

FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date	Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021
Location	Via Zoom
Time	3:00 pm

Attendees

Role	Name
Chair	Peter Anderson
Minute Taker	Liz Rexford
Attendees	Peter Anderson, Liz Rexford, TK Krpec, Hector Weir, Susan Denman-Briones, , Erma Hart, Pat Korenek, Arthur Vallejo, Debbie Lutringer, Willie Myles, Gary Bonewald, Obiagelia Nwosu, Ava Humme and Larry Jenkins
Absent	Brady Hutchinson, Russel Braeuer (in class), , Tracy Simmons-Willis, Amy Accord, Ross Couvillon

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:07

Information Items

	Description
1.	<p>New Business:</p> <p>A. Review of Policies: A list of 8 policy updates was sent via email from VP Allen. The links to the policies were provided and FC members were asked to review the policies. Two of the 8 were discussed because of some concerns. The policy on Substitute Pay for Faculty elicited the most discussion. FC members are concerned about the lack of specificity in this compared to the other policies. The FC officers will send an email to VP Collins, who submitted the policy with concerns. The other policy concerned Faculty Teaching Loads, the issues involved here were the stipulation of DH and PD pay for the fall and spring semesters only and the lack of any mention of the newer title of Assistant Department Head. FC decided not to bring these issues to the attention of the appropriate VP.</p> <p>B. Morale: There was a general discussion that morale was still low on all campuses. Peter reminded faculty to submit their responses to the survey sent out earlier this week covering this issue and the future of the WCJC presence in Fort Bend County. The FC is hopeful that there will be some suggestions on how to improve morale elicited once the survey results are reviewed.</p> <p>C. Sugar Land Issues: The discussion of this issue was also subsumed under the discussion morale and the general consensus is that the faculty is concerned about the lack of progressive action being taken to improve enrollment, update</p>

college materials, highlight our Fort Bend presence and work to address a number of issue impacting morale especially at the Fort Bend locations.

D. Access to Wharton Fitness Center- This issue was raised by several students on the Wharton campus to various instructors and has also been raised on the Sugar Land campus regarding access to the fitness room there. The concerns identified by FC are the following:

- Our promotional materials to both the students and to new and current employees list the Wharton Fitness Center as a “benefit” or service available to the students and staff but it has not been open during the fall months and it does not appear the center will be open in the spring. If we are no longer going to offer this benefit or service our materials need to be updated to reflect this change.

There was also a discussion of allowing students and staff access to the fitness room at SL, this could be especially important for students who are kinesiology majors.

E. Concern over Low Enrollments: At the recent Extended Cabinet meeting the low enrollment for the current fall semester and upcoming spring semester were discussed and the president asked for some faculty input. Faculty are concerned that the current web pages and their corresponding links do not enable students to reach the materials and or individuals they need to see. It was noted that the web page is being redesigned and that recent retirements in the student services area have stretched college resources. Several faculty expressed an interest in bringing schedule sheets to class to encourage students to enroll in the spring. It was confirmed that faculty were welcomed to do this if they wished to do so.

F. Marketing Presentation to FC: This is a recurring issue, a similar request was made last year, and this issue ties into low enrollment and faculty morale. At the last Extended Cabinet meeting President McCrohan stated that marketing was very active in increasing our presence and working to increase enrollment but no specifics were provided. FC would like to know what the marketing team is doing to see if there are any roles for faculty or what assistance the faculty can provide. This was motioned to be an Extended Cabinet item where the Marketing Office would be asked to make a formal presentation to either FC or Extended cabinet.

2.

Old Business

- A. Discussion on DH and PD summer compensation: There has still been a low response rate to this issue. It has been postponed to the next FC meeting.
- B. Sugar Land Testing Center: Positions have been posted and the administration is aware of how important it is to fill these positions. Peter will follow up on this item.
- C. Report on Board of Trustees Meeting- This information was provided via

- email in the form of meeting notes. No questions were asked at FC meeting.
- D. Report on Extended Cabinet Meeting- This information was provided via email in the form of meeting notes. No questions were asked at FC meeting
- E. Report on Student Success Council Meeting: Peter attended the meeting and state that most of the meeting discussed the results of the assessment of how developmental students are doing in the paired classes.

3.

Other Items:

- A. Several faculty members approached FC members about the possibility of amending the FC constitution to allow for a vote of Confidence/No-Confidence. Inserted below is the language from the FC Constitution about the amendment process.

**ARTICLE V
AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

Section 1.0: Amendments

- 1.1 This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Faculty Association by a majority vote provided that a quorum is present and that the proposed amendment was submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting of the Faculty Council, and that copies of the proposed amendment(s) were distributed or otherwise made available to the faculty.

Section 2.0: Interpretations

- 2.1 The Faculty Council resolves any differences in interpretation of this Constitution.

Rexford clarified the steps they would include:

- A vote by the FC to approve drafting a proposal(motion to be made, seconded and voted on)
- The draft proposal would need to be approved by the FC at a meeting, again a quorum would need to be present, a motion, a second and a majority vote would be need.
- Copies of the proposal would need to be distributed to the members of the Faculty Association (all full-time faculty)
- At the Faculty Association meeting it would need to be verified that a quorum was present
- At the Faculty Association meeting the vote would need to approve by a majority vote once a quorum was determined.

There was discussion of the item and it was clarified several times that this would be advisory only, not a binding vote and that it would be for Confidence/No Confidence only not for censure. Several faculty noted that this would also allow faculty to show appreciation of the efforts of various individuals.

The motion to move forward with DRAFTING the amendment was approved. It was repeated that the draft amendment would need to be approved at a FC meeting prior to the Faculty Association meeting.

4. **Extended Cabinet Items:**
- A. Request for Marketing Presentation to FC or if not FC to the Extended Cabinet.
 - B. Access to Fitness Center on Wharton Campus

Action Items

	Description	Responsible Party	Due Date/Status
1.	Extended Cabinet Items	FC Officers	Submission for meeting in February 2022.
2.	Strategic Plan/Enrollment/Morale Survey: All FC Members are encouraged to remind faculty to complete the survey	FC Members	Ongoing.
3.	DH and PD survey- Postponed to next meeting	Rexford	Feb. Meeting
4.	Drafting Constitutional Amendment	Rexford and Anderson	Jan. Meeting
5	Follow Up Testing Center	Anderson	Before next meeting.
6.	Process follow up- Send email to VP Collins expressing concern over	FC Officers	Completed Dec. 8.
7.	Send FC Constitution to all members	FC Secy (Rexford)	Completed Dec. 8.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 3:57 pm.

Minutes approved at the 2/1/22 Faculty Council meeting.