

FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date	Tuesday, March 7, 2023
Location	Zoom
Time	3:15 PM

Attendees

Role	Name
Chair	Elizabeth Rexford
Minute Taker	Peter Anderson
Attendees	Peter Anderson, Liz Rexford, Karl Johnson, Jeff Tix, Patricia Korenek, Tom-Kody Krpec, , Alexandra Price, Haobo Yang, Arturo Valejo, Kay Gardner,
Absent	Marci Espinosa, Gary Bonewald(in class) Latasha Herndon(in class) Muna Saqer, Justin Guidry, Hector Weir, Tracey Simmons-Willis, Erma Hart, Russel Brauer

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:22PM Quorum present.

Information Items

	Description
1.	<p>New Business</p> <p>A. Peter Anderson was approved as the new FC Secretary. Mr. Tix has resigned as Secretary but will remain on FC.</p> <p>B. The Feb. FC minutes were approved.</p> <p>C. The Feb. Board of Trustee and Extended Cabinet notes were approved.</p> <p>D. FC discussed the Special Board Workshop. Subsequent to the FC meeting, the Chair notified FC members that President McCrohan was not at the meeting and proposed action items from the meeting was withdrawn from the minutes.</p> <p>E. The FC IT Working Group reported that they have been emailing Mr. Towsley and that he has stated that he believes the issues with the .edu extension being diverted from our email system have been resolved but he cannot be sure. Mr. Towsley has also called a meeting of the TAC for after spring break. The FC members of the TAC have been asked to make sure that moving forward the "Academic Calendar" is consulted before any systems are taken off line and also have been instructed to ask IT to prioritize fixing the bridge between online services and Brightspace so that faculty members are not spending multiple hours on multiple days cross checking rosters. This has been very time consuming now that all rosters, not just online rosters, must be cross checked.</p> <p>F. The members of FC also voted in support of the Support Staff plan to try to implement flexible summer work hours.</p> <p>G. The proposal for instituting summer pay for Program Directors and Department Heads was approved after some discussion. The next step is to send the proposal to Program</p>

	Directors and Department Heads for their input and approval. The FC will then, if approved, discuss with VP Collins and present at Extended Cabinet.
2.	Old Business A. TK Krpec wanted to recognize the efforts made by Georgeann Calzada to fix the issues on the two Fort Bend campuses with white boards and the efforts to replace lecturns within the classrooms. These efforts have been much appreciated by faculty.
3.	Extended Cabinet Items A. Update on Richmond renovations B. Update on Web Page Revision c. Possible discussion of IT issues. If issues are addressed and appear to be on their way to a resolution at TAC meeting this item will not be addressed.
4.	Other Items A. There was a discussion of UIL assignments. Rexford reminded faculty to be sure to show up for their assignments. Some FC members inquired about when they would be informed of their assignment so that they could make appropriate arrangements for child care, etc. if they needed to be in Wharton early or late. There was also a discussion about the lack of consequences for those who did not keep their UIL assignments. Rexford stated that the Contest Directors were supposed to report any WCJC employees who did not report for their assignment. She also did note that some faculty are excused on that day because they have other college duties such as service on hiring committees or instructional duties. B. Peter Anderson reminded FC members that FC is supposed to host the spring fun event for all staff, faculty and their families. There was a discussion about whether such an event should be held on or off campus. No clear consensus arose. The final decision is that the individuals planning the event would decide.

Action Items

	Description	Responsible Party	Due Date/Status
1.	Faculty Pay Situation: Interested parties should feel free to send to TK suggestions for improving pay. TK is currently working on one aspect of the issue.	Krpec	On-going
2	Circulate Program Director (PD) and Dept. Head (DH) Pay Proposal to all PDs and DHs	Rexford and Anderson	On-going
3	Email and IT Issues: The working group will continue to contact Mr. Townsley and bring FC concerns to TAC meeting. They will report back to FC	Anderson, Tix, Krpec and Vallejo	April Meeting
4.	Notification to T. Chandler of new FC Secy.	Rexford	March 12
5.	Submission of Extended Cabinet Items.	FC Officers	On-going
6.	Planning for spring full event to be hosted by FC	Anderson and Rexford	April meeting

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 3:44

Attachments:

- 1.) Board Notes-March Meeting

Approved at FC Meeting on April 4, 2023

Signed by Chair: *Elizabeth Peasford April 5, 2023*

Board of Trustee Meeting Notes

March 28, 2023 Meeting

1. Quorum established, minutes of previous meeting approved.
2. No citizen comments.
3. Special Items:
 - Reports from Board Committees
 - Mr. Pope reported that the leaders of the Strategic Visioning Committee and the Plant Committee met jointly because of the interconnectedness of the tasks. The plans for the Richmond campus are being revised and updated. President McCrohan is organizing meetings with “key stake holders” and the initial results have been encouraging. These committees will focus on each campus.
 - The Board Evaluation Committee is reviewing by-lases and the college atty. has been retained to help with the process. The by-laws will be approve on June 23rd at the Board meeting.
4. Presentations:
 - Richmond Campus EMS Open House – Mr. Bonewald provided a review of the open house and brought a mannequin to show the members how realistic the equipment is. There was a discussion of providing a virtual reality simulation room, similar to the one in Richmond, in Wharton. A board member did ask how many students are in the program. Mr. Bonewald answered that between 20-30, but add that nursing and other students could also use the room as it can also be prograded with other simulations.
 - WCJC Foundation Upcoming Events Report- Mr. Jeter reported that on May 13 the college will participate in a Polo Match that will be used for fund raising. The Foundation is looking for volunteers to work the event.
 - Update on Community College Funding and State Legislative Actions_ President McCrohan (See attached document provided by President McCrohan.

