health: Julie Muhle Patti Sanford	Senators for Applied Industrial Technology: Clifford Bartl Mike Schulz
Senators for Biology: Meeghan Gray Dan Williams	Senator for Business Division: Ben Scheible	Senators for Computer Technology: Ed Corbett Judy Fredrickson
Senators for English: Elizabeth Humphrey Robert Lively	Senator for History, Political Science & Law: Fred Lokken	Senators for Humanities: Tom Cardoza Wade Hampton
Senators for Math: Anne Flesher Blisin Hestiyas	Senator for Physical Sciences: Dave Boden Patrick Guiberson	Senators for Social Sciences: Haley Orthel-Clark Micaela Rubalcava
Senator for Visual and Performing Arts: Candace Garlock Corina Weidinger		

Absent: David Boden (Proxy: Scott Huber), Anne Flesher (Proxy: Hieu Do), Blisin Hestiyas (Proxy: Casey Machen), Olga Katkova, Robert Lively (Proxy: Elizabeth Humphrey)

Guests: President Karin Hilgersom, David Turner II (SGS), Julia Hammett (President NFA), Kyle Dalpe, Tony Futia, Michelle Montoya, Mark Maynard, Sharon Wurm, Roni Fox, Kyle Simmons, Joan Stienman, Marie Murgolo-Poore, Jim New, Nicole Shimabuku, Neil Siegel

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

Chair Cardoza started by reading a statement to Senate to establish ground rules to keep meetings from going overlong. Her statement made the following points:

- The Principles of shared governance covers two components: speaking and listening. Engaging in civil discourse is essential. This means keeping comments to the point and being respectful to others.
- Faculty Senate encourages people to speak openly and debate will not be shut down unless it is irrelevant to the business of Faculty Senate or uncivil.
- Faculty Senate is not responsible for the things said at the meeting by our guests, only for our own discussions and resolutions.

- Guests come to provide information that they think is important, but are responsible for their own reports. If you disagree with a guest, you need to be respectful in addressing your concerns with what was said. If this needs to be a prolonged debate, Faculty Senate is not the place for that.
- Chair Cardoza acknowledged faculty frustration about communication on issues on campus including the Sports Facility. She pointed out that now that there are forums and because Dr. Hilgersom has open office hours at different campuses, those communication issues can be resolved elsewhere. Unless we have a resolution about a campus issue or need to debate something on it, those issues do not have to take up Faculty Senate meeting time.
- Agenda items need to come to the Chair and Executive Board in advance of the meeting. Usually, the Executive Board meets one week before the Faculty Senate Meeting to discuss the agenda and set it into motion. Please submit agenda items before that time.
- Mike Holmes, as Chair-Elect, will act upon his duties as parliamentarian, keeping comments confined to reasonable time limits and decorum.
- Chair Cardoza has asked that the Administrative Report be confined to 10 minutes with an opportunity for comments and questions not to exceed 10 minutes.

Senator Scheible suggested that the authority to limit Administrative Reports to 10 minutes had to be approved by the body and made the motion. There was no debate.

Motion: To approve keeping the Administrative Report to 10 minutes with 10 minutes for questions or comments.

Movant: Senator Ben Scheible

Second: Senator Wade Hampton

Vote: Passed unanimously

Approval of Meeting Minutes March 10, 2017

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from March 10, 2017 with correction to Brian Ruf's name and there were two sub-committees reported on for CRC

Movant: Senator Kate Kirkpatrick

Second: Senator Micaela Rubalcava

Vote: Passed unanimously

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the consent agenda

Movant: Senator Ben Scheible

Second: Senator Haley Orthel-Clark

Vote: Passed unanimously

Chair's Report—Cheryl Cardoza

- **Unauthorized Recording of Faculty Senate Meetings**
It has come to Chair Cardoza's attention that our last meeting was recorded without permission. Included in the

