

# McLennan Community College

## Faculty Council 2016-2017

**MEETING DATE:** The McLennan Community College Faculty Council met Thursday, April 13, 2017, in MAC 304. President Andria Ramon called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

**ATTENDEES:** Andria (Andi) Ramon, Becky Parker, Bonnie Sneed, Brian Johnson, Donna Mendoza, Erik Emblem, Felicia Gladden, James Gibby, Jenna Hoefler, Jennifer Black, Jessica Zbeida, Karen Garrett, Kurt Chunn, Larry Salazar, Laura Hays, Lisa Lindloff, Liz Painter, Marc Nicholas, Mary Sides, Melody Flowers, Meredith Heffner, Reid Makowsky, Robert “Bob” Ammon, Sharon Kenan, Sholly Gunter, Sondra Dubowsky, Teri Barnes, Theresa Sparks

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Caleb Stroman, Cynthia McAdams, Heather Mattingly, Karen Weil, Leslie Henderson, Mandy Morrison, Miley Pulliam, Misty Edwards, Richard Pringle, Suzanne Baldon

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### MEETING MINUTES

#### OLD BUSINESS

- 1) **ISSUE:** Policy Committee: Adjunct Position (Marc Nicholas, Policy Committee Chair)

**DISCUSSION:** Previously, there was a move to make a permanent position for an adjunct on the compensation committee. The policy committee looked over the policy to emphasize this in the current FC policy. However, there was a previous announcement that staff had created their own committees (i.e. support staff and professional staff), but their committees do not voice for compensation. As a result, FC still is the voice for compensation for faculty, but also for adjuncts, support staff, and professional staff. Marc Nicholas then addressed the FC noting that the policy committee discussed most on the forcefulness of the language to be used. Eventually, the policy committee went with “with one seat on the committee reserved for an adjunct instructor” to be added to the policy. A motion was made by Bonnie Sneed to accept the amendment as written, seconded by Jennifer Black. The motion passed.

**ACTION:** NONE

- 2) **ISSUE:** Tenure Conversion (Melody Flowers)

**DISCUSSION:** At a previous meeting, a discussion about tenure conversion came up about how those working on campus are afforded the same rights as someone not on campus. One of the questions dealt with academic freedom, because you might not want to offend anyone with your political learning in hopes of getting a tenured position. One of

the questions then was the number of full-time temporary instructors on campus. Currently, there are fifteen (15) full-time temporary instructor positions since 2006. (Melody showed a complete list on the overhead.)

**ACTION:** NONE

3) **ISSUE:** Professional Development Committee (Business included with A&S Concern)

**DISCUSSION:** In a previous meeting, Business was listed in the Arts & Sciences for the professional development committee and there was a concern that this might have been misplaced. However, the Professional Development committee is designed by the deans. As a result, Business falls under the Dean of Arts & Sciences (currently Fred Hills). That is why Business is listed under Arts & Sciences instead of Workforce. FCP said that FC could change it, but that it would be difficult to do since this is, ultimately, a dean-level decision.

**ACTION:** NONE

4) **ISSUE:** Elections Report (Laura Wichman & Brandon Moore)

