

# FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2024

Faculty Senate Chair: <b>Rick Bullis</b>	Faculty Senate Chair-elect: <b>Jinger Doe</b>	Past Chair <b>Amy Cavanaugh</b>
Executive Committee member, Academic Standards and Assessment Chair <b>Jon Lau</b>	Executive Committee member, Curriculum Review Chair <b>Katie Kolbet</b>	Executive Committee member, Professional Standards Chair <b>Karen Wikander</b>
Executive Committee member, Salary, Benefits and Budget Chair <b>Bradley Summerhill</b>	Administrative Faculty Committee Chair <b>Ben Davis</b>	Learning Commons Committee Chair <b>Fred Lokken</b>
Part-Time Faculty Committee Chair <b>Edwin Lyngar</b>	Recognition & Activities Committee Chair <b>Tara Connolly</b>	WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee Chair <b>Frank Amankonah</b>
Senators At-Large: <b>Amber Burroughs</b> <b>Tara Connolly</b> <b>Ben Davis</b> <b>Katie Paul</b>	Senators for Allied Health: <b>Julie McMahon</b> <b>Rori Wilkis</b>	Senators for Computer Technology <b>Steve Bale</b>
Senators for Biology: <b>Laura Briggs</b> <b>Jon Lau</b>	Senators for English: <b>Martha Johnson-Olin</b> <b>Joe Sanpietro</b>	Senators for History, Political Science & Law: <b>John Kemp</b> <b>Dustin Moore</b>
Senators for Humanities: <b>Gabriel Chavez</b> <b>Nancy Faires</b>	Senators for Math: <b>Frank Amankonah</b> <b>Lars Jensen</b>	Senators for Physical Sciences: <b>Michael Leonard</b> <b>Dan Loranz</b>
Senators for Social Sciences: <b>Marynia Giren-Navarro</b> <b>Joylin Namie</b>	Senators for Technical Sciences: <b>Jeremy Coggin</b> <b>Kelly Oswald</b>	Senators for Visual and Performing Arts: <b>Ron Marston</b> <b>Ted Owens</b>
Senators for Part-Time Faculty: <b>Cara Dopf</b> <b>Jessikah Kipf</b>	Classified Council Representative <b>Viola Pellissier</b>	Student Government Representative <b>Brayson Gomez</b>

**Absent:** Frank Amankonah (Proxy: Dan Hooper), Cara Dopf, Nancy Faires, Brayson Gomez, Jessikah Kipf, Karen Wikander, Rori Wilkis (Proxy: Jinger Doe)

**Guests:** Jeffrey Alexander, YeVonne Allen, Ayo Akinola, Amber Anaya, Elena Bubnova, Karin Hilgersom, John Hughes, Jeff Hutchinson, Crista Jorgensen, Kate Kirkpatrick, Estella Levario-Gutierrez, Fred Lokken, Staci Miller, Jim New, Natalie Russell, Lauren Sanew, Kim Studebaker

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 p.m.

## Approval of February 9, 2024 Faculty Senate Agenda

**Motion:** To approve the February 9, 2024 Faculty Senate Agenda.

**Movant:** Senator Ron Marston  
**Second:** Senator Tara Connolly

**Vote:** Motion passed.

## Approval of the December 8, 2023 Minutes

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**Motion:** To approve the Faculty Senate Minutes for December 8, 2023.

**Movant:** Senator Steve Bale

**Second:** Senator Gabriel Chavez

**Vote:** Motion passed.

## Consent Agenda

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**Motion:** To approve the February 9, 2024 Faculty Senate Consent Agenda

**Movant:** Senator Joe Sanpietro

**Second:** Senator Tara Connolly

**Vote:** Motion passed.

## Chair's Report – Rick Bullis

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Senate Chair Rick Bullis provided updates around TMCC and the many meetings he attends in his chair role.

A new sound system has been installed in RDMT 256. Meeting modalities for the remainder of the semester are March 15, hybrid; April 12, Zoom; and May 3, hybrid. Commencement is on May 10, 2024.

