

McLennan Community College
Faculty Council 2018-2019

MEETING DATE: The McLennan Community College Faculty Council met **Friday, March 1, 2019**, in MAC 304. President Andrew Clayton called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES: Bob Ammon, Amber Bracken, Deborah Brock, Ivanna Campbell, Dennis Clark, Marighny Dutton, Elaine Fagner, Melody Flowers, Jarred Hankhouse, Brian Johnson, Justin Lawson, Jeremy Lehman (secretary), Reid Makowsky, Helen Moore, Liz Painter, Becky Parker, Cathy Prause, Jessica Shelton, Otsmar Villaroel, Michael White, Gail Woodward, Jessica Zbeida, and Ashley Cruseturner.

MEETING NOTES

Committee Reports:

I. Policy Committee:

- a. The main issue is the attendance policy and a tandem to student success. At one point a policy was approved allowing faculty to drop students at 25%. The members looked at other schools, and found that MCC was the exception to the rule. The other institutions made students drop themselves, unless there were extenuating circumstances. The proposal is that instructors will not drop students – it will be the responsibility of the students to drop themselves. Tarleton has a grid that directly related drop date to financial reimbursement for financial aid that might be helpful in adding clarity for MCC. A motion was made to get feedback from other faculty that will present an amended attendance policy that changes the word “will” to “may”, and putting the responsibility on students to drop themselves, instead of putting the onus on the instructor. **ACTION REQUIRED.** Before a final vote, faculty reps consult constituents and report back to FC.
- b. There was also a policy to change the date when the new faculty council president starts (June instead of August) allowing a better transition between the outgoing and incoming president. This must be proposed to the whole faculty and will be presented as a part of the upcoming elections. FCP to discuss with VPI Hills to make sure there are no underlying problems with the change (such as the contract year).
- c. The Compensation Committee recommended a 2.9 percent cost of living pay increase for faculty (proposal based on the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and local numbers reflect this amount of inflation in this area). We are also separate from the staff.
- d. There is also the proposal to move elections to the first Tuesday following the first Monday would be the first election date. It would also help to have faculty council membership for the next year decided by April instead of August. Each area handles this differently. This will go before the faculty council for election.

- II. **Student Services Liaison Committee:** The committee offered a recommendation on late registration. No student can register after 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before classes start. Any student registering after this must register for flex classes. Only true schedule changes can happen after classes begin. Students will be able to drop themselves. This affects adding classes. Otherwise, students must go to an advisor and use a paper path that goes through the necessary channels. Student success is tied to dates of enrollment. This is also difficult as teachers are being forced to advise these students, wasting precious time. Dr. Hills was shocked that these policies continue. This is especially coming from staff that work in this area – the idea is simply to enforce the policy that is in place. If there are exceptions made to the rule, they must be approved by the chair and instructors directly affected. The eight week model really affects this. We are one of the only schools still doing this in Texas. Do we implement a policy that already exists? More feedback from constituents would help. Exceptions must include chair plus teacher. It might be helpful to include the data with the policy. Motion approved with the amendment to include chair and instructor in the process, and data will be sent out backing this up.

- III. **Professional Development Committee:** The policy has been rewritten by the administration. The understanding is that you will earn the number of hours that PD day is. It would also look good if faculty would step forward and participate in leading PD day sessions. Honors college presenters might present here on the book that they taught. A good PD day could set the tone for the future. This could also be used to take tours on campus to find where resources exist. The schedule is currently being worked on as we meet. A faculty council panel might also be helpful, in the form of a town hall meeting.
- IV. **Elections Committee:** We will be having elections of next year's faculty elections April 2nd to April 12th. E-mails will be sent out as a reminder for these upcoming elections. It might be helpful to include new information on this at PD day on March 29th.
- V. **Student Evaluation Committee:** tbc... – Money for the consultant was an issue. There will be upward evaluations this year. Dr. Hills does know that faculty issues by Division Directors is a continual challenge of time. Different changes were formally presented to Dr. Hills. The goal is to have a student evaluation tool looked at by an outside professional. Is our process aligning to the mission and goals of our college? This will be brought up again before Dr. Hills.
- VI. **Bookstore Committee:** no news

Open Issues:

Testing Center and Procedures: The pilot to have a fully automated proctored situation has not panned out. We need an option for online proctoring so students don't have to come to campus. This is a costly endeavor. Data will be sent to Andrew as he meets with Dr. Hills.

New Issues:

Note Taking Accommodation: There is a thought that lectures be recorded to help ADA students. There is opposition to this. Transcripts cannot be edited, causing great concern.

Workforce Subcommittee for Workforce Issues: There is a recommendation that a sub-committee be created to deal with workforce issues. FC will add this committee next year and will consider adding it as a permanent committee the year after that.

Strategic Plan and Mission: We were all sent the strategic plan and mission, for feedback, that needs greater debate. There are many issues that need to be more fully fleshed out. There needs to be a departmental report on this – at the very least, e-mails need to be put together for a discussion in April. Findings should be summarized and sent to Ashley Cruseturner and Andrew Clayton.