

Minutes
Lecturers and Educators Congress
September 25, 2019
Fenster Hall 590, 4:30 PM–5:50 PM

Present: Kyle Riismandel (President), Maria Stanko (Vice President), Scott Kent (Treasurer), Catherine Siemann (Secretary), Jon Curley (Humanities), Caroline DeVan (Biology), John Esche (Humanities), Risa Gorelick (Humanities), Melodi Guilbault (MTSM), Geraldine Milano (NCE), Tom Ogorzalek (HCAD), Vanessa Phillips (Humanities), Jeffrey Reaves (NCE), Rafeeza Shahabudeen (Adjunct), Jaskirat Sodhi (NCE), Ryan Tolboom (YWCC), Leon Vaks (CPE), Chris Zeiner (Eng. Tech.)

The meeting was called to order shortly after 4:30pm.

I. Introductions/President's Report

- a. Introductions/Meeting Rules
- b. Master Teacher – There is a new committee which has been formed to focus on the Master Teacher designation. The committee is considering adding Lecturers to the Master Teachers
- c. Adjunct Pay Problems- adjuncts did not get paid for the 1st pay period
- d. Search Committee Representation – For the Chief Information Officer search, the first LEC rep added to the committee was made a nonvoting member and consequently, resigned. Jaskirat Sodhi is now the LEC rep, also nonvoting. Changes have been proposed to the Faculty Handbook to make certain that representatives of the LEC, students, and other stakeholders are voting members.
- e. The provost has been invited to our November meeting.

II. Committee Updates

- a. Faculty Senate: Kyle Riismandel reported. The need for dorms, teaching & lab space has been acknowledged. There is a plan to build more teaching labs. The president said he supports lecturers becoming faculty.
- b. Facilities: Scott Kent reported. \$26m was spent last year on renovations and upgrades; that much will be spent again this year. The additions to the Makerspace are opening this fall. We now have a Jersey City facility, 101 Hudson Street, for graduate students. The Mueller building is ours; it will be torn down in the spring, with future

construction planned to open 2025. Additional area properties are being bought, with plans for a dormitory and parking. Drinking water on campus is being tested regularly.

- c. Finance: Chris Zeiner reported. The audit from last semester was reviewed in committee; it takes that everything was done well. Ryan Tolboom will cover for Chris at the October 29 meeting.
- d. University Senate: Scott Kent reported. Why did the adjunct faculty not get paid in the first pay period? Holly Stern is the interim acting VP of HR.
- e. TLT: Maria Stanko reported: With the physical upgrades to buildings, they are also upgrading technology – FMH, Kupfrian, Tiernan, GITC, MEC have seen upgrades, and there are further plans for Tiernan and Kupfrian. Podiums are still arriving for some classrooms.

The new UCID system which will replace old password management systems. There will be a universal password and everyone needs to update over this academic year.

Transition to Canvas; Moodle courses are hidden at the beginning of the semester; users must request to use Moodle. In Fall 2020 Canvas will be required; your classes can be migrated on request.

Another Canvas workshop will be held in January, in tiers for new and more experienced users.

Exam proctoring policy: F2F, someone must be in the room; online classes, exam has to be offered online, but then there has to be some sort of proctoring system.

- f. Campus life: Caroline DeVan reported: the campus food pantry is very popular – there is high demand and many needs. The campus Care Team will come next meeting to talk to us.

III. Promotion and Hiring Committees (40 mins)

a. Committee Charges and Membership

In the 2025 document there is movement towards instructional staff becoming faculty (which may not mean tenure, but will most likely mean voting rights). These are additional possibilities. There is an acknowledgment of the need to reward people who are already here and keeping them, rather than having them have to compete against researchers & postdocs from the outside. There are three possibilities being potentially proposed:

- i. Lecturer to Assistant Teaching Professor
- ii. Lecturer to Traditional Tenure Track

iii. Adjunct to Lecturer

With regard to i & ii, the distinction is that i would be based solely on teaching, and ii would be based on research and teaching. It needs to be clarified whether every University Lecturer would become a Teaching Professor, or whether this would be a new category to be promoted into? Specifics about when the tenure clock would start, and what previous research and publication would count for, as well as what Program Directors get credit for will have to be explored.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Siemann
Secretary, LEC