- Budget Development- VP Kocian stated that the FY 24 budget process is about to begin. All college entities will be asked to start with last year's budget and reduce or add funding as needed with appropriate documentation and justification.
- Annexation of Needville ISD- This has been an ongoing discussion, as Needville ISD has made several requests to be removed from the WCJC service area. These requests have been denied at the state level. It was suggested that members of the WCJC administration and Board talk to the key stake holder in Needville. In the meantime the Board will explore several different possibilities for altering how Board members are elected including SMDs, and a combination of SMDs and at-large positions. Board members interested in serving on a task force to look into the issue should contact the Board Chairperson.
- Update on Campus Projects- Mike Feyen provided an update on several projects such as the installation of an elevator in the library, the installation of a statute at the baseball field and the revisions to the Richmond campus Conceptual designs. President McCrohan also stated that the Hutchins building at Wharton will have to be torn down and a cafeteria will need to be added to the Pioneer Student Center. President McCrohan also stated that the college is still working with individuals in Matagorda to open the new trade school. A building has been donated and is currently being renovated.
- Presentation on WCJC Employee Required Training –R. Bahnsen

5. Financial Reports

- VP Kocian report that as of Feb. the FY is fifty percent complete. At this time revenues over expenditures are 11 million for the first 6 months.

6. Consent Agenda- All items approved no items removed for discussion.

- Purchase of biology materials for Needville ISD
- Implementation of FortiGate Firewall system

- Renewal of staff and administrative employee contracts
- Nabeel Habib approved as Continuing Education Corporate Coordinator

7. Informational Items

- PPAs approved for L. Buckingham and M. Saqer for online master course development.

8. Executive Session- None needed.

**Executive Summary of Watched Bills
88th Legislative Session
March 28, 2023**

H.B. 8 (by VanDeaver)

This bill addresses the public junior college state finance program. It makes changes to the current formula funding for community colleges to include state funding focused primarily on rewarding outcomes aligned with regional and state education and workforce needs. These metrics are currently not published. Community colleges should receive these “runs” in the next week or so.

This legislation also provides for the award of scholarships to eligible students enrolled in dual credit that are educationally disadvantaged. These scholarships will be paid through the Foundation School Program. (High Impact; High Probability)

H.B. 547 (by Cain)

This bill requires that a student's fee bill or statement must include an itemized list of the tuition and fees charged by course and must list any other fees charged to the student for the semester. (High Impact; High Probability)

H.B. 845 (by Patterson)

This bill prohibits an institution of higher education from using funds from any source to purchase a membership, provide a sponsorship, or purchase advertising services from a media organization that is tax exempt from federal income tax or is listed as an exempt organization as a 501(c)(3) [Texas Tribune]. (High Impact; High Probability)

H.B. 1006 (by Tepper)

This bill addresses diversity, equity, and inclusion, and prohibits institutions of higher education from funding any office that supports or endorses it. This legislation allows for a person to bring an action against a college and allows for a prevailing person to be awarded attorney's fees and court costs to be paid from the budget of the chief executive officer of the institution. (High Impact; High Probability)

H.B. 1607 (by Harris of Anderson)

This bill prohibits an institution of higher education from requiring or making part of any course concepts which include:

- that one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex;
- that an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;
- that an individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, bears responsibility, blame or guilt for actions committed by other members of the same race or sex; etc...

Institutions that violate this legislation will be ineligible for state funding. (High Impact; High Probability)

H.B. 859 (by Slaton)

This bill addresses a student's residence status and provides that a person who is not authorized under federal statute to be present in the United States may not be considered a resident of this state for purposes of title. It removes the provision that students who have graduated from a public or private high school in this state or have received a G.E.D. can be considered "residents". (High Impact; Low Probability)

H.B. 320 (by J. Johnson of Harris)

This bill addresses "homeless" students and establishes a liaison officer to serve these students and also allows them to have priority in the assignment of housing. (Low Impact; Low Probability)

S.J.R. 81 (by Birdwell, et al.)

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the technical institution infrastructure fund to serve as an endowment of Texas State Technical College System. This endowment is listed as \$750 million on the Senate side and \$1.5 billion on the House side. If passed by the voters, this endowment is designed to fund TSTC into the future with TSTC drawing down less than 7.5% annually out of the funds for buildings and operations. (High Impact; High Probability)

H.B. 3048 (by Raney)

This bill allows for TSTC to expand and put campuses anywhere in the state it desires without regard to community college service areas and without Legislative approval. If passed, community colleges may not object to TSTC's presence or duplication of services, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may not approve or disapprove a new degree or certificate program solely on the basis that this new degree or program is or will be offered in a junior college district's service area. (High Impact; High Probability)