

Faculty Senate Minutes for 3/9/21

Attendance

Senators Present:

Wendy Bird, Chelsea Campbell, Derek Lan, Candace Garrod, Benjamin Rogers, Carol Martin, Ellie Camann, Heather Duncan, Janet Tarase, Sally Stablein, Leah Rogin-Roper, Erika Iverson

Visitors:

Amy Buckingham, Teresa Bieker

Approval of February 23, 2021 Minutes

Motioned and seconded, then voted and approved.

Faculty Survey

The SurveyMonkey link was sent to senate. In the discussion there was a suggestion to use three separate response spaces (instead of one). Also, there was a suggestion on adding a deadline.

Motioned and seconded, and senate voted and approved finalizing the survey and sending it out.

Faculty Teaching Load Discussion

Wendy provided an overview of the issue – we talk about the service aspect a lot, but we don't spend much time discussing what it takes to teach. Also, the current model of 15 credits + service is at least 50 years old. Wendy pointed out that it is problematic that expectations have not changed during that time. Additionally, the amount of work that goes into teaching has increased over time and this has not been acknowledged by the administration.

We should have a dialogue with instructional leadership over the issue of teaching. One of the key questions is, how does the current model make sense today?

- While this has definitely been an issue over the past year, it is also an issue that extends beyond the current COVID crisis – especially as faculty are feeling a level of burnout and frustration over having to do too many things and we end up sacrificing teaching preparation time due to our expanded workloads.
- Another point of discussion has to do with our teaching load: some community colleges and many teaching colleges have 4/4 loads. Our current 5/5 load seems like the upper end for fulltime faculty.

In our discussion, there were questions about whether this was a system office decision or a college decision. Points were also made on the related issues of caps on our classes, faculty wages (both in terms of low pay and wage compression) and time/pay for curriculum development: these are all issues that we should be discussing.

In terms of next steps, it was suggested to:

- Brainstorm a list of issues that faculty would like to discuss.
- Invite the deans to senate in order to have a conversation on these issues.

There was also a discussion on CTE programs specifically, which have the added issue of proving that their programs meet certain standards – and that as far as we know, faculty are not compensated for this and it is considered to be a part of their teaching load.

And finally, there was a discussion about how much work goes into changing modalities.

Action item: ask your constituents about these issues.

[Draft Classroom Observation Form Update](#)

Please ask your constituents for feedback on the observation form (documents will be sent by email) by March 18. Senate will post this feedback in Microsoft Teams.

Action item: please get feedback from your constituents by Thursday, March 18.

[Call for Additional Faculty](#)

We need faculty volunteers to represent us for:

- EIC (Electrical/Trades), FST (Fire Science), EMS (Emergency Medical) new faculty screening committees – usually these have small applicant pools, they will be meeting through a hybrid format, and review and interviews will take place after spring break.
 - Contact Arnie.Oudenhoven@rrcc.edu if interested
- OER Standing Committee – we currently only have volunteers from math and science and would like broader representation from other teaching communities. We particularly would like to ensure that CTE programs are represented.
 - If interested, please provide a brief statement to facultySenatePresident@rrcc.edu
- Colorado Online: potential subcommittee opportunity. This is for the CCCOnline Strategic Plan Project. While we are unsure if they are asking for representatives, we want to be ready with a list for SFAC rep Amy Braziller if we are asked.
 - If interested, please provide a brief statement to facultySenatePresident@rrcc.edu

Action item: please ask your constituents if they are interested.

Other Business

Call for a new SFAC representative – Amy Braziller is our current rep and she will be leaving the position. Wendy will send documents related to this position by email.

- If interested, please provide a brief statement to facultySenatePresident@rrcc.edu
- Please send them in by March 21st as we will be voting at our March 23rd meeting.

Action item: please ask your constituents if they are interested.