

Faculty Senate Minutes

March 4, 2016

Lynn Library, Room 207

Members Present	Reem Witherspoon, Nancy Forrest, Emily Gilbert, Donna Cleere, Nichol Dolby, Marcia Julian, Jodi Lindseth, Tara Meraz, Robert Gustin, Brian Jacob, Courtney Milleson, Brant Davis, LaVon Barrett, Craig Clifton, Brian Farmer
Members Absent	Alan Kee, Derek Weathersbee, Deborah Harding, Kerrie Young, Shawna Lopez,
Guests	Deb Avara

Topics	Discussion/Information	Actions/Decisions Recommendations/Timelines
Call to Order	President Reem Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.	
Approval of Minutes	February 12 minutes were approved by consensus via email.	
Special Guest Report	<p>No guest scheduled for this meeting.</p> <p>After a discussion re: blocked schedules, we asked Becky Burton to come give an update on Blocked Schedules/Guided Pathways.</p> <p>Becky Burton, Director of K-16 projects, Career Clusters, and Title V Curriculum:</p> <p>Guided pathways is what will help the student get from stepping in the door to getting the degree. The blocked schedule are the classes that the student needs to take within that pathway, in a blocked format. Ex: If they come in as General Studies, Arts and Humanities, we give them all the classes that would be in that first semester for Arts & Hum.</p>	

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Blocks will be what we call "Hard Blocks". It's a learning community. They will be auto enrolled in all the classes for that block. However, Learning Communities aren't only about the students, it's about collaboration with faculty too. Instructor A is seeing the same exact students as Instructor B. A & B can get together and recognize learning problems, or misunderstandings, etc. Perhaps even create a project across multiple classes.

This is **only** for incoming students who declare **General Studies**. This is to give them a track - for a goal, where they are going and how long it will take them to get there. What we want is for them to take core classes in the beginning, but there are electives built in, so they could have a focus in something else and in the elective time is when they would have that focus.

There will still be options out there for part-time students, for students who fail a prerequisite class.

If a student declares a major coming in, there is still a major out there.

Music and Engineering are fields of study, not majors, so they don't fit into the blocks.

For an example AC is already using, think about the Health Science programs and Technical programs; they don't have options/choices.

We want to make more students full time, and we think

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we can do this with more 8 week classes. We want to find a way for those who are normally part time students to become full time; data from colleges that are “all in” on 8 weeks shows better results for completion, graduation, grades. We did indeed see a rise in our full time students due to the 8 week.

The ultimate goal would be for an incoming student that we can sit them down and show them their schedule for the next 2 years start to finish.

The courses you are required to take depends on the pathway you are in. Every course we create that is tied to a block there will be existing courses out there NOT tied to a block, they are called shadow courses.

Goal for next Fall is to have 50% of entire catalog 8 week. This is not per department, but of all the classes offered at AC. For classes with a lab component, Clinicals, and other special needs, there has not been a big push to make them 8 weeks.

East Campus has been doing 8 week with all of their classes for a long time. A senator from East Campus stated that “it’s great when you start them on all classes this way at the same time because they are only taking 2, possibly 3 classes at the same time. Yet, still life happens. There will need to be different Advising for 8 week classes.”

Engineering is already blocked. There is a definite

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	<p>difference and it is working well. They have made friends, study groups, and have seen a rise in grades.</p> <p>The VPAA Council will make final decisions on what class meets the 1 Fine Arts credit, the 1 Social Sciences credit, etc. in the Core classes for the pathway.</p> <p>It's not about killing classes or lowering faculty workload, it's about repurposing faculty to be teaching the classes that are in high demand (ex: Eng 1301). Craig Clifton was told that his program was being ended, but there does have to be some kind of teach out to finish the students who are currently enrolled. THECB has to be notified if programs are deleted, and Curriculum Committee must be notified if this happens.</p> <p>Senator comment: I think it will allow departments to predict how many sections/classes are needed. It's also a better predictive model for Advising.</p> <p>Senator concern: Students are "drowning" in some heavy content 8 week courses.</p> <p>Answer: Some of the difficulty comes from taking students who are set in a 16 week class format and pushing them into an 8 week format. In the future, students will be used to this faster format and will do better.</p> <p>There has also been a breakdown in communications to</p>	
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	<p>students because there were several who were in an 8 week, but didn't know it. Everything looked the same in ACconnect except for the date and they weren't trained to look at the dates. Students will need to know to look at the beginning and ending dates of courses in future semesters.</p> <p>There is a way for students to provide feedback about the 8 week classes and they already have. There will be (and have been) focus groups conducted.</p> <p>Dr. Vess and Dr. Lowery- Hart believe Blocked Scheduling will help us achieve 70% completion.</p>	
President's Report	<p>Blocked Pathways - Chairs received their class list/blocked schedule at a Blocked Pathways meeting on Wednesday, March 2nd.</p> <p>No Excuses 20/20 - Discussed Blocked Pathways; Jason Norman and Diane Brice said they are open for input.</p> <p>Board of Regents - Terry Berg discussed AC Benefit Plan change. Employees should have more flexibility than before. Training will take place in April.</p> <p>Discussion of previously asked questions regarding Dr. Vess's evaluation and the 9 pathways:</p>	