**Faculty Senate travel funds** for Spring are available. The deadline to apply is February 16, 2024.

The L-Team, a small group, will receive 360 Reviews from the President. The Faculty Senate Chair will work with the President's Executive Assistant to ensure written responses are anonymous.

The Recognition and Activity Committee (RAC) and the Executive Board will explore whether the RAC could have a co-chair leadership. This committee chair does not receive any release time. Please send any feedback to Rick Bullis.

The NFA is hosting a forum on February 23 at 3:30 p.m. on Question 1.

The Joint Executive Board (JEB) met on December 8, 2023 and discussed the new fire tower plans. Bradley Summerhill presented a 2% step increase.

The Planning Council met on December 11, 2023. A 5% salary increase upon receiving tenure will be awarded. This tenure bump is not retroactive. Approval to move forward with Credit for Prior Learning was also granted.

The President's Cabinet met on January 8, 2024. The fire tower and Credit for Prior Learning were discussed.

The NSHE Biennial Budget Meeting was held on January 10, 2024 with Chancellor Patty Charlton. A tour of the Redfield Campus was also given to the attendees.

The Planning Council met on January 22, 2024. The **Planning Council** minutes are posted on the President's webpage. Mike Peyerl is a member of the NSHE Public Safety and Planning Committee. Ben Davis is creating four campus safety committees. The Policy on **Remote Work** for Classified Employees has posted. The Diversity Committee has several upcoming workshops. Sign-ups for the **Sustainability Pledge** are open. The AI Taskforce will seek permanent committee status. The Part-Time Faculty Committee is working on a resource page.

The Faculty Senate Executive Board met on February 2, 2024. Items discussed were 360 Evaluations, chair and senate seat updates, the motion tracker is posted on the Faculty Senate webpage, the Academic Calendar, standing committee updates were given, and the addition of the Administrative Faculty Chair to the Executive Board.

Questions received concerned the 360 reviews and survey tools used.

Dr. Hilgersom's survey for her direct reports are designed for non-instructional executive managers who are not covered by the NFA Contract.

## **Chair-Elect Report – Jinger Doe**

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The Faculty Senate Representation Committee continue to meet and collect feedback.

## **Past Chair's Report – Amy Cavanaugh**

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Past Chair Amy Cavanaugh had a correction of an omission from her December report. All four sabbatical applicants were awarded: Angela Adlish, Ana Douglass, Rebecca McCleary, and Megan Lahti.

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

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Dr. Hilgersom reported enrollment numbers after the February 2, 2024 purge: headcount is up 7.8% and FTE is up 9.7%.

During the January 10 NSHE Budget meeting A new building request was announced, a proposed shared facility, with DRI and Nevada State University. The building would focus in robotics, engineering, computer science, computer coding, and undergrad research. The idea would be called the Dandini Innovation Commons. This will be presented to the Board of Regents at a later date.

Dr. Hilgersom attended American Community College Trustee Association meeting in DC and met with Senator Cortez-Masto and Representative Amodei. The most important talking point was Support Workforce Pell Grants for Students in Short-Term Programs.

Dr. Hilgersom offered kudos to all who are working on retention in various committees and face-to-face encouragement with students.

The Low Staffing Model is scheduled to return May 13 thru August 2, 2024. Stay tuned for more details.

TMCC is now a Minority Serving Institution. TMCC recently reached the 51% threshold.

The Board of Regents will vote on tenure applicants at the March Board of Regents meeting. We will look forward to congratulations soon.

A question was received about the 1% set aside from the BOR and whether this was in effect for FY 23 and which year/s was it suspended. Kim Studebaker stated this has been suspended for FY 24. This information will be confirmed and reported back to the Senate.

## **Administrative Report – Jeffrey Alexander, Vice President of Academic Affairs**

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The Student Awards Ceremony will include the Student Government Association and student clubs to make the program more robust and cover more awards.

The Credit for Prior Learning Taskforce has met and will form working groups to develop procedures.

The VPAA, Deans, and Bookstore are working on an improved Bookstore Ordering Form. The pilot will begin in Summer 2024.