packet is NRS 396.970 and the interpretation of that statute by UNR so that we can see that the recording of Faculty Senate meetings requires everyone's permission in the room, so if you want to record on your phone you have to ask first. It is alarming that some would record our meetings and not trust the process. Faculty Senate always put out the minutes before a meeting, and they are always public, so there is no reason to record our meetings. Senator Rubalcava mentioned that she takes notes on her phone. Chair Cardoza applauded all senators for taking notes, but pointed out that audio recordings are prohibited by the NRS without permission from all members in the room. Chair Cardoza then specified that Faculty Senate is not covered by open meeting law. Meetings do not have to be recorded and Senate does not have to provide recordings of our meetings. The recordings made are only for note taking purposes and are not released to the public. Senator Tom Cardoza stated that NRS 396.970 is very clear about audio recording without permission. There are a few exceptions but they are very limited. He also pointed out that this could possibly be a felony. Senators pointed out that it would curtail open debate if senators felt like anyone could record the meetings and put them up on you-tube or whatever. It is against the law according to the NRS, and Cheryl just wants to make it clear that she no longer wants any unauthorized recordings of the meetings.

- **Board of Regents Update**

- **Chancellor Search**—It looks like a failed search The regents haven't decided whether or not they want to extend that particular search or whether they're going to start a new search altogether, but they are not happy with the results of the search, so there will be a discussion at a special meeting on 4/20/17. You are welcome if you have concerns about that process. Faculty Senate Chairs are going to bring up the fact that maybe we need to start thing about other ways we do searches within the open meeting law, which causes issues if candidates from a search don't want it revealed to their institutions that they are running for the position. They prefer to be announced only once they are finalists because it can impact them in their current jobs. Chair Cardoza will keep you posted on any updates to this matter.
- **The Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges search**—This search, on the other hand, is going extremely well. The committee has decided on the semi-finalists and will start doing phone interviews. The committee was surprised by how many good candidates have applied. This search has not been hampered by open meeting law. The committee does not include any Regents and is not subject to the law. The committee includes the Vice-Chancellor for Workforce Development, Frank Woodbeck, and a number of important constituents from Community Colleges in the state, so we have been able to work within the committee in ways that have brought us a better pool. This is one of the things Faculty Senate chairs plan to point out to the Board of Regents, that we should apply these principles to the Chancellor search. Chair Cardoza is happy to represent TMCC on that Committee with Jim New.

- **General Education Assessment**

- **Forum Today at 3 p.m.**—The General Education Assessment Forum today is in SIER 116. How the rubrics can be applied will be discussed. Bring your questions.
- **Assessment Leads**—If you're confused and you have to do General Education assessment, the assessment leads are there to walk you through it. The leads include: Cheryl Cardoza, Mark Maynard, Meeghan Gray, Rick Bullis, Anne Flesher, and Hieu Do. They have been assigned different departments, so they will be coming to your departments asking if you need help. The process is going extremely well. The Task Force apologizes that TMCC has to do this in a rush this semester, but have to submit a letter to NWCCU this September documenting real General Education progress. So if you have any concerns at all make sure you take advantage of this assessment leads who are getting extra compensating, so make them work for their money.
- **Closing the Loop Meetings: May 17**—At those meetings faculty will discuss assessment results and plan strategies to make assessment results better. That's what closing the loop means. Assessment activities need to be finished before the 17 when we meet, so you can talk about the results and what your results indicate. Remember you only have to do one learning outcome per General Education competency when

measuring from the rubrics. Therefore, if you have two competency areas, that's two learning outcomes you have to measure. If you're doing a CAR in conjunction with the GEAR, Cheryl advised combining outcomes, so you can do them at the same time. In the Fall and at the May 17 meetings, the campus will be talking about ways we can improve this process which was based on best practices at other institutions, and suggestions coming from NWCCU, but the Task Force is open to hearing what you have to say. It's important that we make this a process that fits TMCC. Your feedback will help with that. Make sure your constituents are aware of all these required meetings and that they are also aware that these leads are available to help so we can get this process going.

