

FACULTY ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Date	January 13, 2023
Location	Fine Arts Theater - Wharton
Time	Meeting convened at 10:15

Attendees

Role	Name
Chair	Liz Rexford
Minute Taker	Jeff Tix
Attendees	All Faculty in attendance at Convocation

Information Items

	Description
1.	The Faculty Council Chair (FCC) welcomed everyone to the spring 2023 Faculty Association meeting. She asked the members of Faculty Council (FC) who represented the various divisions to reach out to any new faculty members in the division and introduce themselves. The FCC also reminded the faculty that FC is an advisory body and can only make recommendations.
2.	Rexford reminded faculty that a raise was provided this year and that longevity pay was also reinstated and will cover faculty and staff with milestone year events over the last three years.
3.	The FCCC stated that items on the agenda for Faculty Council (FC) for the spring were revisiting lab/practicum/clinic etc. pay for affected faculty members, a review of the faculty pay schedule with an emphasis on improving step increases to keep up with the cost of living, and revisiting summer pay for interested Program Directors and Dept. Heads. Several members of the faculty expressed concern that we are losing valuable faculty members to other institutions.
4.	Several faculty asked about the purpose of Extended Cabinet (EC) and if it had to be held. The FCC explained that under SACs (Southern Associations of Colleges and Schools) the EC was one mechanism of shared governance and that if items were placed on the agenda the meetings would be held. FC has placed several standing items on the EC agenda. Several faculty asked why the “Chat” feature for EC Zoom meetings had been disabled and if faculty could speak at the meetings. The FCC explained that President McCrohan had requested the “Chat” feature be discontinued.
5.	Other faculty inquired as to why the minutes of the EC meetings were no longer as detailed and why many discussions did not appear to be fully documented. The FCC stated that FC kept EC notes and that requests had been made to amend the minutes but those amendments to the minutes needed approval.
6.	There was considerable discussion about the need for the college and the President of the college to be more proactive in fund raising to facilitate the expansion of the Richmond campus and the updates proposed for the Wharton campus.
7.	It was suggested that FC reach out to WCJC administration to see if any efforts had been made within the administration to reach out to Lee College which, as noted in the Faculty Development Presentation, had experienced significant growth in the number of students during the pandemic and this year.

8.	<p>Vote of Confidence</p> <p>This issue has been discussed at previous Association meetings, and the process outlined in the Amendment to the Faculty Council Constitution was once again reviewed. It was stated that some sort of vote needed to be taken. The FCC noted that there were members in attendance who may have “Confidence” in the President and that their voices should also be heard, a statement was then made that each faculty member needed to decide whether they had confidence in the President. Sensing that this issue would continue to prevent FC from moving forward on some of the other previously discussed issues, a motion was made for a “Non-binding, affirmative, non-punitive, and non-compensatory vote for “Confidence in President McCrohan’s leadership ability.” The motion was repeated several times. The motion to initiate a vote of “Confidence” was approved by a majority. The FCC then called for a vote of “Confidence in President McCrohan’s leadership ability.” The motion did not receive a single affirmative vote and, the motion for “Confidence” failed to pass the Faculty Association.</p>
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Action Items

	Description	Responsible Party	Due Date/Status
1.	Identify new faculty members and make sure they know who their FC division representatives are and what FC does.	FC members	ASAP
2	Schedule next FC meeting	FC Chair	Done

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 11:15

Chair Elizabeth Rexford Date: 1/25/23

Approved by Faculty Council members via an email vote held 1/23-1/25/23.