



FACULTY ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Date	Thursday, January 14, 2021
Location	Blackboard collaborate (COVID-19)
Time	Meeting convened at 1:00 pm

Attendees

Role	Name
Chair	Peter Anderson
Minute Taker	TK Krpec
Attendees	All Faculty in attendance at Convocation-approximately 70 members

Information Items

	Description
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Peter Anderson welcomed the faculty back for another semester and briefly discussed the issues Faculty Council have been pursuing over the previous months (SGL parking, TASB manual review, marketing, CARES act spending, etc).</p>
2.	<p>Faculty Open Discussion Issues:</p> <p>A reoccurring theme was noted throughout this meeting and will be placed here so it will not be repeated multiple times throughout the minutes: Morale across the college is generally very low. Under-enrollment relative to the enrollment of surrounding community colleges has been one issue and is coupled with other reoccurring problems at WCJC. Overall, there is a growing fear that the disconnections between the faculty, staff, and administration have created a gap between these entities. This disconnection has evolved into a guidance and leadership fissure which has generated issues that have trickled through the school. There are lingering concerns and foundational problems which have remained unaddressed for several years. This is causing faculty to feel a sense of helplessness and disparity.</p> <p>As a whole, we would like to believe issues will improve after COVID, but some of these issues originated long before COVID arrived and faculty are not optimistic. It was suggested that faculty attend Extended Cabinet and Board of Trustees meetings to try and convey this message and to show the we deeply care about WCJC and its future.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faculty members inquired as to why no collegewide announcement has been made about the amount received from the CARES Act. Additional concerns have arisen about how the money will be spent. This information should be open-source information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o FC is trying to setup a meeting to discuss this directly and to encourage more written communication and updates on the spending of these funds. 2. Student have reported that they were unable to enroll until they went through some form of IT help. The issue was reported to the division chair and they were going to take the issue to VP Collins. 3. There have been several instances brought forth by students stating the enrollment process has been less than ideal due to issues on WCJC's side like technology failure: phones not being answered, emails not being replied to, paperwork getting lost, etc. Infrastructure failure has probably turned some students to look away from WCJC and

	<p>seek other options. For example, the phones at Richmond for many faculty and staff were not working when employees returned in early January.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. At the time of this meeting, the unduplicated head count is 4,737 students taking 45,926 semester credit hours. At this time last year, the unduplicated head count was 6,112 students taking 59,095 semester credit hours. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Vocational classes are impacted by this immensely and it's having an impact on the faculty in these programs. o Additionally, many who volunteered to teach face-to-face found that they were without a full load or lost their overload. o These concerns are tied to those above. If a student cannot reach the college and cannot easily register for classes, they may very well go to another school 5. Issues with TurnItIn were brought forth. Last semester, TurnItIn had elongated turnaround times that delayed grading for some instructors. FC will look into the issue to make sure this is solved. English instructors, and instructors in other disciplines that are writing intensive such as the social and behavioral sciences, rely heavily on this program and encourage everyone to use it for essay submissions so the program can be retained. 6. Bookstore issues still remain. There have been many instances of students not being able to purchase books efficiently. 7. Faculty have also reported that their office computers, classroom computers, etc. do not allow them to be effective at their job. Many computers are now very old (over 6 years old) and cannot run certain programs effectively. This has been evidenced by the number of individuals who cannot log into Collaborate meetings for the entire session. Many are "kicked off" the site repeatedly. This same issue has been evidenced in the Board meetings as well.
	<p>Other</p> <p>Peter asked that if any faculty have issues arise, please bring them to your Faculty Council representative, and we will pursue the issue.</p> <p>Faculty were also reminded to be sure to contact Dean McPherson with any Title IX suspected violations.</p>

Action Items

	Description	Responsible Party	Due Date/Status
1.	Ask DE about TurnItIn issues	Faculty Council	ASAP
2	Bring up bookstore issues	Faculty Council	Next EC meeting
3	Improved Presence for WCJC	Faculty Council	On-going
4.	Cares Act Funding	Faculty Council	Next EC Meeting

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 1:57 pm

Chair

Date