- **PT Faculty Stipends**—Barbara Buchanan will also provide PT Faculty stipends. It's important to see more of our PT Faculty involved in our assessment processes, so please encourage your part-timers to come to the May 17 Closing the Loop meetings. Every department must complete minutes and turn them in to the Vice Presidents' office. The names of every participating part-time faculty should be included so they can receive the stipends.
- **Legislative Session: AB331/Articulation and Transfers Board**—Chair Cardoza reported that a number of bills will die tonight and one of those is Assembly Bill 331. AB331 would have created a separate community college system. The authors of the bill have stepped aside to let it die, but they working on a way for the articulation board included in the bill to find some life of its own. Kyle Dalpe reported on a bill that would expand the Silver State Opportunity Grant to allow awards for university students. Kyle argued that it would drain the funds impact affordability for the neediest college students, so it will not be moved into the university realm for now. Another bill on the SSOG is attempting to lower required load from 15 to 12 credits. The Chancellor was not optimistic about that particular movement but admitted it would help us.
- **Fitness Complex Survey**—All full-time academic faculty received a survey on their opinions about the Fitness Complex. Chair Cardoza received 101 responses, which is phenomenal. Our administrative faculty have not gotten the survey, but they will. The issue is with defining what "administrative faculty" means. The at-large senators asked the chair who they represented, which is an important question. Chair Cardoza is currently researching the question. In reviewing the bylaws, she uncovered a clause that says anyone that is a direct report to the President would not be eligible to serve on the Senate, but the deans are not defined and that's what needs clarification. Senator Fred Lokken stated that deans are always administrative faculty and that he served on senate while in his Dean position at Web College. Cheryl voiced a concern in that deans also supervise faculty which could make for a conflict of interest. However, it is essential to make sure representation is afforded to everyone who should have it and she vowed to look further into the matter with HR Director Roni Fox.
- **Register Now**—Kate Kirkpatrick spoke about the Register Now campaign meant to help enrollments. She offered senators T-shirts and flyers, and thanked everyone for their support.
- **Equity Study**—The equity study is almost done. VPFA Jim New is working on clearing up some final issues. Faculty should be receiving a letter soon that will tell you whether you are receiving an adjustment and how much.

Chair-Elect's Report – Mike Holmes

Chair-Elect Holmes reported that he will be taking a look at the distribution of faculty after the reorganization to make sure that there is proper senatorial representation on senate. He said he will be contacting the deans regarding any adjustments or modifications, but probably not until the start of Fall Semester.

Action Items

- **Bylaws Revision for Part-Time Faculty Senator**—The Faculty Senate bylaw revision that would establish a part-time faculty member serve as a senator were discussed. Before a motion was entertained, the Part-Time Issues Committee Chair Marynia Giren-Navarro asked to make comment. She first thanked Tom Cardoza for helping out with the bylaw amendments. She expressed her hope that this motion will pass. She also wanted to remind them that the part-time faculty survey that they administered several months back showed clearly that the majority,

over 75 percent of part-time faculty want representation. She pointed out that as a part-timer for many years, she is fully aware that these faculty do not have a voice. She conceded that there may be objections especially in that senate representation already covers most departments on campus. It is not the same as having a senator represent part-time concerns from a campus-wide perspective, and she hoped that the senators could see that need. Senator Wade Hampton moved to accept the bylaw additions. Senator Ed Corbett seconded. Discussion started with Senator Cardoza.

Senator Tom Cardoza accepted most of the changes proposed by the committee but asked why one section was not addressed. In the original bylaw amendment, Tom had proposed a change to Article IV. 4.1D which states:

Eligible part time faculty are those currently teaching part time for TMCC, and whose primary employment within NSHE is as a TMCC part-time faculty member. No full time employee of TMCC, NSHE, or any entity having substantial financial business or interests with TMCC or NSHE shall be eligible.

This part of the amendment was not included in the documents sent to senators. Chair Giren-Navarro thought she might have sent the wrong file. Discussion about whether or not to include this amendment ensued. There were some concerns about the "substantial financial business or interests" mentioned at the end of the clause. Some felt this was not something that could be enforced. The debate then turned to the best placement for the additions. Senator Cardoza had proposed putting it in IV.4.1.D. Others thought it was more about eligibility and wanted to put it in III.3.5. In the end, senators agreed that the amendment should be included in Article III. section 3.5. Wade Hampton put forth a new motion, which was seconded by Tom Cardoza.

