

McLennan Community College

Faculty Council 2020-2022: February 2022 Meeting

MEETING DATE: The McLennan Community College Faculty Council (FC) met Friday 2/4/2022.

LOCATION: Faculty Council met virtually via Zoom video conferencing due continued mindfulness to COVID safety precautions in Becky B. Parker's personal meeting room ID: 95041558092.

PARTICIPATING/ATTENDING MEMBERS:

- Alyssa Van Vleet: Health Professions
- Ashley Cruseturner: History
- Becky Parker: Faculty Council President (FCP)
- Bernard Smith: Science
- Bill Lockhart: Sociology
- Bob Ammon: Health
- Claudette Jackson: English
- Crystal Johnson: Office Tech/HITT/Hospitality
- David Fleuriet: Mental Health/Social Work
- Donna Ewing: Biology
- Elaine Fagner: Faculty Council Vice President (FCVP)
- Elizabeth Painter: Nursing
- Emily Stottlemire: Child Studies and Education
- Heather Davis: Health Professions
- Jenna Warf: Nursing
- John Seawright: Science
- Joseph Taylor: Theatre
- Laurice Jones: English
- Marcie Rierson: Surgical Technology
- Mark Crenwelge: Mathematics
- Michaela McCown: Science
- Misty Edwards: Psychology
- Molly Hunt: English
- Richard Driver: History
- Scott Bryant: Business
- Sharon Lavery: Music
- Tommy Lowrance: Business
- Travis Cox: Communication/Faculty Council Secretary (FCS)
- Vince Clark: Government/History
- Yumei Wu: Mathematics
- Zachary Cleere: Paramedicine

NON-PARTICIPATING/ABSENT MEMBERS:

- Amy Winslow: Nursing
 - Beth Grassmann: Spanish
 - Daelynn Copeland: Child Studies and Education
 - Jan Robertson: CIS & Multimedia
 - Jarred Hankhouse: Criminal Justice
 - Katelyn Jaynes: Language, Literature & Communication
 - Katie Rice: Performing Arts
 - Thelda Jones: Nursing
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MEETING AGENDA:

- I. Call to Order:
 - a) Meeting was called to order by the Faculty Council President (FCP) at 10:00 am on February 4, 2022, via Zoom (Becky Parker's meeting room 95041558092).
- II. Review and approval of January minutes:
 - a) There was a poll done through zoom to approve the January minutes. The minutes were approved. There were no dissenting votes.
- III. COVID Updates - Frank Patterson, Director of Emergency Management/Risk Management
 - a) The FCP mentioned that we invited Frank Patterson to update us on current plans, resources, and answer questions.
 - b) Frank Patterson mentioned that M95 masks are available as requested by some faculty, there is still testing on campus in the HP building for faculty/students/families (10 am – 3 pm), drive through testing may be stopped soon, he mentioned that numbers in the community are going down, there is a new not concerning omicron variant.
 - c) Bill Lockhart asked in chat about making testing earlier in the day, Heather Davis mentioned they need more volunteers to extend the current hours, Zach Cleere mentioned that delays in getting tested slowed his return to teaching, Claudette Jackson mentioned that while they require appointments you can walk in and often get a test between scheduled appointments, Frank Patterson mentioned that they are still seeking volunteers and that numbers are going up and down, he also mentioned the process for getting approved to do testing, Heather Davis indicated that faculty can help even for short shifts since they need faculty observers as well, they currently are experiencing shortages in volunteers, Jenna Warf mentioned the process for students and dealing with shortages, Heather Davis responded to the FCP's questions about risks associated with testing and indicated that there are no current examples of testers catching COVID while administering tests, Claudette Jackson mentioned she has been volunteering and feels safe.
 - d) The FCVP asked how they will address new variants in the future and how they go about determining status, Frank Patterson shared information on status indicators but that these indicators are being shifted as new variants

come out, he is regularly meeting with local, regional, and state officials to monitor and adjust information and processes as needed, omicron variant has been less severe in terms of hospitalizations and numbers.

- e) Frank Patterson mentioned that they are monitoring issues associated with both domestic and international travel and restrictions, faculty should also be monitoring things as they prepare and plan for travel (particularly athletics), currently things are looking good for travel, but things could change quickly.
- f) Bill Lockhart asked about non MCC affiliated testing centers (YesNoCOVID) and the validity of these locations, Frank Patterson believes they are legitimate as far as he is aware.
- g) Donna Ewing mentioned that you need both the rapid and longer PCR tests to ensure accuracy (particularly for omicron), Frank Patterson also suggested repeated testing over several days to avoid false negatives, he also suggests the 10-day quarantine is important, Michaela McCown mentioned her own experiences and delays with getting tested and asked for clarity on quarantine times, Frank Patterson mentioned that the quarantine should be based on testing date, not symptoms date, Zach Cleere mentioned that Missy Kitner confirmed this is how quarantine time is monitored.
- h) There were several comments in chat praising the work of the HP faculty and students.
- i) Frank Patterson invited future comments and questions via email.

