

# McLennan Community College

## Faculty Council 2016-2017

**MEETING DATE:** The McLennan Community College Faculty Council met Thursday, November 10, 2016, in MAC 304. President Andria (Andi) Ramon called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**ATTENDEES:** Andria (Andi) Ramon, Becky Griffin, Cynthia McAdams, Donna Mendoza, Erik Emblem, Felicia Gladden, Heather Mattingly, James Gibby, Jennifer Black, Jessica Zbeida, Karen Garrett, Karen Weil, Larry Salazar, Laura Hays, Leslie Henderson, Lisa Lindloff, Liz Painter, Mandy Morrison, Marc Nicholas, Mary Sides, Melody Flowers, Miley Pulliam, Misty Edwards, Robert “Bob” Ammon, Sharon Kenan, Sholly Gunter, Suzanne Baldon, Terri Barnes

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Becky Parker, Brian Johnson, Caleb Stroman, Gail Wade, Jenna Hoefler, Jon Fox, Kurt Chunn, Meredith Heffner, Reid Makowsky, Richard Pringle, Sondra Dubowsky, Theresa Sparks

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### MEETING MINUTES

#### OLD BUSINESS

1) **ISSUE:** Professional Development (PD) Faculty Requirements

**DISCUSSION:** FCP noted that the recommendation to remove the four-year educational requirement and replace it with a line-item in the portfolio as part of the annual evaluation with the division chair or program director was received by the Vice President of Instruction. He was receptive to the idea, but was not sure how to respond to it. For now, this will be discussed with the division chairs and program directors, then the deans, and then the president before an official decision will be made. Secondly, the policy committee chair (Marc Nicholas) read the committee report to FC. The portfolio requirement is discussed in two sections of the “Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure” (F-III-a): 1) “Tenure Appointment Process” (pp. 3-7) and 2) “Post-Tenure Evaluation Process” (pp. 9-10). Also, identical portfolio requirements are listed under “Evaluation: Faculty” in the *Policy Handbook* and the *Personnel Handbook* (d-22). After reviewing each of these policies, the committee feels that there is not any significant variance in wording in these areas regarding the portfolio. Any variance among them is simply from the implementation of the policy, rather than the policy itself. In the event that tenure is denied, a review process is allowed. As a result, the policy committee feels that there is enough “wiggle room” in the policies that no recommendation is needed at this time.

After the presentation, there was a substantial debate among FC members regarding the possible change of the four-year educational requirement changed to a non-quantifiable, yearly professional development requirement that is approved by the individual’s division

chair or program direction. Some FC members were concerned that the Division Chairs or Program Directors would not approve of the PD requirements discussed with faculty. If the new yearly, non-quantifiable PD requirement is approved and faculty must prove their PD requirements through the Teaching Portfolio, some FC members were concerned that Program Directors or Division Chairs may not agree with the Professional Development presented by the faculty member. What would happen if that occurred? After the debate, a motion was made by Sholly Gunter, seconded by Jessica Zbeida that the following wording should be made to the sub-committee's recommendation. "After discussion with supervisor, if there is a disagreement, the employee has the ability to follow the chain of command to protest."

**ACTION:** FCP will take the revised statement to the Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Donald Balmos. Also, FCP will add the statement to the FC Professional Development revisions.

2) **ISSUE:** Policy Clarification

**DISCUSSION:** FCP noted that in the previous meeting, FC voted to allow adjuncts to vote on the FCVP, Minnie Piper Award, and Professional Development, but that the Sabbatical Leave committee was inadvertently left off. Also, FCP clarified that adjuncts can only vote on Minnie Piper Stevens Award and FCVP, but they are not eligible for PD or Sabbatical Leave, because they are ineligible to join. A motion was made by Jennifer Black and seconded by James Gibby to remove the previous vote (at the previous FC meeting), which allowed adjuncts to vote on PD, when they should not be allowed to do so. As it stands, all faculty members, including adjuncts, will be able to vote on FCVP and Minnie Piper Award (although adjuncts are not eligible for either).

**ACTION:** Previous FC meeting minutes need to be revised to denote the changes.

3) **ISSUE:** Academic Freedom

**DISCUSSION:** FCP noted that during the last FC meeting, a sign-up sheet was passed around twice to sign up for the subcommittee to look at the Academic Freedom issues previously addressed. However, no one signed up, even after the FCP asked an additional time via email after the meeting. As a result, this issue will be tabled until the spring semester. In the meantime, FCP will look into the rules to see if non-FC members can be on a committee to address concerns that a faculty member had with Academic Freedom.

