

McLennan Community College
Faculty Council 2018-2019

MEETING DATE: The McLennan Community College Faculty Council met **Friday, April 5, 2019**, in MAC 304. President Andrew Clayton called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES: Bob Ammon, Deborah Brock, Ivanna Campbell, Dennis Clark, Elaine Fagner, **Jarred Hankhouse**, Kent Hoeffner, Casey Hubble, Brian Johnson, Justin Lawson, Jeremy Lehman (secretary), Reid Makowsky, Kim McCoy, Donna Mendoza, Helen Moore, Michelle Moravec, Liz Painter, Becky Parker, Kelly Parker, Cathy Prause, Jessica Shelton, Bonnie Sneed, Holly Towns, Otsmar Villarroel, Michael White, Debbie Williams, Gail Woodward, Jessica Zbeida, and Ashley Cruseturner.

MEETING NOTES

Committee Reports:

I. Policy Committee:

- a. Researching and exploring policy for recording classes. We are in a holding pattern regarding this matter (see below for notes for Claudette Jackson and Amy Sireci presentation following the adjournment of meeting).
- b. Attendance policy – Representatives found that many/most faculty don't want to be involved in dropping students. Many don't want "may" as part of the policy, though others do. Many expressed strong approval for consistency. Some faculty expressed contempt for taking attendance. Faculty advocated for a system that places onus on students to drop themselves. Discussions will continue over the summer, with an eye toward a best practices policy that accommodates the desires of faculty, conforms with financial aid guidelines, and creates the most constructive environment for students. Faculty Council will lean on Student Success Liaison Committee to bring together stakeholders and experts (e.g. James K, Herman, Paul, etc.) to craft policy.

II. Student Services Liaison Committee:

- a. Administration accepted our policy recommendations on late registration in large part (no student can register after 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before classes start; students registering after deadline must register for flex classes; only true schedule changes can happen after classes begin; exceptions made to the rule must be approved by the chair and instructors directly affected).
- b. FC will be working with Laura Wichman and other stakeholders and policy experts to pare down and improve options on the drop-down menu for faculty-initiated drops. Goal of bringing something to FC early next fall for approval and adoption before the fall rush of student drops begins.

III. **Professional Development Committee:** FC voiced complaints about PD Day and the lack of usefulness. FC reps raised questions about faculty NOT being contacted after they submitted proposals for PD Day (or no follow-up even after proposal were accepted). FC desires a larger role in making PD Day a great day in the life of MCC. FC wants to do our part. FC continues to advocate innovation and flexibility and collaboration in the making of PD Day.

IV. **Elections Committee:** The surveys are up – encourage your department to participate in this canvass. Primary Election will end April 10th. A second round of the survey will be sent out for April 19th. FC discussed ways to make the process of nominations and runoff elections clearer. There are questions over the official rules on how nominations and runoffs are to be executed, but FC concluded our current process was certainly within stated policy parameters.

V. **Faculty/Student Evaluation Committee:** Plans to meet directly with Dr. Hills to further talk about this issue. There remains an historic opportunity to influence the process. FC and administration both committed to collaborating on a significant reform and improvement for this vital process.

- VI. **Bookstore Committee:** Meeting March 22nd – digital books are up 300%, new and used books are losing market. New employees are being trained by also going to the library and the bookstore. 50% of summer adoption complete. They hope to have book orders done by April 8th.

Open Issues:

Testing Center, Procedures, and Proctoring: FC expressed frustration with the confused process and mixed messages as we attempt to address this vital issue in good faith. FC wants to know more. Who is in charge? What is the hold up? Who is driving this process? We have heard about a pilot. What company? Where is it? When will it be launched? This needs to be resolved. FC feels it is time to see results. FC will request an update from VPI Hills and President McKown regarding status and time frame for this problem. FC unanimously approved a resolution to encourage administration to bring this issue to completion.

Extra Information:

Note Taking Accommodation – After adjournment, Claudette Jackson, Director, Student Engagement, and Amy Sireci, Accommodations Coordinator, answered questions regarding possibilities concerning software to record lectures in class and make transcriptions available to faculty and students. This may soon be an option. If the accommodation for notetaking is being met, then the recording and transcribing software is not necessary. The goal is for students to communicate with professors and also exert more agency in their experience. **This is not a mandate.** Faculty may opt in or satisfy the accommodation in another way. This was an attempt to develop a solution for students in need of accommodations. The transcripts use AVA, which will go to an account, which will send the faculty member the transcript. The faculty member will have many options regarding editing and disbursement. This can also be given directly to the student (if an individual faculty member prefers).