

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2021

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

Absent: Steve Bale, Sidney Sullivan (Proxy: Adine Stormoen)

Guests: Amber Anaya, Rachel Blackburn, Elena Bubnova, Julie Ellsworth, John Fitzsimmons, Anne Flesher, Meeghan Gray, Karin Hilgersom, Kate Kirkpatrick, James Kuzhippala, Ron Marston, Barb Painter, Joe Sanpietro, Nicole Scollard, Joan Steinman, Kim Studebaker, Barb Walden

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

Chair's Report – YeVonne Allen

Chair Allen ensured quorum was met opened her final report as Faculty Senate Chair for AY 20-21.

Board of Regents and NSHE Update: The Board of Regents held a Special Meeting on April 29. Dr. DeRionne Pollard was appointed as Nevada State College's next President. The next quarterly meeting is June 10-11 with the anticipated topics of a 1% performance pay pool/merit in FY 24 and some umbrella work from Home language for each institution to create their own on-campus policies. New faces and changes in the Chancellor's Cabinet are Caleb Cage rejoining NSHE as Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Chief Innovation Officer and current Vice Chancellor Chrystal Abba will absorb the academic and student affairs oversight previously held by the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges. NSHE is at the beginning of a policy evaluation and draft concerning COVID vaccines and want to be prepared if the FDA and the State Health Department extend standard approval of the vaccine. The vaccine is currently approved for emergency use.

Legislative Update: The NSHE budget cut currently remains at 12%. Many legislators were in favor of providing add-backs to the NSHE budget upon hearing the positive Nevada Economic Forum report. A Special Session of the Legislature is anticipated during the Summer for federal fund allocation and state redistricting.

Ad Hoc Elections Committee Update: Chair Allen presented the certification of election results to the Senate. Dr. Amy Cavanaugh will be our TMCC Faculty Senate Chair-Elect, having won the majority/entirety of the votes. Amy will begin her term July 1, 2021.

Campus Updates: The TMCC Budget Reduction Task Force met yesterday, has satisfied its charge, and will only reconvene due to a budgetary event. The taskforce requested a report or presentation from the Budget Office at the beginning of the Fall Semester with an update containing true numbers based on our enrollment and final State appropriations.

Liberal Arts Dean Paul Allen has resigned and TMCC Leadership is working with the division on the plan for an Acting Dean, followed by a nationwide search.

The Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jeffery Alexander will start his TMCC journey in June. Senate leadership have scheduled a meeting with him during his first couple of weeks on campus.

TMCC will lease a black box theater space off of Oddie Blvd. This location is a mixed-use space which will also be the home of the Generator.

Due to an increase in Canvas courses, the WebCollege Office would appreciate it if regardless of modality, courses were published with the syllabus or an announcement of when class activities will begin by the semester start date. This is not mandatory.

The required and suggested syllabus statements webpage is in process and has been a great collaboration with the VPAA's office.

Chair Allen ended her report thanking the senators who have termed out of the Senate Body this year: Senators Ben Scheible, Cathy House, Ed Corbett, Julia Hammett, and Staci Miller. The Standing Committee Chairs who have termed out are Rob Lively, Learning Commons and Dan Hooper, WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee.

Chair-Elect's Report – Virginia Irintcheva

Chair-Elect Virginia Irintcheva opened her final report as Chair-Elect congratulating Amy Cavanaugh and thanked the new and returning Senators and Committee Chairs. The Committees Meeting Schedule and Senate Body for AY 21-22 will be posted on the website shortly.

As a reminder to faculty, if a student athlete cannot have their schedule accommodated per the [missed class procedure](#), the instructor is not required to sign the letter. The student needs to be informed the first week of class, so they have time to find another class. Please reach out to Senate leadership if any issues should arise.

Administrative Report – Dr. Karin Hilgersom, TMCC President

Dr. Hilgersom opened her report thanking YeVonne and Virginia for their service and work this year with a pandemic and Legislative Session happening. Two items were shared: remote work policy and vaccinations.

- There is interest in developing a clear policy to consider remote work requests, particularly for non-student facing employees. A framework language will be brought to the Board of Regents in June. Human Resources has begun to draft a procedure and will align it with NSHE's framework. More information will be coming.
- COVID Vaccinations and mandates. NSHE is exploring mandatory vaccinations. The Biden Administration has reached out to Community Colleges as sites to be used as vaccination clinic sites. More information will be forthcoming for homecoming and Fall term. Please watch your email inbox for announcements.
- Dr. Hilgersom thanked the Senate and AVP Elena Bubnova for their advocacy and work during the Legislative Session. She also thanked the Commencement Committee for all the work they put into this year's celebration.

Questions received were concerning vaccinations, masks, and how will we know who is and isn't vaccinated. About half of TMCC's employees have been vaccinated and TMCC is waiting for guidance from NSHE concerning mask wearing.

Administrative Report Barb Walden, Dean of Technical Sciences

Dr. Melissa Deadmond deferred her VPAA update time to Dean Barb Walden. Dean Walden provided an update on the Department Chair election for CIT, CRJ, and LAW. The procedure and events were described. Dean Walden proposed to utilize the Technical Sciences Director for 1-2 years, with no objections from the faculty of those departments. An all-call was held with one nomination was received, but declined due to workload concerns. The faculty of the departments also declined due to workload. Discipline coordinator roles were proposed to be used as department chair. Dean Walden is requesting input to use coordinators for 1 year and to please email her with any input.

