

Regional Campuses Faculty Affairs Council
Meeting Minutes
May 7th 2021

10:00-Noon (via TEAMS)

This month's Minutes taken by Rachael Blasiman.

Present: Carol Robinson, Mariann Harding, Beth Osikiewicz, Molly Wang, Rachael Blasiman, Ali Erritouni, Robin Dever, Greg Smith, Bryan Jones, Tamra Courey, Noelle Bowles

- **Approval of Agenda:** Motion - Greg, 2nd – Robin
- **Approval of April 9, 2021 Minutes:** Motion – Bryan, 2nd – Greg, Carol “called the question”
- **Welcome to Chairs for 2021-2022 FAC**
 - Ashtabula: Tamra Courey
 - East Liverpool: Ali Erritouni
 - Geauga: Zhiquiang Wang
 - Salem: Rachael Blasiman
 - Stark: Gregory Smith
 - Trumbull: Noelle Bowles
 - Tuscarawas: Mariann Harding
- **Chair's Report**
 - Reminder of Provost Fellows email that went out earlier in week
 - Ohio Senate 135 is an issue of academic freedom that we should be aware of
 - Canvas in a Flash now available (courses: First Look, Canvas Essentials, Canvas Beyond Basics, virtual office hours will be available – for additional info and training go to training.kent.edu. One issue is that you can't be in Canvas and Blackboard at the same time.
- **Other Business/Discussions**
 - Nominations and Voting for 2021-2022 Officers
 - Chair: Rachael, Greg, and Mariann nominated; each was given an opportunity to speak. Greg is voted as Chair.
 - Vice Chair: Mariann nominated. Voted unanimously as Vice Chair.
 - Secretary is held on a monthly rotation.
 - University Committees Nominations
 - Greg motions to submit nominations as stated (2nd – Beth), vote was unanimous
 - Jack McWhorter for College of Arts CAC, Deepraj Mukherjee for College of Business Admin. CAC, Justice Akpan for College of Business Admin. UCCC
 - Fall R.C. Conference

- Discussion of a fall RC conference: should we have one, what should it look like, in person or online? We received good feedback from last fall's conference, but virtual isn't the same as in person community-building. Mariann – what was the number of participants last year and what is the goal/purpose? About 175 people, teaching was focus last year, but general goal is empowering the regional campuses and helping departments connect with one another (research, teaching, and mentorship). Greg - supports idea of every-other-year conference to give us time to plan and not compete with other events. Tamra – agrees with Greg. Molly – Important for regional campus faculty to share our thoughts, could choose another theme, such as hybrid, and a meeting would allow us to collaborate better. Greg – Peggy may have thoughts on supporting this conference, we should be planning now for fall if we want a fall conference. Conference discussion is tabled. Greg will email current FC chairs to discuss further.

- Cross-campus Regional Coordination of Courses (Noelle Bowles)

- Used English as an example to describe problem. For upper division courses, online regional campus offerings can compete with one another, which results in low enrollment and cancellation of courses. To address this problem, Noelle proposes to have a RC coordinator for English and Math. Not to assign faculty, but to help control this process, to create a rotating schedule of which campus teaches online and which teaches hybrid/in person, based on what courses faculty at each campus have taught or would be willing to teach. Mariann – what does the admin think of this idea, and how would this person interact with the assistant deans? Noelle – my assistant dean supports this because it will help with stability, my colleagues also support. Mariann – what happens in the post covid era, and don't assistant deans already do this? Noelle – this has been an issue for years, but not all assistant deans do this. Mariann – Peggy should be a part of this conversation. Noelle – we don't know what other campuses are offering. Beth – we should be careful with this because it might result in fewer faculty hires in certain majors. Noelle – this will help students get the classes they need and faculty to have fewer courses cancelled. Carol – this might be a problem unique to English, but should be explored, because this idea might help us build up the major. Tamra – let's get input from Peggy first and find out if this is happening in other majors. Carol – perhaps we can continue this discussion in the fall. Greg – these are important conversations and we should continue this in the next year as courses shift from online to in person again.

- **New Business/Announcements**

- Greg – We are continuing to use pandemic pass/fail options this semester
- Carol/Mariann – question about this semester's SSI use in RTP – Senate will meet next week

- **Old Business**

- None

- Motion to adjourn – Bryan, 2nd – Beth

- **Meeting adjourned at 11:18am**