Motion: To revise the by-laws to allow for a part-time Faculty Senator with amendments as noted above

Movant: Senator Wade Hampton

Second: Senator Tom Cardoza

Vote: 21 senators voted yes. 2 senators voted no. 1 senator abstained.

NFA Report - Julia Hammett

Julia thanked the Faculty Senate Chair for being the task master of being fair about time today. She read into the record a motion from the NFA meeting in February that TMCC uses discretionary annual reserve funds to fund salary enhancements including but not limited to range rate and range advancement for academic administrative faculty. Lars Jenson put forth the proposal to NFA today and they prepared it to be brought before Faculty Senate and assigned to the appropriate committee. Chair Cardoza suggested that it should first go the Salary and Benefits committee and then to the Faculty Senate. Julia agreed. NFA completed the department chair survey. They should be releasing that in a couple of weeks, so she encouraged all to vote. It is helpful to the department. She pointed out that there will also be a constituent feedback survey for faculty to complete regarding deans, directors and vice presidents soon. Last year, surveys were sent out only to give feedback on deans, but this year it will including Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs and Student Services.

Administrative Report - President Karin Hilgersom

President Hilgersom reported on Senate Bill 391 to establish the Nevada Promise scholarship which would make community college free for its recipients. The bill is sponsored by Senator Mo Denis with help from President Mike Richards, her colleague at CSN. It is a very exciting scholarship because it intergrades community service and assigns mentors that can be community members who are connected to the students. The Nevada Promise scholarship is modeled after a similar plan in Tennessee. Millennium scholarships are need-based, so the GPA requirements are pretty low: 2.0 out of high school. A pilot program was recently offered to high school graduates, but in the future the hope is that it will be offered to all community college students. The president pointed out that it's not necessarily need-based. Students who don't get loans or whose parents make too much money can accept this scholarship and take advantage of free community college tuition. The SSOG is also a scholarship that is not GPA based and with the Nevada Promise scholarship, can really help middle class families who can't afford college without taking out loans or additional debt. 18 to 20 people testified in favor of the bill

including the President herself, Sharon Wurm, Kyle Dalpe, and a number of students. Dr. Hilgersom encouraged senators to get faculty to write, call, or email legislators to support the bill.

She then went on to talk about other legislative movements that would impact TMCC. The first one is the expansion of Pell to summer sessions again. Many believe the Trump administration will sign off on it, so she encouraged faculty to write their U.S. congressional representatives and senators to support HR1485, the Flexible Pell Grant for 21 Century Students Act. The legislation was reintroduced in 2017 after it failed in 2015. The President wanted to point out the benefits to students because it's so indicative of what she is hearing at the national level. Stakeholders and trustees are finally figuring out that college students are working, and they have families, and they are starting to look for ways to support those students who can succeed with 12 credits or a little bit less.

The President then turned to the Bridge Act which would make it possible for people who meet certain requirements to apply for and receive provisional protective presence and work authorization. It is an extension of DACA, which relates to our undocumented students and who took the risk a few years back to file with the Federal government as undocumented. This Bridge Act will provide those students with the support of the Bridge Act. So when you're writing your letter to U.S. senators, please support the Bridge Act. She added that Kyle Dalpe will send that report out to the Senate.

Hilgersom then discussed the fact that there are two part-time faculty vacancies on the Planning Council. So far, she has received one nomination for a part-time faculty member. What the President would like to see on the Planning Council is one part-time faculty whose only job is here and it's hard to make ends meet. She would also like to have someone on the Planning Council who has a full time job and is gainfully employed, but works part-time for different reasons. She thinks it would be nice to have one of each because the needs are different for those two types of part-timers. She then defined the Planning Council as central coordinating and direct policy planning body. The Planning Council reviews distinct input of proposed institutional by-laws, policy changes, and discusses and develops strategies for college planning. They have spent much time this year on the Year 1 accreditation report which includes the Strategic Master plan framework, objectives, and indicators. She said she would be happy to discuss the Planning Council with anyone who is interested.