**DISCUSSION:** Currently, there is not much information on how to run the elections other than by tradition. As a result, Institutional Research was asked to help administer the elections this year. Laura Wichman sent out the election survey and we had the highest participation of any election in FC history as one of the highest results of any election ever. Based on the results, the following individuals were selected to the Tenure Conversion Committee: Virginia Dossman, Stephanie Trammell, Misty Edwards, and Elaine Fagner. At this point, the Elections Committee Chair, Felicia Gladden, spoke to the FC about the rest of the results. Andrew Clayton was selected as the FCVP for next year. Alex Shiu was selected as the winner of the Minnie Piper Stevens Award. Paulina Sidwell and John Spano will represent Arts & Sciences on the PD Committee, while Meredith Heffner will represent Workforce. For the Sabbatical Leave committee, Jeremy Lehman, Lisa Lindloff, Sharon Kenan, Lori Watts, and Elizabeth Painter were all elected. Regarding the voting procedure, Felicia Gladden explained that in the initial nominations the only questions asked were: 1) Do the individuals selected want to run? and 2) Are they qualified? There was a voting round, where those that answered No to either question were kicked out. Then, there were multiple votes cast, where Felicia contacted each person individually to see if they were interested. Then, a few others were kicked out of contention because they were not interested. After that, there were too few individuals on the PD and SL committees, so the committee had to go back and find more people that were interested. Finally, a second and final round was conducted by Laura Wichman. They had until Thursday at 10pm. Unfortunately, Laura said that there was a glitch in the software and some people received two emails (because the first one didn't work properly). Also, the new survey mechanism sent out multiple reminders to those who had not voted yet. Again, unfortunately, some people didn't get email reminders to vote, but that appears to be a technical issue, because the log shows the emails were sent. Email reminders were also sent at 12:01am to put it near the top of the inbox so that people had a greater likelihood of seeing it. Overall, there was a 43% response rate! No other survey has received that high of a benchmark (other than course evaluations which are approximately 60% response rate). A question was then asked if it would be possible to

have the nominees placed in a random order, to which Brandon Moore replied that it would be possible in the future to do so. Next year, FC elections will attempt to do that.

**ACTION:** NONE

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1) **ISSUE:** Justice Thomas Visit

**DISCUSSION:** FCP stated that Supreme Court Justice, Clarence Thomas, is scheduled to visit MCC on September 7, 2017. Andi is part of that committee and is in charge of the student event. Officially, the MCC Government Department will be hosting this event—it is not a part of the Distinguished Lecture Series. There will not be a speaker's fee (since he is a public official), but some donors have paid for travel and lodging. Many of the decisions about when he is coming (e.g. travel, logistics, protection, etc.) have already been worked out by his side. The night before, September 6, 2017, Justice Thomas is scheduled to have a dinner with a close group of MCC dignitaries. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Q&A event with the students from 2:30-3:30 in the PAC (which seats 300), with overflow rooms available in the MAC lecture hall and its overflow rooms. That evening, beginning at 7:30, there will be a lecture in the Highlander Gym, which will be open to the community. The Gym was selected because it can hold up to 3,000 people, which is the largest venue on campus. There will be a ticket process to ensure that the gym is not overbooked, but tickets will be free. The tickets will be available approximately four to six weeks before the events. Each individual will only be able to request a certain number of tickets (previously the limit was six). At the student and lecture events, questions can be written on notecards, which will be filtered by Andi Ramon, Ashley Cruseturner, and possibly a third individual. MCC will also be livestreaming the student and lecture events as well. Justice Thomas will also be doing a book-signing after the lecture event. The book will be available for purchase in the bookstore before and during the events. Finally, Presidential Scholars and Honors College students will be helping with both events, as well as former Baylor President, Ken Starr, who helped arrange the event.

**ACTION:** Announce the events at the beginning of the fall semester to your classes.

### 2) **ISSUE:** VPI Selection

**DISCUSSION:** A committee has already been established, which includes Arvis Scott, Kurt Chunn (chair), Theresa Sparks, Doug Gibson, Ted Robles, Sid Ross, and Dr. Rhodes. Ultimately, the committee would like to select an individual to recommend to the Board by the May meeting. Please tell your constituents to be a part of this process. Phone interviews will be conducted by Dr. McKeown, while face-to-face presentations will be done in person. Each faculty member can voice their opinions and concerns after the face-to-face presentations.

**ACTION:** Please tell constituents to be an active part of this selection process.

## **OTHER MATTERS:**

- 1) **Scholar Day:** Please attend! Students love when the instructors are there to take interest in their work. Sondra Dubowsky noted that there is a time change this semester. It will take place earlier in the day, from 9:30am-12:00pm. This was done to prevent people to not want to leave early for lunch, etc.

**SERVICE TO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES: NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by James Gibby, which was seconded by Reid Makowsky. The meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.

Larry G. Salazar  
Faculty Council Secretary

**Abbreviations:**

**FC = Faculty Council**

**FCP = Faculty Council President**

**FCVP = Faculty Council Vice President**