The upcoming quarterly BOR Meeting will include two new skills certificates: data analytics and education para-professional. They will be presented to the Academic Affairs Council. Two new degrees will be presented at the Academic Research and Student Affairs Committee (ARSA): AS, Psychology and BAS, Radiologic Technology.

# Standing Committee Reports

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## **Academic Standards and Assessment Committee – Jon Lau**

The committee reviewed two PURS. The People and Cultural Awareness and Communications GELO's and Rubric have been approved by the committee and will be sent out to the departments for feedback. Jon presented the Academic Calendar. Changes to the calendar included aligning Spring Break (beginning AY 24-25) with UNR and the second week of WCSD's Spring Break, the addition of Juneteenth, and finalized commencement dates. The 2028 Commencement date is to be determined until the contract with Lawlor is finalized.

**Motion:** Chair-elect Jinger Doe moved and Senator Tara Connolly seconded to approve the Academic Calendar. The motion passed.

## **Administrative Faculty Committee – Ben Davis**

The committee is working to formalize a written procedure with HR for position reclassification and a salary advancement policy for Administrative Faculty. The committee next meets February 16, 2024.

## **Curriculum Review Committee – Katie Kolbet**

The committee is working on 25-26 Catalog. The next deadline for submissions to the CRC is Friday, February 16 for the March 8 meeting. The committee next meets March 8, 2024.

## **Learning Commons Committee – Fred Lokken**

The committee will host a panel discussion: Political Divisiveness in American History on February 14, from 1-2 p.m. in the Library (LIB 106). The committee next meets March 7, 2024.

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

The committee is creating a letter of benefits available to part-time faculty, exploring retirement benefits for part-time faculty, and a resource webpage for Part-Time Faculty. The Part-Time Level 2 Document is completed and will come to a future Senate meeting. The committee next meets March 15, 2024.

## **Professional Standards Committee – Karen Wikander**

Karen's report was provided by Jinger Doe. The committee continues to work on the tenure forms for Librarians with the goal of bringing them to a future Faculty Senate Meeting. The committee next meets February 23, 2024.

## **Recognition and Activities – Tara Connolly**

Twenty-three Career Champions were recognized at the January Kick Off. The most recent Professionals of the Month are Katie Paul and Olga Mesina. The Distinguished Faculty Awards are underway for the nominees. A Share the Love and Watch it Grow table will be set up with seeded paper hearts to write a note of love to hang on the tree. The committee next meets March 5, 2024.

## **Salary, Benefits and Budget Committee – Bradley Summerhill**

The committee is discussing a concept for salary enhancement in non-COLA years. As evidenced in the faculty salary survey, faculty would like a pay increase to occur for a Satisfactory rating. The majority of the survey respondents were newer faculty. The committee next meets on February 23, 2024.

A question on the merit pool was asked and will need confirmation from Mike Peyerl, VP of Finance on which year was suspended. The Senate Chair will report back once confirmation is made.

## **WebCollege Faculty Advisory Committee – Frank Amankonah**

Dan Hooper provided Frank's report today. The committee had a learning and sharing presentation. Canvas features such as the anonymous grading feature were discussed and the Faculty Journal. The committee will work on a process to test and enable some of the features. The committee next meets March 15, 2024.

## **Student Government Association (SGA) – Brayson Gomez**

Lisha Allison provided President Gomez's report. SGA is working on Narcan training for the TMCC community. The SGA is looking to expand food options at other campuses and offer charging stations. The SGA elections are also getting underway. Applications close Friday, February 16, 2024.

## **Classified Council – Viola Pellissier**

The Spring Egg Hunt will be announced soon.

## **Old Business**

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None

## **New Business**

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Senator Martha Johnson-Olin wrote a Senate Statement on Academic Freedom. This will head to the Professional Standards Committee and possibly be voted on at the March Faculty Senate Meeting. Please send any suggested edits or feedback to Faculty Senate Chair Rick Bullis to pass along to the Professional Standards Committee.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:27 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** March 15, 2024 via Zoom/RDMT 255-256.