**ACTION:** FCP will report back to FC regarding whether non-FC members can be on the committee. The issue (including sign-ups) will be discussed at the next meeting.

4) **ISSUE:** Faculty Delineation

**DISCUSSION:** FCP stated that at the last FC meeting, there was a question brought up about how many full-time temporary (FTT) instructors are on campus. FCP stated that after speaking with Human Resources, there are currently 14 FTT instructors (out of a total of 396 instructors) this fall. After a brief discussion regarding this number, FCP suggested that the FCVP look into the following questions: 1) What exactly does FTT mean? 2) What is their role in regards to being tenured?

**ACTION:** FCVP will report back her findings at the next FC meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1) **ISSUE:** Bookstore (Nikki Popko, Bookstore Manager)

**DISCUSSION:** Nikki Popko, the manager of the bookstore, came in to talk about the bookstore briefly. First, she wanted to thank faculty members for getting their spring adoptions in early—we are at 100% adoption already! Secondly, she wanted to mention that the bookstore is having an Open House for faculty members: Nov 28-30. You will get an extra 10% off the normal faculty discount of 10% (for 20% discount total) during the event. Also, information flyers were passed out regarding the textbook adoption process.

**ACTION:** Please visit the bookstore during the Open House event. Please contact Nikki Popko if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding book adoptions.

2) **ISSUE:** Learning Technology Committee (Andrew Clayton)

**DISCUSSION:** The Learning Technology committee is in the process of potentially switching learning management systems (LMS). Blackboard 9.0 is our current version and it is going to be stopped being supported in the near future by the company. The reason is because Blackboard has announced that Ultra is on the horizon, but has not put it forth. As a result, the Learning Technology committee is leaning towards two highly similar programs: Desire2Learn (D2L) or Canvas. The committee is not to consider cost as part of the process, even though both of these would be cheaper than sticking with Blackboard. The Learning Technology committee is currently divided on what it will suggest to the administration, but it is leaning towards D2L. However, some committee members would like to hear feedback regarding anyone with previous experience with D2L and/or Canvas.

**ACTION:** If you have any comments about the decision, please contact the Learning Technology committee.

3) **ISSUE:** Testing Center

**DISCUSSION:** FCP asked if there were any issues with the Testing Center, because there were concerns about walking the tests over and back from the testing center. Faculty members are supposed to submit all tests needing to be administered before the start of the semester. However, many FC members stated that they just walk them over a few days before and then pick them up after the test has been taken. Other FC members were concerned with the limited time that the Testing Center is open and available to students and faculty.

**ACTION:** If there are any concerns about the Testing Center, please contact your FC rep.

4) **ISSUE:** Student Activities: Food for Student Events (Melody Flowers)

**DISCUSSION:** Approximately four years ago, Melody Flowers had tried to bring outside food at History Club events to bring in student attendance. She was told that she could not

as it would violate the school's contract with Great Western Dining. However, the Baptist Student Union (BSU) holds events where they offer free pizza every Wednesday in the commons and that used to be allowed. Melody contacted Lori Southern to inquire about the free pizza event and it suddenly vanished. Recently, Claudette Jackson mentioned to Melody that the free pizza event is going back on, but that it is being hold behind "closed doors" and being donated by churches. Melody wanted to inquire about the fairness of this process. Lori Southern told Melody that a special permission was given to the BSU in order to do this. As a result, Melody asked that student groups be exempt from this policy. At the Election Night Watch Party, FCP was told that if it just "snacks" that it can be allowed. So, pizza was served so long as it was in "snack size" and no companies were shown (*i.e.* pizza boxes from a pizza company being advertised, intentionally or not). An additional concern was brought up by Felicia Gladden regarding the price of the catered food. Felicia stated that for a student event, a plate of brownies and lemonade was \$80.

**ACTION:** Melody Flowers will investigate the contract with MCC and Great Western Dining to see about the possibility of having student organizations being exempt from this policy in the future.

## **SERVICE TO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES**

**DISCUSSION:** In the previous FC meeting, the FCP announced that Service to College will be an important aspect in the future. She announced two additional opportunities: 1) make sure to read the 411 Report from Candice Kelm, 2) Scholar Day on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00-1:00. There will be 211 exhibits in the gym and a total of 351 students will be involved in these important scholarly presentations. Please plan to attend.

**ACTION:** Please attend MCC Scholar Day, if possible.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jessica Zbeida, which was seconded by Leslie Henderson. The meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm.

Larry G. Salazar  
Faculty Council Secretary

### **Abbreviations:**

**FC = Faculty Council**

**FCP = Faculty Council President**

**FCVP = Faculty Council Vice President**