

JSCC Faculty Council Meeting Minutes September 18, 2020

The Faculty Council met Friday, September 18, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Present: Candyce Sweet, Lauren Bryant, Tammy Prater, Liz Mayo, Bob Raines, Stacey Dunevant, Kim Benson, Cindy Roberson, Anna Esquivel, and Justin Curtis. Non-Voting Members: Vivian Minton

New Business

1.1 Next Meeting

Faculty Council will hold the next meeting on October 30th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

1.2 Review of August Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed, revisions discussed, and a motion to approve with changes was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

1.3 Reports from Committees

Academic Council has not met in six weeks.

Faculty Development committee has been active, holding Friday socials for faculty to exchange resources and information about courses.

Distance Education Committee (DE) met in December and made recommendations to the Online Quality Council (OQC). Because OQC hadn't met, DE had another meeting in January but had no charge. Dr. Bailey communicated that he hoped to convene an OQC meeting soon with an invitation extended to the DE chairs. DE will review the recommendations again prior to the meeting with OQC.

1.4 Campus Bookstore

Executive Committee reported a number of bookstore-related topics discussed with Dr. Bailey during an earlier meeting, including inadequate staffing and the collection of book fees by the college rather than Follett. Dr. Bailey noted that Dr. Pimentel is aware of these issues and taking them seriously.

Dean Minton explained that the submission of textbooks is due so early in the semester because of the need to organize the fees for the books in Banner and for the bookstore to coordinate with the publishers.

Council continued discussion about the bookstore adding to the litany of issues including the college collecting fees for textbooks and purging students for bookstore fees and

Follett Discover not working the way it was intended. It was noted that problems with the bookstore precede the implementation of DEI and the contract with Follett, but it has gotten worse with the addition of both. There is a history at Jackson State of bringing up bookstore-related problems with no resolution.

There have always been issues, but it's gotten worse. statement in support of a fairly aggressive intervention.

Concerns about OER are related to bookstore concerns but should be approached as two separate issues. There is concern that the Dean of Academic Support overstepped his role by recommending that all online courses transition to OER. Dr. Bailey clarified that there the college has no intention of making that recommendation; faculty have academic freedom to choose their own materials for their courses.

Candyce Sweet will reach out to the DEI committee to find out what is their charge and if that includes addressing bookstore issues.

1.5 Online Course Development and Maintenance Policy

This policy should be reviewed by President's Cabinet after the DE committee and OQC have had a chance to meet to discuss DE committee's policy recommendations.

1.6 Distance Education

The distance education committee will maintain the same membership as last year, except that Dave Hart has rolled off as FC representative. Tammy Prater will remain on the committee as the FC representative.

Council has been asked by its constituents to address the ongoing, pressing, untenable problems with Distance Education.

A motion was made that council write a respectful statement in support of Dr. Pimentel's work to improve the bookstore/DEI, detailing our problems with Distance Education, and extending an invitation to him to meet with us to address those concerns. The motion was seconded and carried with one abstention.

1.7 Data Training

Data training has commenced. Training is being provided by a new vendor through TBR, since the previous program seemed to be ineffective.

1.8 Diversity Training

Dr. Bailey agreed to a faculty-led diversity and inclusion committee comprised of one faculty member per division and a faculty council representative. He also agreed to support training from TBR on Academic Freedom and First-Amendment Rights. Faculty Development will be contacted for support for this training.

1.9 Spring Semester Projections

Covid-19 campus access levels are informing campus-wide decisions.

Dr. Bailey projects that we will continue with Flex and Online modalities with the possibility of a lower enrollment than what we traditionally see in a spring semester.

TBR is projecting challenges for three years post-pandemic.

Dean Minton reports that no faculty positions will be lost this fall, but there is no guarantee that will be the case in the spring.

If administration is anticipating a demand for more online than Flex, do they intend to change the current practice of not allowing faculty to have their entire load as online? No actual policy against fully online loads exist, but HR has stated that it is not our “current practice”.

1.10 Standing Committees

Melissa Lyles has sent out an email about populating standing committees. Candyce Sweet will follow up with council via email about faculty council representation for those committees.

1.11 OER

See agenda item 1.4.

Old Business

2.1 Faculty Council Awards

The orders for awards has been placed.

2.2 Faculty Handbook and Constitution and By-Laws

Dr. Bailey’s office has agreed to send out physical ballots for voting. Council will email Anna Esquivel any comments from constituents about the constitution and bylaws and the handbook that has not been posted in the Faculty Council Elearn shell. We will review the revisions and revise the documents via email.

Council hopes to move these documents for a vote by the end of October.

A motion was made to adjourn at 1:41 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Esquivel
Faculty Council Secretary

Candyce Sweet
Faculty Council Chair