Finally, the president described the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Frank N. Bender Center for Applied Logistics Management at the Meadowood Campus. She thanked the Foundation and a number of other people for such a great event. The president ended with a note on Tesla's new Educational Liaison, Chris Riley who has already met with Dean Dalpe and VPFA Jim New. The President expressed hope that Tesla is ready to partner with educational institutions for training and even for Dual Credit offerings. The President then invited faculty to enjoy some chocolate that she provided to thank Faculty Senate for their work over the year.

Chair Cardoza asked for any questions of comments, Senator Ben Scheible asked the President if she would be willing to allocate three million dollars from the reserve fund to support the proposal for faculty bonuses. The President responded that she would need to review it with her team and with NSHE. The President went on to say that she hopes we will work together next year with or without this proposal on a system on promotions. She feels that a promotion should include a significant increase. Colleges that typically follow the sort of plan she has in mind usually awarded seven to ten thousand dollars, not as a one-time adjustment but as an adjustment to the base salary.

Committee Reports

- **Classified Council**

No report.

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

Marynia announced the Part-Time Faculty of the Month: for March, it was Vanina Coudriet; for April, it was Aaron Gomez. They have voted for the Part-Time Faculty of the Month for May, which will be awarded soon. They received an update from Cathy Brewster that 15 people will participate in the part-time faculty online training this semester. Altogether about 40 people have participated. In the Fall, the training will not be offered. On May 9th there is going to be a ceremony that Cathy is putting together and that's where part-time faculty of the month will be recognized again. The committee also had a presentation by Sharon Wurm about the Flames program, and how we can work on retention thanks to the Flames students. Marynia mentioned that seats on Planning Council are supported by the

committee. She also said that gift baskets for the PT-Faculty of the Month are expensive and that they were looking for low cost alternatives like signed books. Chair Cardoza commented she may be able to help and mentioned the possibility of fundraisers.

- **Professional Standards – Scott Huber**

The committee last met on March 31, 2017 where they discussed policies Chair Cardoza had asked them to look over. Many of the policies didn't really pertain to TMCC, but some of them did affect our students so they assessed them. The committee was for a policy that limited Excess credit fees. The policy to charge in-state tuition instead of out of state will make it easier for veterans. The policy on Millennial scholarships tries to reconcile situations when students can't meet credit requirements because courses are not offered at their home institution. It provides for co-enrollment in those cases. The policy on accessibility, service animals and emotional service animals generated some discussion, as this policy could create a problem for TMCC. Scott read through the guidelines of the system office and he thinks that the vetting process here is adequate. Finally, the committee discussed the acquisition of assessment software that was expensive, and seem to already cover functions duplicated in Canvas. They were going to discuss the Annual Plan for counselors, but it's not a good time for that. They are in the process of electing a new chair for Professional Standards.

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

Steve stated that Ron Marston was elected the new chair and that Steve was elected to chair the Sabbatical Subcommittee. They then addressed the issues of amending the Annual Plan and updating the process for sabbaticals. They are in the mist of redrafting documents for the sabbaticals that would clarify the process to the applicant, the deans, and to the President, so there will less confusion. The committee will bring those documents to the next meeting. With regard to changes in the Annual Plan, the committee is still in draft mode.

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

Steve reported that this is still ongoing.

- **Academic Standards & Assessments Committee (ASA) - Brian Ruf**

Brian reported that the committee has approved the Sociology Department PUR, the Entrepreneurship PUR, and of the Core Humanities, Humanities and Philosophy PUR. They reviewed the Dental Hygiene PUR, and Veterinary Technician PUR. Dr. Deadmond presented a General Education Task Force update. In their next meeting, the committee will review the Culinary Arts PUR, and then discuss PUR forms to make them more user friendly. They will vote on the proposal for Latin Honors for graduation titles here at TMCC and will bring that proposal to Faculty Senate next month. Brian announced that he will give two Ace's baseball tickets to each PUR captain, so there are advantages to becoming captains. Next year, there will be eight PURs.