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	<p>Dr. Lowery-Hart has stated that Dr. Vess is the faculty representative on the President’s Council. [See Attached for responses.]</p> <p>The Curriculum Committee is by appointment/invitation only. The Committee members list is in AC Connect (Faculty/Staff Information → Committees → Curriculum Committee), but it is old.</p> <p>Senator concern: A lot of faculty feel as if they are misinformed, or not informed at all, about the big changes. How can this be fixed? There is no clear answer as to how to fix this.</p> <p>Discussion of Camp WOW and Compliance. Some faculty thought Camp WOW was optional, but looking it up, it IS required.</p> <p>We were reminded of the Mark White reception on March 8.</p>	
Secretary’s Report	All materials handed out here will be uploaded to Google Drive folder.	
Courtesy	Met with Connie de Jesus from College Relations to have a card designed.	
Elections		

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Legislative	no update.	
Mead Award		
Professor Emeritus Award	<p>Delores Thompson and Mozell Ford were nominated.</p> <p>Delores Thompson was chosen by vote.</p>	
Questions	<p>Anonymous questions put forth to the Questions Committee:</p> <p>Is the Administration willing to put in writing that the Faculty Survey will be anonymous and there will be no attempts to find out who answers?</p> <p>Answer: Kerrie Young did a lot of research. This is a 3rd party vendor, so it appears that your information really cannot be found. [After the meeting, but before the notes were finished, Dr. Lowery-Hart sent an email response assuring the faculty that there would be no attempt to find out the identity of faculty members who completed the survey.]</p> <p>Why is someone in NYC the KACV website manager?</p> <p>Why is Fall Break for the students only? This is not the information we were given by Dr. Vess at the Faculty Meeting, or Bob Austin when the calendar was presented to various committees around campus.</p> <p>Can the link for the Mead Award be put on the website instead of just AC Connect? David White was contacted</p>	

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	<p>and he said he couldn't just put it anywhere, but he would put it on several times as a news item between now and the end of nominations.</p> <p>Concern with faculty overloads. Once we were told only 28+ is a problem, because it raises flags with SACS. Recently, Dr. Vess has discussed us only having 15 hours in the Fall. There have also been issues with faculty being asked to teach extra sections right before the semester begins with little or no time to prepare. Can we get a straight answer on this?</p> <p>Many faculty concerned with 15 hour maximum; people have commented that they will be looking for another job if it is cut down.</p>	
Salary	Adjunct Pay really needs to be addressed. It was state that WT gives \$3000 for adjunct pay; in the bigger cities \$2500 is standard.	
Technology	none	
Faculty Survey	It is created and will be out soon (before Spring Break). It will be out for at least 2 weeks.	
Hospitality	none	
Faculty Development	none	
Instructional Technology	none	
Pinning	none	
Faculty Committee Appointments	none	
New Business	Faculty Evaluation Committee (Reem Witherspoon, Nancy Forrest, Emily Gilbert, Brian Jacob, Donna Cleere,	Email any of the committee members with questions, comments, or concerns and we will take them to Dr.

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	Shawna Lopez) has started the process. We are using a process from the book <i>Developing a Comprehensive Faculty Evaluation System</i> by Raoul Arreola. Senators and department chairs will be asked to take information back to their faculty once the documents have been amended for Amarillo College and approved by Dr. Vess. All faculty will be involved as much as possible.	Vess.
Updates and Announcements	none	
	Meeting Adjourned: 5:27 pm	

Recorder: Emily Gilbert, Senate Secretary – Director of Information Services, Library