



**Regional Campuses Faculty Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes**

September 3rd 2021

10:00-Noon (via TEAMS)

This month's Minutes taken by Noelle Bowles.

Present: Rachael Blasiman, Noelle Bowles, Tamra Courey, Ali Erritouni, Marian Harding, Velvet Landingham, Greg Smith.

Ex-officio: Peggy Shadduck, Vice President for Regional Campuses and Dean of CATS

- **Approval of Agenda:** Motion – Tamra, 2nd – Noelle
- **Approval of May 2021 Minutes:** Motion – Mariann, 2nd – Velvet
- **VP for RCs and Dean of CATS Report**
 - **Flashes Go Further Scholarship:** “Last dollar” to assist students whose parental contribution is less than 10k.
 - For seniors in their final semester in four-year degrees
 - Currently, no associate degree students. No CATS degrees (unless four-year)
 - Students do not have to apply – scholarship is applied directly to their student account
 - In the Fall of 2022, students with parental contribution of less than \$10k will have the benefit throughout their four-year degree program.
 - Question raised about whether this might draw students away from RC enrollment as cost is often a reason for RC choice. Administration will be watching enrollments carefully to assess impact.
 - **Enrollment:** Enrollment is down across the regional campuses by 11%
 - VP for RC and CATS office is looking into how the numbers are calculated.
 - 30% decline over the last ten years.
 - Looking at retention rates – what works, and also...
 - Admin and staff training in data analysis – asking better questions and how to interpret the numbers. Kent and RCs involved in the training.
 - **Resource Sharing:** What staff and teaching resources need to be campus specific and what might be shared across the RCs?
 - Marketing and communication raised as an example. The goal in staff and skill sharing at present would be to reduce the expenditure in outsource contracts at RCs – or, if needed, the contracting of only a few external services rather than several across the system.
 - Question raised about overall reduction in staff: This is not the immediate goal, but, yes, if we have duplication without good utilization then reductions would be on the table.
 - Question about whether other services and/or programs are under consideration for resource sharing model: We need to carefully consider impacts of any such changes before moving toward implementation, but with declining enrollment, we will need to think about what may fit within such a

- program.
 - Question about whether such a model will affect hiring in the RCs: That depends on the needs of the campus and program. Member noted that such a consideration has already played into hiring decisions at Trumbull.
 - RCs need to think creatively about hybrid / Zoom (as in Zoom-room, not conference platform) offerings and collaborations between campuses. What models would be most effective? We need to be judicious in the use of on-line courses. Point was raised about duplication of offerings between seated and on-line course and competition between RCs.
 - Caution raised about CBA in relation to administration determining pedagogical format and/or course CAPs.
 - Charge to RCFAC to bring ideas about course formats to the October meeting.
 - Chair asked about response to the vaccine initiative – positive, negative? Peggy said there were outliers on both ends of the enthusiasm scale but that the overall feedback was not outside what was expected.
 - Discussion noted cultural differences between the various RCs on the matter. Tusc and Ashtabula have overall lower vaccine rates and higher hesitancy than other RCs and Kent campus.
- **Chair's Report**
 - No Provost's Advisory Council meeting yet – no report
 - RTP Files – Accessible by 7 September; Committee ballots by 27th; Chairs' reports by 4th October.
 - AURCO. Spring Conference on Stark Campus. No date yet. Eric Taylor is the Chair for the meeting committee. Conference will be in person
 - Pam Lieske – nominated for URCC
 - RC Mini-Retreat: Do we want to hold one? When? Fall Break? Half-day, full-day? Discipline specific session? What should be our theme(s)? On-line, in person? Bring ideas to next meeting's discussion.
 - Merit files: Most RCs were flagged for not having *Handbook* specific language regarding the percentage weight for teaching, research, and service or language for merit criteria. Need to examine handbook and make sure the language is settled even if not immediately included in the *Handbook* itself.

Motion to adjourn – Tamra, 2nd Velvet
 Meeting adjourned 12:04PM.