

Norfolk Campus Senate Minutes from September 29, 2015

Attending senators: Jim Holden, Phyllis Gowdy, Helena Krohn, Judy Gill (chair) and Bill Reid

Attending guests: Cameron Russell, Pete Shaw, Leah Hagedorn, Richard Gill (minutes), Ivory Warren and Josh Howell and Anne Pinkerton

After minor revisions, minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Jim and Leah reported on the most recent meeting of the Textbook Committee. David Kiracofe is the new chair. The direction of the committee does not seem to be extreme. The committee seems to be “academic freedom friendly”.

Judy led a short conversation on the upcoming Oct. 20 professional development day.

Judy reported that the administration was going ahead with the Pathways initiative in spite of hesitation from the College Senate. Jim requested follow-up on this at the upcoming College Senate meeting.

Judy reported that a date would be set soon for a faculty dialogue with Dr. Demarte.

Judy reported that the College Senate wants Dr. Demarte to explain the rationale for changing enrollment caps on online classes.

Judy told the group that Policy 2105 was making people uneasy about the direction of the college assessment efforts. People are concerned that actual assignments will be assessed.

The College Senate has passed a motion expressing concern about a growing number of top-down initiatives.

A question was asked concerning whether or not faculty will be able to evaluate the academic deans this year.

Peter started a conversation about the recent survey done by the Chronicle concerning the morale of college employees. Responses from the faculty indicated widespread dissatisfaction. The Campus Senate forwarded a motion that the College Senate examine the results of the survey in order to make recommendations to Dr. Kolovani.

Judy asked for volunteers to supply food for the upcoming College Senate meeting here on the Norfolk Campus.

Judy reported on her recent meeting with Dr. Boyd. A question was raised concerning the (lack of) an investiture ceremony for Dr. Boyd (and Dr. Rhine at Chesapeake).

A motion was forwarded to the College Senate that the Senate ask Institutional Research for the number of new positions that have been created by TCC over the last five years. Some expressed concern that TCC has become top heavy in administration.

There was a short conversation concerning the composition of the Campus Senate. The current membership of the Campus Senate is four full-time faculty members, four adjuncts and one librarian or counselor. Richard Gill proposed a change to six full-time faculty and two adjuncts. If the campus cannot recruit a counselor or librarian to be on the senate then a seventh full-time faculty member would be

elected who would be a liaison with the professional faculty on campus. This conversation was tabled until the next meeting.

Phyllis reported on the upcoming October 20 event featuring a presentation on The Culture of Poverty followed by a panel discussion with representatives from the City of Norfolk.

Josh Howell proposed training to make the Norfolk Campus a safe space for the LGBTQ community. The Campus Senate agreed to participate in the first training event shortly before the next Campus Senate meeting on 10/29.