

Minutes
Lecturers and Educators Congress
May 5, 2021
430-530PM - WebEx

Present: Kyle Riisman (President), Maria Stanko (Vice President), Scott Kent (Treasurer), Catherine Siemann (Executive Secretary), Jon Curley, Caroline Devan, John Esche, Risa Gorelick, Geraldine Milano, Thomas Ogorzalek, Robert Platt, Matthew Riegel, Jaskirat Sodhi, Ryan Tolboom, Kate Tyrol, Diana Walsh, Louis Wells, Raymond Wong

I. President's Report:

- a. Let Kyle know about your committee assignments.
- b. Fall: vaccines will be required for students, faculty, and staff.
Questions about legitimate exemptions; those who don't have an exemption and don't get vaccinated may not be allowed back. For international students and faculty, WHO standards are going to be adopted. Because this may get complicated, in syllabus planning, think about students who can't come to class in the first few weeks.

II. Changes to LEC Constitution – Caroline and Jaskirat

Caroline says there are slightly more adjuncts who've volunteered than there are seats for; we'll see if they can be slotted in for departments. If not, there will be an election. Runners-up could become alternates and attend, just not vote.

III. Planning for Academic Year 2021-22

- a. Ways to encourage more participation overall, with committee assignments, coming to meetings, semesterly or yearly instructional staff meeting. Holding meetings either converged or with a livestream to encourage additional people to participate who may not be able to be on campus. Make better use of Canvas, do better notifications of meetings.
- b. Kate suggested practical resources. People in the LEC tend to know what's going on; draw people in by sharing the information in meetings, on Canvas. Working on Canvas could be an internal committee assignment. Catherine mentioned something on a smaller scale has been set up for the Writing Center. John E. mentioned a discussion forum has worked well for his classes. Kyle wonders if we could get some minimal funding towards maintaining this.

- c. Caroline proposed a committee for welcoming new people, holding events, like PSA has. Raymond said he didn't know what LEC has until he got the email inviting people to run for representative; Matthew confirmed this. (Both are professional engineers & adjuncts.) Robert agreed in the chat. Kyle wonders whether people dislike email or would like more updates.
- d. John E. suggests we should inform new members of the history of shared governance and how the LEC fits in. Initially only tenured faculty were involved, but Lecturers are being given more rights, taking more responsibilities in PSA. Geri says that lecturers at one point had full voting rights in their departments. We should call ourselves faculty rather than teaching staff. Kyle mentioned the reality that we are not technically faculty, so that we need to make our position clear.
- e. Kyle will reach out closer to fall to organize ideas; more accessible meetings and Canvas page will be priorities.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. *Pandemic Recovery Subcommittee on Instruction*: Jaskirat said they are adopting WHO recommendations, including vaccines not yet approved by the FDA, including Astra Zeneca. Plan to provide J&J one-shot vaccine for students who come in without vaccinations. Some students have already requested exemptions. Other public universities in NJ are also following this policy, religious and health exemptions only, for students, faculty, and staff. LEC, Student Senate, GSA all said we were onboard with the vaccine policy.
Masks for fall semester? That will depend on what's going on nationally as well as in NJ.
May 1 is the commitment deadline, we have 1400 deposits in – some will drop out or add more. Target was 1325; hoping to get 1375 or a little more.
- b. Facilities: Scott reports that Cullimore Lecture Hall 1 was pushed back, will be built in summer. The Green at University Park should be constructed beginning in July. The new dorm will be delayed by a year.
- c. Finance
- d. University Senate

- e. TLT: *Maria*: May 19 teaching workshop. Solicitation for Active Learning proposals. Information on the IT website.
- f. Campus Life: Louis & Maria: No meeting. Caroline raised concerns about going from an almost empty campus back to a full one.
- g. HR
- h. Faculty Senate
- i. CFRR: creating a Faculty Senate/LEC committee to look at lecturers and adjuncts – voting rights, tenure & promotion, etc.
- j. UCAN: will be increasing their staffing starting in the fall.
- k. PSA: Caroline: Membership meeting coming up May 26th on Webex; they are soliciting questions. Primarily a bargaining update, but anything else that is useful. Register in advance. John: negotiations are continuing, probably ongoing through the summer. There are a couple of sticking points.

V. **New Business**

- a. Tom: several instructors are teaching 4-5 days a week for the hour and a half scheduling. This makes a problem for architects who also have a practice. Some lecturers are hired with the understanding and expectation that they also have a professional practice. Geri agreed that the scheduling shifts didn't make sense – breaking up a 2 hour class over 2 days.
- b. Kyle proposed sending out a Googledoc with questions for the registrar.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52pm.