TAFT COLLEGE SENATE-OF-THE-WHOLE
MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 12:13 pm

Attendees:
Abbott, Amar; Blake, Paul; Cahoon, Nathan; Chaidez, Joe’ll; Colaw, Rebecca; Devine, Bill; Dyer, Geoffrey; Eveland, Sharyn; Getty, Shelley; Gonzalez, Lourdes; Jacobi, Vicki; Jones, Diane; Mendenhall, Janis; Oja, Michelle; Page, Jason; Payne, Ruby; Richards, Kristi; Sundgren, Lori; Travis, Lori; Woodall, Natalie

Guest: Daniels, Deb

Public Commentary:
None

Action Items:
Approval of Minutes November 13, 2021, Meeting (ACTION): Diane Jones motioned to approve the minutes with corrections, and Bill Divine seconded the motion. The motion passed with three abstentions (Lori Sundgren, Janice Mendenhall, and Lourdes Gonzales).

Information Items
Superintendent/President Update (INFORMATION):
Dr. Daniels opens up a report by thanking everybody for the hard work during the Covid Crisis. Also, she explained that Mr. Manny Campos resigned his position as a Board of Trustees member before applying for an employment position with Taft College’s position. His replacement on the Board of Trustees is Mr. Carlos Chavira.

January meeting: Annual Ranking of New Faculty Position Needs (INFORMATION):
Dr. Sharyn Eveland stated that the faculty ratings would be held during the January’s 14th meeting. She gave a brief history of the changes for criteria that happened a couple of years ago when the division chairs came together and discussed a new process used to rank faculty positions. The revised process was not used last year due to Covid but will be used this cycle.

Academic Senate Elections in March (INFORMATION)
The Senate President wanted to let the membership know that the election cycle would be coming up in March and wanted the membership to think about who could run for any open positions. Therefore, the Vice President of the academic Senate will be available, and representatives from the social science, math/science, and learning support divisions are opening according to their two-year cycle.

Faculty Professional Development Committee Charter Update (INFORMATION):
The Senate President informed the membership that the professional development committee charter was sent back by the Senate Council for clarification. As a result, the
professional development committee decided to withdraw their change and submit their original charter, and therefore it does not have to go through the approval process.

**Action Items**

*TC OER Strategic Plan Proposal (M. Oja, C. Taylor, T. Raber) (ACTION):*

Dr. Michelle Oja wanted to give the members of the Senate foundation regarding open educational resources (OER). The committee working on the strategic plan had four goals to discuss with the membership. These goals are:

- Support for the faculty creating quality OER’s and support students using OER’s
- How are they being used, and what kind of money is being saved
- Research the success rate of students using OER
- Publicizing the use of OERs at Taft college

Also, according to Dr. Oja, the current research shows that OERs does enhance student success. Furthermore, Dr. Oja expressed that the current state grant proposal parameters did not line up with the current strategic action plan there working on at this time. Finally, Dr. Oja wanted to know if the direction that the OER initiative team is going is the right path for Taft and wanted faculty input.

Dr. Amar Abbott asked for clarification questions on the state grant proposal. Were they thinking of rewriting the strategic action plan to align with the state grant? Dr. Oja stated they were not going to rewrite the strategic plan. We will move forward and build the program and hopefully create a cross-functional team or a workgroup to address the goals and possibly be in a better position for future monies.

Dr. Oja emphasized that anyone can write and research an OER book for a course. Her team is trying to establish a way for the faculty to research and create an OER manuscript.

Mr. Bill Devine asked the question regarding OER’s and has been a survey conducted to see how many faculty members actually use OER’s. Dr. Oja has not undertaken a study that assesses one part of the issues concerning OER’s. There’s also how to find an OER and what faculty members are using it, and can students locate an OER if they’re not in a particular class. They are so many issues that

Dr. Lori Travis asked about what the purpose of the grant is, and Dr. Oja explained that the grant is trying to create a high usage OER for the state. In contrast, Dr. Oja is trying to make a pathway for us to create OER’s for the institution.

Dr. Vicki Jacobi asks if the OER committee could develop a policy and procedures to evaluate current OERs in terms of curriculum and how they can apply to the Course of Record (COR.)

The membership has not read the entire proposal, so some members thought it best to move this item to January’s meeting for further discussion.

*Side note:* a brief discussion happened regarding quorum; Dr. Eveland explained that since Covid that while efforts to maintain quorum had been on-going, the shift back to in-person meetings made meeting quorum difficult. Some members thought it was in place, and Dr. Eveland stated that she could address quorum at January’s meeting.
Information/Discussion Items NO ACTION

CCSSE Results Report (Li, X.)(PRESENTATION):

Dr. Xiaohong Li presented the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) report. All documentation can be found on the Academic Senate website.

ASCCC Position Paper: Protecting Academic Freedom...(DISCUSSION)

Dr. Eveland stated that protecting academic freedom paper has been discussed for several years across the state. Also, she elaborated that there are different parts that the Academic Senate is responsible for, while other aspects the union has a responsibility to protect, such as work conditions. In addition, the institution has obligations to protect academic freedom, which causes a push-pull situation between faculty and institution regarding academic freedom.

This item will be discussed during the January meeting.

Committee Report: NO REPORT

Requests for Reports - Committee Reports (DISCUSSION)

Dr. Eveland stated that the January schedule was pretty full, and if anybody wanted to have committee reports, they could; email her for the February meeting.

Other Topics of Interest Under 10+1 Q&A (DISCUSSION)

No one had any questions to be discussed regarding the 10+1 issue.

Adjournment:

Mr. Bill Devine made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Lori Sundgren the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm

Minutes Submitted by Dr. Amar Abbott