

# FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2021

Faculty Senate Chair: <b>YeVonne Allen</b>	Faculty Senate Chair-Elect: <b>Virginia Irintcheva</b>	Executive Committee member, Academic Standards and Assessment Chair <b>Jinger Doe</b>
Executive Committee member, Curriculum Review Chair <b>Katie Kolbet</b>	Executive Committee member, Professional Standards Chair <b>Cheryl Woehr</b>	Executive Committee member, Salary, Benefits and Budget Chair <b>Matt Leathen</b>
Administrative Faculty Committee Chair <b>Sidney Sullivan</b>	Library Committee Chair <b>Rob Lively</b>	Part-Time Faculty Committee Chair <b>Edwin Lyngar</b>
Recognition & Activities Committee Chair <b>Erin Frock and Sidney Sullivan</b>	WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee Chair <b>Dan Hooper</b>	
Senators At-Large: <b>Yuli Chavez Camarena</b> <b>Staci Miller</b> <b>Adine Stormoen</b> <b>Sidney Sullivan</b>	Senator for Allied Health: <b>Heidi Himler</b> <b>Julie McMahon</b>	Senators for Technical Sciences: <b>Sam Byington</b> <b>Jeremy Coggin</b>
Senators for Biology: <b>Amy Cavanaugh</b> <b>Jinger Doe</b>	Senators for Computer Technologies: <b>Steve Bale</b> <b>Cathy House</b>	Senators for English: <b>Lenaya Andersen</b> <b>Karen Wikander</b>
Senators for History, Political Science & Law: <b>John Kemp</b> <b>Ben Scheible</b>	Senators for Humanities: <b>Eric Bullis</b> <b>Gabriel Chavez</b>	Senators for Math: <b>Hieu Do</b> <b>Rebecca McCleary</b>
Senators for Physical Sciences: <b>Ed Corbett</b> <b>Olga Katkova</b>	Senators for Social Sciences: <b>Julia Hammett</b> <b>Paula Reynolds</b>	Senators for Visual and Performing Arts: <b>Candace Garlock</b> <b>Rossitza Todorova</b>
Senators for Part-Time Faculty: <b>Gwendolyn Clancy</b> <b>Heather Haddox</b>	Classified Council Representative <b>Chynna Slocum</b>	Student Government Representative <b>Alyssa Fromelius</b>

**Absent:** none

**Guests:** Amber Anaya, Natalie Brown, Elena Bubnova, Melissa Deadmond, Anne Flesher, Karin Hilgersom, Kate Kirkpatrick, Barb Painter, Joe Sanpietro, Gretchen Sawyer, Joan Steinman, Kim Studebaker

**The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m.**

## Chair's Report – YeVonne Allen

Chair Allen ensured quorum was met opened her report congratulating members of the Faculty Senate for their years of dedicated service to TMCC. A celebration of life is being held for Ben Hayes, husband of longtime committee member Tanja Hayes on April 10. If you are able to attend, please do to show Tanja she is supported.

**Board of Regents and NSHE Update:** Chair-Elect Virginia Irintcheva and Chair Allen will meet with the new local Regent Joe Arrascada. There has not been a BOR meeting since the last Senate meeting. Next week, the Council of Chairs will meet with Chancellor Rose to discuss dual enrollment. This will affect community colleges negatively. Chair Allen will be reaching out to the Senate when more on this issue occurs. The next BOR meeting is April 16.

**Legislative Update:** Chair Allen provided a comprehensive document to the Senate Body which contains bills being closely watched (including hyperlinks and a brief description), a how to engage primer along with contact information of

legislators and committees and how to find out who is on a committee, and an info sheet from the NFA concerning SB373 which would establish collective bargaining rights for NSHE faculty.

### **Campus Updates:**

**Ad Hoc Elections Committee:** The Chair-Elect confirmed nominee is Dr. Amy Cavanaugh. Elections open April 12 and close May 7. The results will be officially announced at the May 14 Faculty Senate. Senator elections are ongoing in the departments and At-Large Senator nominations will close today.

Chair-Elect Virginia and Chair Allen will meet with the new VPAA Dr. Alexander next week.

A webpage to house syllabus statements is being finalized with the VPAA's office.

**COVID-19 Update:** Chair Allen provided the Washoe County reopening plan link:

<https://www.scribd.com/document/501941740/Washoe-County-reopening-plan>

There will be more updates coming soon.

### **Planning Council: TMCC Bylaws Change (for possible action):**

Chair Allen brought Bylaw Changes from the TMCC Planning Council which add the Planning Council to the TMCC Bylaws, lists the membership in the Planning Council, and removes the President's Advisory Council. Chair Allen opened the floor for discussion. A suggestion received was to specify how members are appointed and the number of members from each constituency group.

