

## FACULTY ASSOCIATION MINUTES

<b>Date</b>	Friday, August 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
<b>Location</b>	Fine Arts Theater - Wharton
<b>Time</b>	Meeting convened at 10:30

### Attendees

Role	Name
<b>Chair</b>	Liz Rexford
<b>Minute Taker</b>	Peter Anderson
<b>Attendees</b>	All Faculty in attendance at Convocation

### Information Items

	Description
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Liz Rexford welcomed everyone to the Fall 2023 Faculty Association meeting. Rexford introduced the new members of Faculty Council, as well as thanked those who rotated off.</p> <p>Hector Weir and Ken Grubb were elected as the two at-large members of Faculty Council. Rexford announced that moving forward the standing time for Faculty Council meetings would be the first Tuesday of every month at 3:15. The meetings will be held via zoom and also at the CDC in the Wharton Library. The first meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023.</p>
2.	Rexford reminded all faculty to sign up for the RAVE early alert system and to get their parking passes. She also reminded faculty to read email during the semester and to complete HR training.
3.	Peter Anderson is the new TCCTA representative. He reminded faculty that he sent out an email with instructions on how to renew their TCCTA membership and how to sign up for the TCCTA insurance. He urged all faculty to be mindful of the deadlines. If they have any questions they can email him at <a href="mailto:andersonp@wcjc.edu">andersonp@wcjc.edu</a> . Peter reminded the faculty that the president will continue to pay the registration fee, but not the liability insurance.
4.	Rexford relayed a request from VP Collins. VP Collins has asked for faculty assistance in informing students about services and activities available on campus. Faculty are encouraged to announce these the first day of class. VP Collins would also like any suggestions on how to increase student engagement to not only increase enrollment but also to retain students. Rexford also stated that faculty should do their best to encourage students to graduate from WCJC with a degree or secure a certificate. She asked members to send any ideas to her or to their division representative.
5.	Rexford reminded faculty to encourage students to secure IDs for safety purposes. There was some discussion on how students at the Sugar Land Campus could secure IDs; there will be someone on the Sugar Land campus in the lobby area during the first week of class to print the IDs.
6.	Rexford also encouraged faculty to attend the NISOD professional development opportunity “Everyone Communicates, But Few Connect: Effectively Engaging Today’s Learner” which will be held on Friday, October 13 on the Wharton Campus. Professional development funds should be available in division budgets to attend this event. An email will be sent out about this.
7.	It was brought to the attention of the Faculty Association that several board members are not

	running for re-election, and if anyone knew a good candidate to recommend them. Faculty within the voting district were also encouraged to vote in the upcoming election.
8.	<p>Rexford opened the floor for discussion after stating that the continuing items on the Faculty Council agenda were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The status of the expansion of the Richmond Campus</li> <li>• Continuing safety concerns on the various campuses.</li> <li>• Exploring the possibility of summer pay for Program Directors and Department Heads.</li> </ul>

### Discussion Items

	Description
1.	There was significant discussion about the desirability of the various divisions, departments, programs and student organizations having a social media presence. Several members in attendance stated that they had submitted the required paperwork for a social media presence but had been denied without any real explanation. After significant discussion on the issue, it was apparent that the members of the Faculty Association believe that a more robust social media presence is desirable to retain and recruit students as well as to increase the awareness of the WCJC brand. Having a social media presence promotes greater student engagement and community awareness. One example provided was that there was no “shout out” from WCJC supporting the Needville baseball team that was playing in the Little League World Series Tournament. A motion was made and approved for the Faculty Council (FC) to explore this issue and to try to secure an easier pathway to approval, and if approval is denied, ascertain why with the ultimate goal of improving student engagement and community awareness.
2.	Several faculty in attendance voiced concerns about HB 8 and the impact on WCJC. Of particular concern was how or if Marketing was going to respond to the fact that WCJC was the only college to receive supplemental funding. There is concern that this status may negatively impact fundraising for the new Richmond campus. Another issue was the plan or approach the college would be taking to ensure that moving forward we receive funding and are able to get more performance based funding.
2	Several faculty in attendance discussed various concerns about the future of the Fort Bend Campuses and the lack of any type of fallback plan if the college is unable to complete the Richmond expansion before the lease at the Sugar Land Campus expires. Members of the overall Faculty Association feel there is still a lack of confidence in “visionary capacity” of the current leadership. Rexford encouraged faculty with specific complaints or issues to send their concerns to her or to their Division Representative on FC.
3.	There was also some discussion about doing more for the veterans on campus. Rexford suggested interested faculty contact Arthur Vallejo who is the advisor for the WCJC Veterans Club. Rexford also stated that FC would be willing to help in any way possible.
4	Hector Weir announced that the American Studies Association Fall Convention would be held at the Wharton Campus on Nov. 9-11 he urged all faculty to attend. WCJC will be hosting the event and this would be a good opportunity for professional development.
5.	A motion was also made to be sure that the Faculty Association, via Faculty Council, recognized the efforts made by the Recruitment and Advising employees as well as the Dual Credit Coordinator to recruit, retain and advise students during the spring and summer semesters. Thanks to their efforts we have secured a number of new students, expanded our dual credit offerings and reconnected with a number of school districts.

### Action Items

	Description	Responsible Party	Due Date/Status
1.	Update FC roster	FC Chair	Completed- pending election outcomes
2	Schedule next FC meeting to elect officers and appoint faculty members to the various committees.	FC Chair	ASAP
3.	Reserve CDC for FC meetings.	FC Chair	Completed
4.	Request access to FC Brightspace shell for new FC members	FC Chair	Completed

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 11:30

*Elizabeth Rexford*

Sept. 8 2023

Chair

Date

Approved by Faculty Council members at September 5, 2023 meeting by acclamation.