



Faculty Council Minutes

Date	Thursday, November 3, 2016
Time	3:30-4:30pm
Location	Wharton-CDC; FBTC-137; Sugar Land-252

1. Attendees

Role	Name
Chair	Elizabeth Rexford
Minutes Taker	Marissa Saenz
Attendees	Wharton – Allyson Matheaus, Debbie Lutringer, Franci Bay, Frank Becak, Jeff Shine, Liz Rexford, Marissa Saenz, Shelly Mayfield Sugar Land – Amanda Celaya, Dale Neaderhouser, David Woods, Susan Denman-Briones, Wiley Parkman Richmond – Anna Patrick, Jeff Tix, Natalie Pittman Bay City – Willie Myles
Absent	
Excused	Amanda Smith, Jennifer Jeffery
Guests	None

2. Agenda

	Description
1.	Determination of a Quorum and Call to Order – Liz Rexford, 3:31pm
2.	Old Business A. Update on Longevity/Part-Time Pay B. Update on Campus Carry C. Update on Board of Trustees Meeting
3.	New Business A. Email Delay Issues
4.	Other
5.	Adjournment

3. Information Items

	Description
1.	Old Business A. Update on Longevity Pay – Franci Bay, Liz Rexford a. The Longevity Compensation Task Force met in October. Task force members have begun organizing the data from the survey sent out over the summer to colleges in the Texas Gulf Coast Consortium of Community Colleges (TGCCCC). Concern was raised regarding the impact of a preemptive survey sent out from Human Resources. The next scheduled meeting will most likely be in February. Liz Rexford, Jennifer Jeffery, and Franci Bay will explore options to keep the process on track so as not to extend this item of concern into the next academic year. B. Update on Campus Carry – Liz Rexford a. The Campus Carry Forums to be held at each campus are underway. There has been low student turnout thus far. Faculty should encourage students to attend the sessions to voice their concerns. There is discussion of offering a

separate session for students living in the dorms.

- b. Remaining sessions: Monday, November 7, 3pm in Bay City 110; Tuesday, November 8, 3pm in FBTC 101; Wednesday, November 9, 8:30am in Sugar Land 180; and Friday, November 11, 10:30am in the Johnson Health Occupation Center Outlar Auditorium in Wharton.

C. Update on Board of Trustees Meeting – Liz Rexford

- a. Baseball field – President McCrohan reiterated the three options that WCJC has with regard to the baseball field.
 - i. Option One: WCJC could construct a new facility; estimates for a new facility depend on the availability of land, could reach \$7.5 million.
 - ii. Option Two: WCJC could attempt to purchase the existing field from Wharton ISD.
 - iii. Option Three: WCJC will work with WISD to generate a MoU allowing WCJC and WHS to use the field. The MoU would allow for a shared expense for renovation. President McCrohan is currently negotiating with WISD for a possible 20-25 year lease. Estimated costs for this option range from 2.3 to 4.5 million dollars.

FC Discussion: The situation at San Jacinto College where San Jac will be voting to eliminate four sports teams from their athletics department was discussed. Baseball is not currently one of the programs being considered for elimination. FC members discussed the cost of a shared contract with WISD and the potential impact of a long term investment if other colleges eliminate sports programs, including baseball. If WCJC has to travel greater distances to compete the costs would increase substantially.

- b. Special Items – WCJC has received a \$98,000 donation from the Waldo E. Moeller Foundation to be used for scholarships. The Board of Trustees will determine how the funds will be allocated.

FC Questions: Will funding be going towards the Presidential Scholars? If the Presidential Scholars receive most of the money, what is the underlying objective? Will student leaders from each campus and from different organizations be eligible? Will financial need be considered?

FC will observe the first year of award disbursements. This item may be revisited in the future if FC members have concerns about the disbursement of the funds or questions about student eligibility requirements.

- c. Other – Board member Larry Sitka inquired about WCJC signage at the Sugar Land campus. President McCrohan indicated she has raised the concern with the University of Houston administration; however, the constant turnover in personnel at UH has made it difficult to resolve the issue. President McCrohan restated that WCJC has a twenty year lease with UH and that WCJC will maintain a presence in Sugar Land.

FC Discussion: Faculty members have raised concerns about the lack of signage and its impact on morale. Lack of signage also contributes to confusion for students, parents, and other visitors. Faculty are proud to work for WCJC at the Sugar Land campus and would like to be visibly represented;

	<p>not having a recognizable presence adds to the feeling of not being valued and the perception that WCJC is slowly being pushed out of the campus.</p> <p>FC Questions: How long has lack of signage been an issue? Answer: at least three years. The concern about maintain a continued presence at Sugar Land was heightened a few years ago when UHV vacated the campus. Faculty members are wondering whether we have to maintain a certain enrollment percentage or presence to remain on the campus. Rexford reported that the lease does not stipulate that a certain percentage of space must be used or made available to WCJC.</p>
2.	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. Email delay issues – Emails from students are sometimes delayed up to 24 hours and sometimes are never received at all. This delay of delivery or failure to deliver impacts a student’s ability to schedule an appointment or receive a response to an inquiry in a timely manner. The issue has been reported to IT, which recommended that faculty schedule appointments at least 24 hours in advance. Faculty have also expressed concern about emails and attached documents not being received by faculty and staff. FBTC faculty have expressed concern about the delayed network connection in Richmond. Other concerns beyond the timing are the potential conflict between faculty and students regarding missed meetings or late responses due to the lag in delivery of emails. This type of delayed or miscommunication can impact student grades and relationships between faculty and students. A motion was made to raise this critical student issue at the next Extended Cabinet meeting. Motion was seconded and carried by acclamation.</p>
3.	<p>Other</p> <p>A. Regulations 781 & 782 sent out by email on Wednesday, November 2 from Deanna Feyen to be reviewed prior to the November 10 President’s Extended Cabinet Meeting. Faculty Council reviewed and agree with recommended changes.</p> <p>B. An inquiry about an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) previously discussed was sent out to Human Resources, Payroll and Benefits, and the administration. Last spring, the president consulted with the lawyers about liability concerns and it may be decided to remove references to an EAP from WCJC documents.</p> <p>C. Inquiries were made about the conversion of the storage space on the second floor in Sugar Land that is to be converted to office space. What is the progress of the project? Is the new space for WCJC faculty?</p> <p>D. Items to bring forward at the next extended cabinet meeting, scheduled for Thursday, November 10 at 3pm.: security; there is a lack of cameras at entrances and exits; Richmond’s phones are not working-you have to dial a full number to reach security; Sugar Land doesn’t have phones in the classrooms-be sure to have your cell phone in case of an emergency to receive alerts from the college and to call out if needed; safety of faculty in office areas that do not have windows, doors that lock, or security cameras at the entrances and exits.</p>

4. Action Items

	Description	Responsible Party	Due Date/Status
1.	Send security concerns to Liz Rexford.	All	November 9

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 4:33pm

Chair

Date