Questions received were if the NFA President been consulted. Chair Allen noted the Faculty Senate's role is to facilitate an election and the Senate's role is completed. Dean Walden has had conversations with the NFA President and is working with Dr. Deadmond. Senator Hammett asked who would be the chair. Dean Walden noted there are eligible persons in the department who can be coordinators.

Legislative Update – Associate Vice President Elena Bubnova

There are 18 days left in the Legislative Session. The budget reduction stands at 12% for TMCC. There was a lot of support from Senators for restoration of various budget areas. AB450 was passed and will come to the full Senate. The bill will make provisions for a study of Community College Governance. AVP Bubnova thanked everyone for their advocacy. The session will end May 31 and TMCC will be watching activity at the upcoming special sessions.

Senator Scheible asked about any Federal Funds. AVP Bubnova confirmed we have been notified we will receive HERF 3 Funding.

Approval of the April 9, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes for April 9, 2021

Movant: Senator Amy Cavanaugh

Second: Senator Staci Miller

Vote: Motion passed with 24 ayes.

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the May 14, 2021 Consent Agenda.

Movant: Senator Jinger Doe

Second: Senator Amy Cavanaugh

Vote: Motion passed with 24 ayes.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Academic Standards and Assessment Committee – Jinger Doe**

The committee finalized their PUR's at their April 16 meeting. The committee is bringing forth a resolution from the Academic Standards Committee.

The Senate had a hearty discussion and the comments received were: this resolution reconfirms what is already being done, urge a no vote, how will this be enforced, all committees should communicate and work together, and a reminder to the committees to cooperate. Chair Allen opened the floor for the Senate body vote.

To approve the ASA Resolution: Honoring Faculty Senate Committee Charges and Work Including Regulations for Academic Dishonesty. The motion passed with 17 Ayes, 5 Nays, and 5 Abstentions.

The next meeting will be August 27 at 9-11 a.m. via Zoom. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the Curriculum Review Committee.

- **Administrative Faculty Committee – Sidney Sullivan**

Staci Miller reported for Sidney today. The committee met prior to today's Faculty Senate Meeting. The Summer Synergy Summit theme will be the Roaring 20's Great Gatsby. Senator Miller also thanked the Senate as this is her last meeting of her term.

- **Curriculum Review Committee – Katie Kolbet**

The committee met May 7 and the courses passed in committee were approved on today's consent agenda. The committee next meets August 27 in a joint meeting with the Academic Standards and Assessment Committee. The submission deadline is August 7.

- **Learning Commons Committee – Rob Lively**

The committee has not met since the April 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting. The next meeting of the Learning Commons Committee is September 2, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

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

The committee met today. Pat Miller will be the Part-Time Faculty Committee Chair. Part-Time Senator elections will open in the Fall. Senator Heather Haddox expressed interest in serving again. The committee discussed plans for next year including presenting the results of the Part-Time Faculty Survey, and further exploring the FTE formula.

- **Professional Standards – Cheryl Woehr**

Senate Chair YeVonne Allen provided a brief report for today's meeting. Chair Cheryl Woehr was not able to attend. The committee continues its preparations for next year. The committee will be reviewing the observation forms for consistency and language alignment. The next meeting of the Professional Standards Committee is September 3, 2021 at 10 a.m.

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

Olga Katkova provided today's report. Sidney was unable to attend. The committee met May 4. The Career Champions Program will be presented during Fall Kickoff. The Distinguished Faculty Awards were awarded in Town Hall. Congratulations for Marynia Giren-Navarro for teaching and Felipe Gutierrez De-Alba for service. The committee next meets September 7, 2021 at 2 p.m.

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

The committee met on April 30. Chair Matt Leathen shared a PEBP spreadsheet with a voluntary long-term disability insurance plan. The committee next meets August 20, 2021 at 12-2 p.m.

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

The committee met prior to today's meeting and continued their discussion on web definitions. The committee noted a need for in-person proctoring services for WebLive courses. Action items on these topics will be brought to the Senate in the Fall. The WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee will also have a professional development workshop on FERPA in the Fall.

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

The resolution for Online Educational Resources was approved and will be brought to the President's Cabinet. Please contact President Alyssa Fromelius if you would like a copy of the resolution. The SGA continues to work on more signage for the hydration stations, 47 students and staff participated in the succulent planting, and 19 students participated in the park cleanup at Hidden Valley Regional Park. Finals week events at Doughboys and My Favorite Muffin were successful. The SGA will have t shirts and license plate holders to hand out at Commencement.

- **Classified Council – Chynna Slocum**

Rachel Blackburn provided the Classified Council's report to the Senate today. Arkaitz Aldecoaotalora is the Classified Employee of the Month and the Classified Employee of the Year is Carole Chouinard. Nominations are being accepted for Classified Employee of the Month for May. The Classified Council will host a BBQ later in the Summer in lieu of the Classified Symposium.

Old Business

None

New Business

Senate Chair YeVonne Allen and Chair-Elect Virginia Irintcheva exchanged service plaques and Chair Allen was presented with an engraved photo frame collage to commemorate her service to the Faculty Senate. The Senate was elevated with Chair Allen's leadership and we look forward to Chair-Elect Virginia Irintcheva's term.

Adjourn

Senator Rossitza Todorova moved and Senator Jeremy Coggin seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with 22 ayes.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:24 p.m.