*Senator Ben Scheible moved and Senator Jinger Doe seconded to support the TMCC Bylaw Changes to add the Planning Council, set membership, and remove the President's Advisory Council. The motion passed with 26 ayes.*

Chair Allen closed her report and thanked everyone. There were no other questions or comments from the Senate body.

## **Chair-Elect's Report – Virginia Irintcheva**

---

Chair-elect Virginia Irintcheva opened her report congratulating Anne Flesher and Barbara Walden who were named Deans and no longer have the word "interim" in their titles. The Chair-Elect election will open on Monday, April 12, please vote. The Learning Commons Committee needs a committee chair. The Senate is planning remote meetings for Fall. It is recommended to have the standing Senate Committees also hold remote meetings unless the chair feels strongly to hold in-person meetings.

## **Administrative Report – Dr. Karin Hilgersom, TMCC President**

---

Dr. Hilgersom opened her report thanking Chair Allen for the comprehensive Legislative document she created. Commencement ceremonies begin May 17.

Dr. Hilgersom shared 3 updates: COVID-19 Plans, BDR81 / AB450 / SB1108, and the Register Now campaign.

- It is time for all departments to adjust their Stage 3 plans accordingly. The rollout for vaccinations is going faster than anticipated, all TMCC employees are now eligible and encouraged to seek vaccination. Upon receiving vaccination, employees are expected to return in-person 10 days after second dose. On July 1, employees on contract are expected to return to campus regardless of vaccination status. Reasonable exceptions can be made based on the process with HR. TMCC will observe social distancing, masks, and sanitization protocols. The COVID Management Team will provide direction should the situation change. Senate Chair Allen noted July 1 does not mean we are moving into Homecoming. It will be the revised Stage 3 plan.

Questions from the Senate body were if TMCC will send messaging on vaccinations to the student body and is there is any chance we will be on campus 100% for Fall. Both Dr. Hilgersom and Elena Bubnova liked the idea of messaging for the student body. There is a chance we will be on campus at 100% capacity, but the schedule will not change.

- BDR81/ AB450/ SB1108: This bill directs the Governor to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning opportunities to align the need for workforce training and the programs offered by community colleges

in this State to meet the needs of the economy in this State. This bill is a compromise bill with the Governor, who had originally advocated to establish an independent authority for community colleges separate from NSHE. The bill will establish a committee, appoint subject items for the study, and will direct the committee to look at the funding formula, especially as related to workforce training programs.

- Register Now Campaign: Please use the new [Register Now Zoom backgrounds](#), wear your Register Now t-shirts, and use interpersonal encouragement to keep the students coming back. Funding is calculated based upon the number of weighted credits completed by TMCC students.

## Administrative Report- Vice President Academic Affairs Office – Dr. Melissa Deadmond

Commencement is the week of May 17. Please encourage students to RSVP by April 28 for commencement. The Commencement Committee are looking for faculty to join. The Learning Commons continues to be open for students and staff, tutoring is currently online with plans to reopen in the Fall. Tutors are needed for Fall 2021 in Math, Biology, and English. The VPAA Newsletter will continue to be sent.

## NWCCU Accreditation Process – Dr. Melissa Deadmond

NWCCU is the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Melissa provided an overview on the accreditation cycle. In 2020 2 standards replaced the previous 5 standards. The cycle is a 7-year process which has a specific reporting structure for each year. Dr. Deadmond highlighted the NWCCU 2020 Standards. The Year-6 report is due Fall 2021. Please provide feedback to the draft. In Year-7, a site visit will occur in October of 2022. Peers across institutions in the northwest will speak with constituency groups at TMCC. The NWCCU will then provide a report with comments and recommendations, which will determine the reaffirmation of accreditation status. If there are any recommendations, TMCC has a week to correct any factual errors. The report then goes to the commission for a decision.

Questions received were whether the gender reporting would be changed from binary gender to include non-binary gender. Currently, the federal government uses the binary gender in their reporting.

## Hiring Demographics – Cheryl Scott

The timing for this report will fit best in the Fall semester when we may have more funding for hiring. The Senate will have Cheryl Scott provide her report in Fall 2021.

## Approval of the March 12, 2021 Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the minutes for March 12, 2021

**Movant:** Senator Amy Cavanaugh

**Second:** Senator Sidney Sullivan

**Vote:** Motion passed with 26 ayes.

## Consent Agenda

**Motion:** To approve the April 9, 2021 Consent Agenda.

**Movant:** Senator Amy Cavanaugh

**Second:** Senator Jeremy Coggins

**Vote:** Motion passed with 26 ayes.

## Standing Committee Reports

- **Academic Standards and Assessment Committee – Jinger Doe**  
The committee last met March 26 and continued evaluating PUR's. The Diversity Taskforce has met and continues to work on what a diversity course is. The ASA next meets April 16.
- **Administrative Faculty Committee – Sidney Sullivan**  
Professional Development Days are being planned. Johnna Bell and Ben Davis are heading up the planning committee. Chair Sidney Sullivan provided background on today's resolution from the Administrative Faculty Committee and read a draft of the resolution. The resolution comes first and seconded by the committee.

