

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2021

Faculty Senate Chair: Virginia Irintcheva	Faculty Senate Chair-Elect: Amy Cavanaugh	Past Chair YeVonne Allen
Executive Committee member, Academic Standards and Assessment Chair Jinger Doe	Executive Committee member, Curriculum Review Chair Katie Kolbet	Executive Committee member, Professional Standards Chair Marynia Giren-Navarro
Executive Committee member, Salary, Benefits and Budget Chair Matt Leathen	Administrative Faculty Committee Chair Ashlyn Moreno	Library Committee Chair John Kemp
Part-Time Faculty Committee Chair Pat Miller	Recognition & Activities Committee Chair Rebecca Eckland	WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee Chair James Kuzhippala
Senators At-Large: Yuli Chavez Camarena Jennifer Pierce Adine Stormoen Sidney Sullivan	Senator for Allied Health: Heidi Himler Julie McMahan	Senators for Technical Sciences: Jeremy Coggin Wyatt Ziebell
Senators for Biology: James Kuzhippala Sharif Rumjahn	Senators for Computer Technologies: Steve Bale Topher Reynolds	Senators for English: Lenaya Andersen Karen Wikander
Senators for History, Political Science & Law: John Kemp Michael Miller	Senators for Humanities: Eric Bullis Gabriel Chavez	Senators for Math: Hieu Do Rebecca McCleary
Senators for Physical Sciences: Sameer Bhattarai Olga Katkova	Senators for Social Sciences: Marynia Giren-Navarro Haley Orthel-Clark	Senators for Visual and Performing Arts: Candace Garlock Rossitza Todorova
Senators for Part-Time Faculty: Tyler Ewing Heather Haddox	Classified Council Representative Sarah Gill	Student Government Representative Darian Richards

Absent: Adine Stormoen (Proxy: Sidney Sullivan), Marynia Giren-Navarro (Proxy: Haley Orthel-Clark)

Guests: Jeffery Alexander, Amber Anaya, Natalie Brown, Karin Hilgersom, Dan Hooper, Sarah Jacobsen, Archana Kumar, Staci Miller, Barb Painter, Brandy Scarnati, Nicole Scollard, Cheryl Scott, Kim Studebaker

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

Chair's Report – Virginia Irintcheva

Board of Regents Update: The Board of Regents met Sept. 9-10 and again on Sept. 30. The employee vaccine mandate was approved. Chair Virginia also participated in an NSHE round table discussion and brought forth concerns and questions on behalf of TMCC faculty. TMCC hosted a town hall on the vaccine mandate which Virginia attended to answer questions.

Merit Pay Task Force: The taskforce is continuing to meet and discuss possible future changes to the merit pay policy. Chair Virginia clarified the annual Academic Performance Evaluation and existing Merit Pay Policy will be used for awarding merit pay for this year starting in July of 2022. Merit is independent of COLA.

Exam Proctoring Form: Chair Virginia was able to meet with Helen Scott and Andy Hughes to express concerns with the new form. Andy and Helen are working to correct some of the issues and improve the form. Please reach out to Helen Scott with suggestions for improvement. Helen is creating a tip sheet that will be shared with faculty.

Starfish Taskforce: The VPAA has asked the Faculty Senate to establish a taskforce to review Starfish, study the utilization, cost, and benefit of Starfish to students and faculty. Please contact Chair Virginia with volunteer names. The Senate body is also welcome to serve on the taskforce.

Part-Time Senators: Heather Haddox and Tyler Ewing have been elected as Part-Time Senators. Welcome!

Chair-Elect's Report – Amy Cavanaugh

Chair-Elect Amy reported Sabbatical Applications are due at 5 p.m. today.

Past-Chair Report – YeVonne Allen

Past-Chair YeVonne requested the Senate body to please encourage students to submit proof of their vaccine information or the allowable exemption form on the [TMCC website](#).

Upcoming Events: On Thursday, October 21 there is a Student Resource Fair at Meadowood from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. On Friday, October 15 there is an undocuALLY workshop from 3-5 p.m. on Zoom.

Past-Chair YeVonne closed her report reminding everyone that she, Virginia, and Amy serve on the COVID-19 Crisis Team and to please contact them with questions and concerns.