IV. Committee Reports

- a) COVID Concerns
 - i. The FCP mentioned they are doing work to collect and distribute information and improve how student quarantine messages are sent (there are continued FERPA issues impacting what can be included in these messages to faculty).
 - ii. Michaela McCown mentioned that they have not met as a committee, but they have been continuing to follow up on issues mentioned at the previous meeting, they are working on improving communication between the school, faculty, and students, they are addressing the need for updating videos and resources for new variants, Donna Ewing clarified that the videos they want to update were due to recent changes on variants, the FCVP mentioned that the MCC President was excited about trying to update these resources as a means of showing the community we care about these issues and are on top of current trends/issues.
- b) Compensation
 - i. Tommy Lowrance mentioned there is not much to update, but that they sent the FC proposal to administration and are now waiting for a response.
- c) Elections
 - i. Bernard Smith mentioned that they are still working on making some updates to procedures and the process for VP nominations, he

mentioned that the nomination process is currently unclear and haphazard so there are attempts to streamline things, this might include an application process to start from a smaller more desiring candidate pool as well as information sessions on what FC jobs entail, they still need to discuss cut off numbers and runoff procedures, the goal is not to limit but to target those that are interested and help them with the process (an opt-in, not opt-out process), there is going to be a general information session on running for FC at 10:30 am on Friday (2/11) via Zoom, elections will not be modified this academic year so these are for future year elections, they should have more concrete updates at the next meeting.

- d) Policy
 - i. Nothing to report.
 - ii. Claudette Jackson mentioned that they will be looking at the wording of the overload/release time policies soon.
 - e) Workforce
 - i. Nothing to report.
 - f) Student Success
 - i. Nothing to report.
 - g) Bookstore
 - i. Donna Ewing mentioned that there has been Inclusive Access issues with physical and electronic resource problems, also the bookstore wants faculty to inspect physical resources in the bookstore at the beginning of each term to ensure things are accurate, there is interest in better communication flow between faculty and the bookstore.
 - ii. Crystal Johnson asked about how to make things clearer for students since there is regularly still confusing, Donna Ewing said better communication will help, but this is a difficult issue they are still working on solutions for, there was conflicting perspectives among faculty on how Inclusive Access is communicated to students, Bill Lockhart mentioned we can be clearer in our Instructor Plans, but that students will still have issues regardless.
- V. Old Business:
- a) Overloads/Release Time/Load Sheet Approval
 - i. Thomas Lowrance indicated there is continued confusion with how this information is calculated and communicated to faculty, right now information is in different locations and generally confusing, he knows Fred Hills is working on this, but this is an important issue that needs to be addressed.
 - ii. Bernard Smith mentioned issues with the difference between stipends and release time, there needs to be more standardization with this for clarity, the FCVP mentioned that there needs to be more clarification even though things have been broad intentionally to deal

with exceptions and other issues but that this leads to lack of consistency.

- iii. Crystal Johnson mentioned in chat that there needs to be better communication with administration about changes since they are happening a lot lately.
- iv. The FCVP asked if there have been any recent issues with summer teaching assignments, Heather Davis indicated that as a scheduler she has had lack of information on how to process and implement these new changes, Thomas Lowrance indicated that division chairs also have little information and that communication needs to be better across the board, David Fleuriet mentioned that things have become quite a bit more complicated and leaves room for error that can directly impact faculty pay, Emily Stottlemire echoed that this is also an ongoing issue for workforce and advising since there is lack of consistency in compensation, there was also a request for past information to increase clarity on ongoing issues and recommendations.
- v. Donna Ewing mentioned that workforce and the academic side of MCC continue to run into conflicts/differences over how advising is assigned and compensated, Heather Davis followed up by mentioning some of these issues that are continuing to impact students, Bernard Smith mentioned that there are advising issues are also happening in academic departments as well

VI. New Business:

- a) The FCP mentioned that advising issues will be added to new business.
- b) Mark Crenwelge mentioned concerns about inconsistency between academic calendars, particularly minimester scheduling, there is interest in consistency with other high school and university schedules.

VII. Adjournment:

- a) The FCP mentioned that the next FC meeting will be Friday, March 4, at 10:00 am CST via Zoom.
- b) Zachery Cleere motioned to adjourn. Michaela McCown seconded the motion. The FCP adjourned the meeting at 11:21 am.