Comments received from the Senate body were it is a great way to run business and is supported and the final "Whereas" is not consistent with the resolved clause. A specific suggestion for an amendment was not made. Senate Chair Allen noted that this is a request for flexibility as no policy currently exists. There is a case-by-case basis but nothing which addresses remote work. Another request to remove the word "literally" was suggested.

*Amendment to the motion: It was moved by Ric Bullis and seconded by Ben Scheible to remove the word "literally" from the second "Whereas". The amendment passed with 27 ayes and 1 nay.*

*Motion: To approve the resolution for Administrative Faculty Workspaces for Homecoming. The motion was approved as amended with 24 ayes and 2 abstentions.*

- **Curriculum Review Committee – Katie Kolbet**

The committee last met on April 2. The decisions from that meeting appeared on today's consent agenda. May 7 is the next meeting and submissions are due April 16.

- **Learning Commons Committee – Rob Lively**

The committee met on April 1 and discussed the success of the Zoom panels. They were well-attended and due to the online format were able to attract a larger part of the Reno community. In the future, the committee would like to do hybrid panels. The committee is working to gain access to UNR's library databases for the faculty and students. The committee will next meet in September and the meeting format and committee chair will be announced.

- **Part-Time Faculty Committee – Edwin Lyngar**

The committee will continue to discuss the results of the part-time faculty survey. Nicole Scollard attended the last meeting and answered questions about all things HR related. The final Coffee Klatch of the year will be scheduled and the committee is looking for a May Part-Time Faculty of the Month.

- **Professional Standards – Cheryl Woehr**

Chair Cheryl Woehr announced Marynia Giren-Navarro will be the new committee chair for the next two years. There was confusion about the vote for the Rationale and Resolution to Publish Courses. The committee voted to send the topic to Faculty Senate for discussion. Senate Chair Allen will work with Cheryl on a game plan for the resolution. Brandy Scarnati attended the meeting and discussed tools to combat online cheating. The committee discussed using statements in the syllabi to educate students and creating a professional development panel to discuss cheating. The In-Person Observation form will be reviewed in the Fall in order to give more time for thoughtful input and possible changes. A procedure is being created for exceptional circumstances in grade appeal. Senate Chair Allen suggested to include/inform Jinger Doe, Chair of the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee on any academic dishonesty items such as panels and noted there is a [Regulations for Academic Dishonesty](#) document on the TMCC Website.

- **Recognition and Activities – Erin Frock and Sidney Sullivan**

The committee last met April 6. The Distinguished Faculty Awards are in progress. A Night at the Theater announcement will be sent soon. Save the Date: April 30, a faculty field day with a penalty kick off and opportunities for photos with the mascots Wizard and Mighty. The committee next meets May 4.

- **Salary, Benefits and Budget Committee – Matt Leathen**

The next Sabbatical Subcommittee Chair is Amy Cavanaugh. The committee will be working on a policy for professional merit pay, and a PEBP update. The committee next meets April 30.

- **WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee – Dan Hooper**

The committee met this morning and discussed the resolution concerning publishing courses early and found no solutions. No action will be taken on this item. The committee also discussed creating a professional development on FERPA. Definitions of class modalities are being drafted by the committee and may be finalized at their next meeting. The committee next meets May 14.

- **Student Government Association (SGA) – Alyssa Fromelius**

The SGA and EISO office co-hosted a Cesar Chavez event. SGA President Fromelius is developing an outline with Elena Bubnova for any students who want to advocate during Legislative Session. The SGA is researching how to add healthier choices to the vending machines. The Election Engagement Committee is transitioning their work to the incoming senator. A resolution for Open Educational Resources (OER) is being developed and SGA is creating a survey with Institutional Research to find out how many instructors use OER.

- **Classified Council – Chynna Slocum**

Jean Lampson is Classified Employee of the Month. There is now a hospitality recognition form on the TMCC website. The deadline to submit nominees for Classified of the Year is April 16. The council will also call for nominations to their executive board. The committee next meets April 15 at 1 p.m.

---

## Old Business

## New Business

---

None

## Adjourn

---

*Senator Ben Scheible moved and Senator Rossitza Todorova seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with 25 ayes.*

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:24 p.m.