Administrative Report – Dr. Karin Hilgersom, TMCC President

Dr. Hilgersom opened her report appreciating the important and transformative work we do at TMCC.

The following initiatives are happening at TMCC all with the goal of retention in mind. Planning for the theatre space in Sparks and possible classroom space for ABE, & Community Learning is happening. Thirty faculty are wanting to sign up for ACUE. Packback, an AI discussion and critical thinking tool for students, is continuing to take off at TMCC. The NWCCU Accreditation Report has been submitted and the key performance indicators will be published to the TMCC website soon. The work on guided pathways and new program development continues. The Family History Research Room opens later today. Employee and student vaccinations are in progress. The employee vaccination rate is slightly over 82%, which is excellent progress.

Recently, there were three articles in the This is Reno blog. The President noted she is “completely removed from all logistical planning in both cases mentioned, including an evening service of a notice related to a Board of Regents Meeting.” She “had no knowledge of these details until the day following these events. “There are many pressing situations at TMCC including the President’s support and action steps related to positive directions at TMCC. Student success and support systems that we need to have in place are in the foreground always.”

Administrative Report – Dr. Jeffery Alexander, TMCC Vice President Academic Affairs

Dr. Alexander opened his report with updates from Academic Affairs. The Liberal Arts Dean search is underway with a 7-member search committee. The Grand Sierra Resort collaboration has begun with COM 113 taught by Rebecca Cobain. There will be an ELL course in the Spring. The Oddie Space planning for the TMCC Theatre and possible instructional space is underway at The Generator. A Spring retention seminar is being developed and will include focus for students on their program, career, and self-reflection for students with a focus on their Fall program. This program will expand upon the success of EPY 101. The Faculty Advising Program provides 3 credits of reassign time. There is a meeting later today at 3:30 p.m. and any interested faculty are welcome to attend. Dr Alexander will report back on this program.

Dr. Alexander met with Heather Haddox and Edwin Lyngar to discuss part-time faculty concerns and ways to remedy these concerns.

Hiring Demographics – Cheryl Scott, Institutional Research

Cheryl provided a presentation on TMCC Demographics of Full-time faculty. Cheryl will add part-time faculty to her presentation for the bigger picture to be sent out at a later date. Part-Time Faculty teach 45% of TMCC’s classes.

Highlights from Cheryl’s presentation were Fall 2021 and 6-year trends, new full-time faculty hires, and comparisons across faculty new hires, students and Washoe County. Headcounts, gender, ethnicity and minorities were the major data points.

Approval of the September 3, 2021 Minutes

Motion: To approve the Faculty Senate Minutes for September 3, 2021.

Movant: Senator Karen Wikander

Second: Senator Jeremy Coggin

Vote: Motion passed with 24 ayes.

Consent Agenda

Motion: To approve the October 8, 2021 Consent Agenda.

Movant: Senator Yuli Chavez-Camarena

Second: Senator Rossitza Todorova

Vote: Motion passed with 22 ayes.

Resolution Regarding Minimum Qualifications for Dual Enrollment Instructors

Chair Virginia provided background on this resolution and opened the floor for discussion.

The discussion aired concern that the resolution sounds like everyone must have a Master's Degree for every course taught.

Friendly amendments were suggested based on the discussion : "Therefore, instructors teaching dual enrollment courses should possess the same minimum qualifications as the college instructors teaching the same classes as determined by the relevant academic departments." Title change: Resolution Regarding Minimum Qualifications for Dual Enrollment Instructors [Teaching Gen Ed Transfer Courses](#)

Resolution Regarding Minimum Qualifications for Dual Enrollment Instructors [Teaching Gen Ed Transfer Courses](#)

Whereas college instructors have earned graduate degrees in their disciplines of study and are therefore experts in their discipline and

Whereas students taking dual enrollment courses are receiving college credit for those classes,

And Whereas the NSHE Board of Regents already sets the Credentials for Community College Faculty as "a minimum of a master's degree ... for instruction in baccalaureate-level courses or an appropriate combination of education and experience," (BOR 4.3.5)

~~Therefore, instructors teaching dual enrollment courses should possess the same minimum qualifications as the college instructors teaching the same classes, namely a Master's degree in the discipline being taught or a Master's degree in another discipline plus at least 18 graduate credits in the discipline being taught.~~

[Therefore, instructors teaching dual enrollment courses should possess the same minimum qualifications as the college instructors teaching the same classes as determined by the relevant academic departments.](#)

Senator Haley Orthel-Clark moved and Senator Sharif Rumjahn seconded to adopt the amendments. The motion passed with 26 ayes.

