

JSCC Faculty Council Meeting Minutes October 11, 2019

The Faculty Council met Friday, October 11th at 9:00 a.m. in the Health Sciences Building, Conference Room 111

Present: Dr. Alana Hamilton, Benjamin Lawrence, Lauren Bryant, Vivian Grooms, Tammy Prater, David Hart, James Mayo, Lisa Matlock, Anna Esquivel, Becky Fisher, and Candyce Sweet.

New Business

1.1 Special Guest: Dr. Hamilton

Dr. Hamilton met with the faculty council to explain her reasons for leaving Jackson State for a position at TBR. She also explained the transition process and confirmed that there will be a presidential search for the next Jackson State president. Her last day with Jackson State is Tuesday, October 15th, and her first day at TBR is Wednesday, October, 16th. There will be a two-week period in which she will be available to aid Dr. Sisk in the transition to interim president. By November 1st, Dr. Hamilton's responsibilities will be solely to TBR.

Dr. Hamilton explained that all initiatives and strategic planning have been assigned to vice presidents so that work will continue uninterrupted through the transition. She has completed all personnel evaluations, so that will not be a task that Dr. Sisk will undertake. She also shared with us that there has been no suggestion at a system level to merge TCATs with the community colleges, nor will Dr. Sisk be eligible to apply for the position of president of Jackson State.

She reported that the presidential search has begun and a search chair has been selected. Our public relations department has received the job description and will be available to review that description once the document has been completed. The search should take about six months, and TBR hopes to have a candidate selected by the March board meeting or they may call a special meeting in May to confirm the selection.

Faculty council brought up some ongoing concerns to Dr. Hamilton that we hope she will address in her position as Vice Chancellor. She listened and explained that her first steps in her new position will be to meet with faculty across the state, through sub-council, to find out what needs work and what is working well.

1.2. Review of September Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September 13th meeting were reviewed and a motion to approve with minor changes was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

1.3 Meeting Times for Council

Council discussed meeting times and decided to keep the meetings at 9:00 a.m. on Friday. The next faculty council meeting will take place on Nov. 8th at 10:30 a.m. in McWherter, after the SGA Panel Interview Forum.

1.4 Committees—purpose/mission, membership, and minutes

Council members reported that committees are meeting to discuss the purpose/mission, membership and minutes of the committee per Dr. Bailey's instructions. Council members will continue to provide updates throughout the year.

1.5 Councils Meeting Update

Council chairs met to discuss the transition and any concerns across campus that need to be addressed during the presidential search. The chairs established open lines of communication between the councils. Each council chair has a meeting scheduled with Dr. Sisk.

1.6 Database of Dishonesty

Council discussed the possibility of creating a "database of dishonesty", which would be a central record of academic dishonesty across courses.

A motion was made for the dean representative to take this concept of a central record of Academic Dishonesty to Academic Council. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

1.7 Last Date of Attendance Policy

The recording last date of attendance continues to pose problems as an accurate record of attendance. The discussion was tabled until we could get clarification from administration and, particularly, financial aid about the process of reporting attendance and the use of that attendance report.

1.8 Open Door Policy for 8am Classes

Council discussed recent and ongoing problems with classroom doors being locked in the mornings as staff or faculty responsible for opening the doors are absent or late. Council agreed that the current system should be reconsidered.

A motion was made to contact Tim Dellinger about the need to reconsider the process by which classroom doors are unlocked in the morning for morning classes and left unlocked in the evenings for evening classes. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

1.9 Panel Interview Forum for Faculty and Students

SGA has invited faculty and staff to a panel forum with the SGA president on Nov. 8th from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. in McWherter. This panel will allow faculty and staff to share with SGA how that student organization can be more effective across campus.

1.10 Presidential Search Updates

Dr. Hamilton provided updates earlier in the meeting. See information stated in 1.1. Policies regarding presidential searches have been updated and those policy updates will be provided to the council for review.

1.11 Report from Deans Council

The dean representative reported that:

- The library renovation will not be completed as expected.
- Adjunct hours are capped at 21 hours in an academic year.
- The nursing division is reporting problems with IOTA.
- The campus is investing in the Ally software to help with accessibility.
- There is now a 3-day digital textbooks opt-out period for second session courses. An Elearn notification has been posted for students.
- Books in the Follett system will all be labeled as “choice” for students by default, so they are not led to believe that they must purchase all versions of the same book. Dr. Bailey will schedule faculty training on Follett soon.

It was also noted that Phi Theta Kappa will be staffing a help desk during ANCHOR week to help with disseminating information about DEI and advising.

A motion was made to ask Dr. Bailey to clarify what happens when a student remains opted in but does not make a “choice” of a version of the book. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

1.12 TBR Policy Updates

Council was updated on the TBR policy revisions made since September. We discussed the changes to the policies related to Academic Freedom and Tenure and making sure that we understood what changes were made and why. We also discussed incorporating those changes into the faculty handbook. Further discussion was tabled until council could read through the policy changes.

DRAFT

Old Business

2.1 Accessibility

The accessibility task force reported to council that a new accessibility program, Ally, may be purchased to help solve some accessibility issues. Council discussed the possibility of the program being paid for in part by Faculty Development funds, because Ally includes a training element. There was disagreement about whether this was an appropriate use of faculty development funds, so council representatives agreed to consult with the faculty development committee about this issue.

2.2. Classified Council Soup and Chili Fundraiser for the Nest

The fundraiser will be held on October 21st. The classified council is currently accepting volunteers, donations, and food for the event.

2.3 DEI

The dean representative provided DEI updates earlier in the meeting (see agenda item 1.11). DEI training is tentatively scheduled for the week of Oct. 28th in Ayers Auditorium.

2.4 Distance Education Committee

Dr. Bailey confirmed that the Dean of Academic support will be removed from the committee structure of the Distance Education Committee. The faculty representative for the Distance Education committee will be David Hart.

2.5 Faculty Handbook and Constitution and By-Laws Revision

Feedback and revisions on the constitution and by-laws was recorded in previous meetings. Those suggested revisions will be provided to the council during the next meeting for further discussion. Council representatives working on the handbook revision will continue that work throughout the semester.

2.6 UCW

Faculty council discussed inviting a representative from the United Campus Workers union to the next meeting. The council chair will reach out to the representative to schedule the visit.

2.7 Withdrawal Survey

Council chair reported that Sara Vonderheide seemed amenable to removing the comment boxes associated with faculty/staff on the withdrawal survey and, instead, directing students to the formal complaint process.

Two members of council offered to research the process of withdrawal from the student perspective, so that we might have a better understanding of the process and how to address future concerns.

A motion was made to adjourn at 12:52 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Esquivel
Faculty Council Secretary

Candyce Sweet
Faculty Council Chair