

Minutes
Lecturers and Educators Congress
April 29, 2020
Webex, 4:30PM-5:30PM

Present: Kyle Riismandel (President), Maria Stanko (VP), Scott Kent (Treasurer), Catherine Siemann (Secretary), Jon Curley (Humanities), Caroline DeVan (Biology), Risa Gorelick (Humanities), Melodi Guilbault (MTSM), Geraldine Milano (CEE), Tom Ogorzalek (HCAD), Jeffrey Reaves (NCE), Jaskirat Sodhi (NCE), Ryan Tolboom (YWCCS), Katherine Tyrol (Humanities), Chris Zeiner (NCE)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.

I. President's Report

- a. **COVID-19 Committee** – Nothing new to report. The committee is continuing to monitor the situation as it develops.
- b. **Joint Leadership Committee** – This would be a way to coordinate between the major stakeholder groups: PSA, Faculty Senate, LEC, and UCAN. PSA and Faculty Senate reps meet with university leadership regularly, while LEC and UCAN have little direct contact. Much of the information that is transmitted is through informal relationships, and such a committee would formalize what's being done informally at present.

A motion was made to propose a Joint Committee to coordinate with the leadership of LEC, PSA, UCAN, and the Faculty Senate. The motion passed: 11 votes in favor, 4 votes no or abstention.

- c. **Possible Reduction in Course Releases** – the University is looking at reducing or eliminating course releases for faculty and instructional staff, in order to get more faculty and lecturers into the classroom. While most faculty course releases are for research, lecturers get course releases only for leading programs. We should be aware of this and discuss it with our Faculty Senate representatives and at department meetings.
- d. **General Body LEC Meeting** – It was proposed that we hold an online meeting via Webex for the general constituency, to get them together and make sure they have an opportunity to be heard, ask questions, and etc. An online meeting could actually work better than previous on campus gatherings that involve people with such varied schedules.
It was also proposed that we should put together a newsletter for the general constituency.

II. Committee Reports:

- a. **HR:** Jeffrey Reaves spoke about the importance of recognition for what adjuncts and lecturers do.

- b. **Facilities:** Scott Kent reported that construction on campus is coming to a complete halt, with the exception of the roof replacement on Weston Hall and the stairs replacement in the old parking deck, both of which benefit from campus being empty.
No-touch faucets will be installed in restrooms in high-traffic areas on campus, such as the Campus Center.
- c. **TLT:** Caroline DeVan and Maria Stanko reported:
 - i. the ITE staff is working very hard to assist everyone who unexpectedly shifted to teaching online.
 - ii. The committee is gathering faculty and student responses to teaching online.
 - iii. Online teaching workshops will be held, on May 7 for people teaching summer classes online for the first time, and on May 19 and 21.
 - iv. Proctor U problems have been acknowledged, and alternatives will be sought. New forms of testing are being considered.
 - v. Moodle will be done after this summer, and only Canvas used going forward. Old Moodle files will still be accessible for the time being.
- d. **CIO Search:** Jaskirat Sodhi reported:
 - i. The second round of candidates was seen right before spring break, and the finalized candidates selected.
 - ii. Three candidates have presented to the upper administration. At the time of our meeting, Jaskirat had not heard if the final choice had been made.
- e. **PSA:** Caroline DeVan reported:
 - i. **Course Evaluations:** The administration has said that no one can use their course evaluations unless they were already teaching online, but then those had to be used. The PSA's position remains what it was, that everyone should be in the same position, to be able to choose. The LEC's position is that they should not be mandatory for anyone, and instructors should be able to choose whether to use them or not. Even for already online classes, student and instructor situations still changed dramatically after spring break.
 - ii. **PSA Membership Meeting:** Is online, May 6th at 11am. Caroline encourages us to show up and remind them that our conditions are different than those of T/TT faculty.
 - iii. **PSA Elections:** are postponed until Fall.
 - iv. **Contract Update:** will be discussed at the PSA Membership Meeting. The contract has not yet been finalized.

III. **New Business:**

- a. **COVID Committee** – any concerns should go to Kyle and Maria.
- b. **Past Business** – Jeffrey suggested we not lose track of past concerns that have been raised.
- c. **Theater** – Risa reported that the NJIT-Rutgers Theater Department was putting on a series of short online plays, debuting tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Siemann