- **Recognition & Activities - Michelle Montoya**

Michelle reported that the Professional Employee of the Month for March was awarded to Dr. Melissa Deadmond. For April, it was Joan Steinman. The committee will be awarding another early in May, so that he/she can be recognized at the awards ceremony May 9th, at 3:00 p.m. in the student center. The committee is also moving forward with recognizing employees who have passed away. The Foundation found an endowment and a beautiful location outside the Vista Building on the Dandini campus. The memorial will include four granite slabs with the engraving of the names of employees who have passed away. They are working on gathering a list to give to the departments hoping they can find someone who would be worthy to put on the memorial. She thinks it will be a difficult conversation for departments, but are hoping the department will remember someone who has passed away. It will be organized by the year that they passed. The memorial will list the employee's name, and then their years of service. Names will be added once a year. There will be benches and flowers, and it will be a beautiful space with a great view. The distinguished faculty teaching awards committee's leader unfortunately has not been able to attend, so we don't have an update on those awards, but two people have been nominated, one for teaching and one for service.

- **Library Committee - Corina Weidinger**

Corina reported that the Library met on April 5 for their last meeting of this semester. They first discussed the book weeding in the library which is ongoing. She went to the meeting with the contractor who is designing the learning

commons and he assured us that they will move the bookshelves around in a different way, but they will not be reducing the shelf space. The opioids panel event on March 16 was very successful. More than fifty students were in the audience to hear great speakers. It turned out to be a very emotional event. We are organizing an event on April 20th, 2:00-4:00 pm, a Poetry reading event. Corina had posters/flyers of the event and asked everyone to take one and share with their students. It will be held on the Library Patio and will honor Hank Sosnowski. It will also acknowledge several other faculty members including Lindsay Wilson and Jim Roderick, so please advertise, come and listen, or come read a poem. All will be welcomed. The committee has put together our event lineup for next year: the Monster Panel on October 19th, and an end of day event on November 2nd. In the Spring, there will be an open-mic comedy event. A few things the Librarians have brought to our attention are that students can now go to the website in the library for a link that allows them to schedule appointments with the librarians. Sue Malik who works in the Library is a genealogy expert. She would like to get faculty engaged in getting students to do research in genealogy. She will have a genealogy open lab during lunchtime on Friday in the library classroom, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Finally, Neil Siegel informed us that SGA leadership will ask the Regents to consider supporting Open educational Resources Nevada.

- **Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) - Haley Orthel-Clark**

Haley said that a memorandum from UNR's Director of Core Curriculum was sent to her committee on March 15, reporting on student focus group feedback. Some UNR students would like to see a greater emphasis on contemporary topics within diversity course options. The memo proposed some options to this: modify the standards, modify existing courses, develop new courses. The AGS committee is working on finding more courses to fit the computer science requirement. The US/NV constitution subcommittee has added Tom Cardoza to its ranks. Recommendations are expected in Fall 2017. Web pages were reviewed. Leep Frog is still expected to release in Fall 2017. CRC has one more submission deadline 4/21/17, and their final meeting date is on May 5.

- **Web College Advisory Committee - Brandy Scarnati**

Chair Cardoza stated that this is the first report of the newly established web college Advisory Committee and Brandy will do the report. Brandy's report stated that their last meeting for the semester met that mornign. There were some updates. There is a faculty self-evaluation tool online on their website. The committee just sent out their newsletter in March. There was discussion on Quality Matters in the committee. Currently, there are fifteen courses certified and we are working to continue to improve that. Also, they plan to put a percentage or number in the master plan so we have a benchmark. The Committee discussed the general education rubrics, and with Candace's help, figured out how to use the outcomes in Canvas. Brandy announced that she has also added all of this to Canvas. We will have our annual DE institute August 9 which we will advertise. Now that there is an actual Faculty Senate Advisory Committee, they nominated and elected Candace Garlock as the new chair.

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

David reported that yesterday was the Nevada Student Alliance meeting where they met with Chancellor John White. Students are glad to hear that summer Pell Grants could be coming back. He pointed out that it would work well with the Associate Opportunity Grant 12.6 to make sure our students are able to receive the funding to take care of their needs during the summer. SGA discussed an open education resource. It calls for NSHE to house an open education database. The students researched states where it works. Because the federal government is encouraging states to create open education databases, we feel it should be in the responsibility of NSHE so all institutions will have access to it. It will go up for vote in May. The Student Government Association here passed another resolution at the Nevada Student Alliance meeting at the Board of Regents meeting in March. Students asked that each institution pass a resolution to encourage Governor Sandoval to reinstate merit pay for the faculty here at TMCC. The elections are just about over for next years' GSA, and there some open positions which are still available for students who want to apply. We will interview candidates in May.