Original Motion: Senator Haley Orthel-Clark moved and Senator Lenaya Andersen seconded to approve the resolution. The motion passed as amended with 26 ayes.

Additional Compensation Policy

Chair Virginia requested the senate body distribute this policy and gather feedback. This will come back to Senate for discussion.

Standing Committee Reports

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

The committee met today and are continuing to evaluate PURs. The Diversity Taskforce is continuing its work on determining if the gen ed learning objectives and outcomes need to be altered. The next meeting is October 22.

- **Administrative Faculty Committee – Ashlyn Morneo**

The committee met September 17 and will work on projects as a committee to maximize member's time and participation. Annual Evaluations for Administrative Faculty will be reviewed for changes to align the self-evaluation and supervisor evaluation forms. The next meeting is October 15.

- **Curriculum Review Committee – Katie Kolbet**

The CRC approved the courses and programs that were on today's Senate Consent Agenda. October 15 is the last day to start workflow for the November CRC meeting. October 15 is the last day to submit for the November CRC meeting and any new programs for the catalog.

- **Learning Commons Committee – John Kemp**

No report was given.

- **Part-Time Faculty Committee – Pat Miller**

The committee met today. Heather Haddox and Tyler Ewing were elected as senators. The committee discussed many issues and will continue to work on their projects.

- **Professional Standards – Marynia Giren-Navarro**

The committee met today and agreed to table the In-Person Observation Form. Input will be collected from the departments on the Web Live and Web Course forms. The committee will work on Annual Plan revisions and consider recommendations from the NFA. The motion to remove S1A was approved in committee and will come to the next Faculty Senate meeting.

- **Recognition and Activities – Rebecca Eckland**

The committee met on October 5. Professional of the Month nominations are being collected. The People, Pets, and Pumpkins Contest is returning October 18-22. In November the committee will host a gratitude tree.

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

The committee met on September 24. Travel reimbursement was approved and Spring travel applications will be accepted. The committee reviewed the Additional Compensation Policy and feel more input is needed from the TMCC Community. The committee discussed proposed changes to the annual plan and motioned not to support them without reasonable justification. The next meeting is October 22, at noon.

- **WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee – James Kuzhippala**

The committee met today, reviewed Online Standard 1.1 and will work in cooperation with Professional Standards on the online teaching form.

- **Student Government Association (SGA) – Darian Richards**

The SGA participated in National Registration Day, the Club Fair, creating a video for the student vaccine mandate, and held a successful blood drive.

- **Classified Council – Sarah Gill**

The Classified Council will push information for vaccine clinics to classified staff. There is concern about losing classified employees who do not meet the vaccine mandate. A Regent's Award for Classified Employees is being added to the annual Regent's Awards. The winner will receive a \$3,000 stipend. October 15 is the deadline for submissions. The October Classified Employee of the Month will be announced soon.

Old Business

None

New Business

Senator Hieu Do requested further explanation for student evaluations and what exactly Satisfactory means. A possible guide would be helpful. Chair Virginia will forward this item to the Professional Standards Committee.

Chair-Elect Amy announced Monday is Indigenous Peoples Day and suggested we could share the land appreciation statement with students found on the [TMCC website](#).

We acknowledge that Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) is situated on the traditional homelands of the Numu (Northern Paiute), Wašiw (Washoe), Newe (Western Shoshone), Nuwu (Southern Paiute) peoples. These lands have been a place of gathering for Indigenous Peoples and we honor the original caretakers. We recognize their deep connections to these places and extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn in this space.

Chair Virginia announced Chancellor Rose is scheduled to attend the November Faculty Senate Meeting.

Adjourn

Senator Sharif Rumjahn moved and Senator Topher Reynolds seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with 20 ayes.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:54 p.m.