

Minutes
Lecturers and Educators Congress
September 30, 2020

Present: Kyle Riismandel (President), Maria Stanko (Vice President), Catherine Siemann (Secretary), Scott Kent (Treasurer), Jon Curley (Humanities), Caroline DeVan (Biology), John Esche (Humanities), Risa Gorelick (Humanities), Melodi Guilbault (MTSM), Geraldine Milano (NCE), Thomas Ogorzalek (HCAD), Rafeeza Shahabudeen (Adjunct), Jaskirat Sodhi (NCE), Ryan Tolboom (YWCC)

The meeting commenced, via WebEx, at 4:30pm.

I. President's Report

- a. Vision for Academic Year 2020/2021 - strategies for LEC to be more effective; figuring out our place on campus and figuring out what we are going to become.

II. COVID-19 Advisory Committee (Maria & Melodi)

Dating Pandemic Recovering Plan updates in order to make it easier to follow up. Surveillance tests seem to be effective & efficient; are encouraging people to participate. Cypress Hall response. Parking issues are being ironed out. Tom raised the issue of in-person studios and labs which could be impacted, and what the response would be. Others can attend if there are specific issues they would like to discuss.

III. Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate

The issue that we have no voice in front of the Board of Trustees, but are not really represented by Faculty Senate in Shared Governance. We are discussing strategies – what would be productive ways of getting our issues mainstreamed? Kyle had raised a conflict of interest issue about being Faculty Senate President and on PSA Board. John E. believes we need to work with Faculty Senate but we should have more of a voice to work together. Should we continue to work towards institutionalizing our voices? Lecturers have been filling committee seats that had traditionally been held by faculty.

IV. Committee Updates

- a. Pandemic Recovery Subcommittee on Instruction** - Pedro de la Torre, Humanities adjunct, has joined Jaskirat and Melodi on that committee.

Jaskirat – discussion of problems with back2classroom app; feedback about getting rid of spring break and postponing reopening by a week; what is happening in spring semester – having 3rd and 4th year classes hybrid instead of 1st & 2nd year classes. Having both online and converged sections. Melodi – hoped to have more data rather than anecdotal evidence about what’s working. Some combination of converged, synchronous & asynchronous online classes. Registration in late October. Focus: what’s going to get students to reregister; our biggest revenue is the students who live on campus, who seem to be the ones who are regularly attending class. 1600 living on campus, 1200 regularly attending campus. Less revenue leads to layoffs. Look at numbers of students attending – many talk about 2-3 attending, 8-10% of the class. The Registrar is on the committee. Maria raised concerns about mismatches between spaces and how they are being used; also if we’ve learned Cisco or OWL, can we minimize the switch of technology to the other? Kyle is creating a Googledoc with these issues to present here and at TLT.

- b. Faculty Senate – Student Survey** – sending out to gauge students’ experience of Converged Learning. Tell your converged students to fill it out and if they have questions, contact the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.
- c. Facilities** – Scott reported that the original budget has been cut significantly. Weston Hall lecture halls 1 & 2 are finished, but the seats are stuck in transit because of COVID. Cullimore lecture hall 1 is next, but may be pushed back. New dorm on land owned by us, but an outside company is doing a leaseback arrangement. Muellers’ will come down, but is waiting on historical area approval – a park will be built there until the new building, which is planned for 2025 at the earliest. Those are old funds that the money is already there.
- d. University Senate** – John Esche & Scott. Ongoing Title 9 training. Flu shots will be available on campus, but by appointment.
- e. Campus Life** – Caroline – converting more rooms to Cisco rooms, getting some whiteboards digitized, improving some converged classrooms. One issue with Cisco rooms is that you can’t go into breakout rooms in Webex, but is supposed to be updated in October. Room changes by registrar – discussion of automatic emails about room changes. Same discussions about room sizes, back2classroom.

Rubric of elearning will be added. Maria – proctoring options – contact Digital Learning if you’re uncertain about what you want.

- f. HR** – Kyle – hiring a Director of Talent Acquisition, also looking at diversity issues and how to better reach our goals. Ongoing HR reorganization. Every service will be online, they are not replenishing forms. Adjunct review form is being finished up.
- g. PSA** – Melodi -- not sure when negotiations will restart. Believe that we’ll be starting over again, with new players and reorganizations in HR. Some of the people on the bargaining committee will no longer be there. Kyle – talk to your representatives about what you want in the contract.
- h. UCAN** – Scott – refusing to give up the raise, which did happen. The adjunct review form.

- V. New Business** -- We will need to nominate a representative to the Presidential Search Committee. We need to develop a process.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Siemann