- **Old Business**

None

- **New Business**

Elizabeth Humphrey read a letter into the record at Ana Douglass's request. Senator Scheible moved to include the letter in the minutes. Senator Cardoza seconded.

Motion: To include Ana Douglass's letter in the minutes

Movant: Senator Ben Scheible

Second: Senator Tom Cardoza

Vote: Passed unanimously

An Open Letter to Faculty Senators and Faculty Leadership

Re: President Hilgersom, the Sports Complex Forum, Campus Climate

I want to thank Faculty Senate leadership for helping to put together the Campus Forum on the Sports Complex. I know Faculty Senate leadership has requested feedback regarding this initiative and proposed changes. I have been in principle skeptical of the project from the start. I have significant concerns about any new fees for students. Despite these misgivings, I came to the Forum with the goal of cutting through some of the rhetoric and distortions that have plagued this discussion and to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about an initiative that sits at the center of much campus discord and disagreement.

Others may disagree, but this is how I experienced the Forum. What I heard was President Hilgersom and Vice President New admit to some mistakes in the initial stages of this discussion. What I heard was administration speaking honestly that as a group they were still learning the ropes of a difficult to navigate NSHE system and offering an implicit apology for missteps. I heard President Hilgersom essentially ask for a "reboot" (my word) of the conversation and make a promise to commit to a more inclusive process. For the first time, I heard a detailed presentation by Richard Jay and the architect for the project that placed the project in the context of financial changes, retention, and recruitment concerns. I can't say that I am fully onboard with the project even after this presentation, but I did feel reassured by the Forum, the presentation, and the President's and Vice President's ownership and reassurances going forward.

I would ask that we as faculty recognize that the terms of the conversation have potentially changed and that we extend to administration, as we would want extended to ourselves, a presumption of good will in the process going forward even as we continue to assert our right to ask hard questions. To be absolutely clear, I am **still** not onboard with the project (full disclosure—I voted "neutral" on the survey), but I am fully in support of the principle that it is time to reboot the conversation and continue it following the best practices of academic discourse.

Unfortunately, subsequent to the forum a number of communications have emerged that have revealed just how degraded our campus climate has become. The most troubling communication is making the rounds through anonymous channels. Today another faculty member handed me an envelope sent to a number of faculty that contained materials presumably meant to smear Dr. Hilgersom. Included in the envelope was an anonymous letter spinning the contents in the most malicious of ways. Such tactics are beneath us, and I would call on this body today to go on record condemning such acts.

It is up to us to defend the values we claim are important to us as academics. I would respectfully ask that this letter be submitted as a part of public comments.

Sincerely, Ana Douglass, Ph.D.

- Michelle Montoya announced the Theater Night at TMCC that night. It will start with dinner at 5:45pm at the Bighorn Grill on Keystone and Seventh, then going to see the production of *Heathers* at 7:00 pm. She was able to get a discount to \$10 per ticket for faculty, staff, and a guest.
- Steve Bale suggested someone make a motion to acknowledge Lindsay Wilson who is the new Poet Laureate in Reno. There was a suggestion of making a proud, well-deserved haiku to commemorate his post. Senator Scheible moved that the Executive Board come up with wording to do this. Haley Orthel-Clark seconded.

Motion: To acknowledge Lindsay Wilson's post as Poet Laureate of Reno

Movant: Senator Ben Scheible

Second: Senator Haley Orthel-Clark

Vote: Passed unanimously

- Yevonne Allen asked faculty to consider students for Diversity Internships at the Diversity Center. Yevonne will email Chair Cardoza this information so it can be sent out to all mailboxes.
- President Hilgersom reminded everyone not to forget about the chocolate.

Adjourned: 2:32 p.m.