

Faculty Senate Notes 12/1/20

Senators Present: Tim Kjensrud; Derek Lan; Heather Duncan; Carol Martin; Benjamin Rogers; Chelsea Campbell; Chris Javan; Ellie Camann; Janet Tarese; Jeffrey Kaplan; Leah Rogin-Roper; Sally Stablein; Erika Iverson; Chris Zaleski

Visitors: Amy Braziller, Kevin Kelley, Gail Crane

Senators Absent: John Padgett

SFAC update from Amy Braziller:

- Approval of new evaluation process at system level means RRCC will need to re-do their process in Spring 2020. Major shift is that there is no longer a 70 / 30 division between teaching and service. Stay tuned.
- Big news around CCCOnline. See update sent out by Amy, particularly Executive Summary. The short summary is that CCCOnline will no longer deliver online instruction and will be phased out in the role over the next three years. This is largely because of HLC and accreditation issues with students taking classes through CCCOnline. This is good news for teachers / RRCC in terms of now being able to control the quality of our courses! There will be some complications that need to be considered in the next couple of years, such as scheduling classes that tend to be smaller, making sure we have common pre-reqs between colleges and how the additional 10,000-15,0000 students currently served in CCCOnline classes may affect our enrollment.

Action Item: Read the material sent out by Amy last week, follow-up with questions to Amy and / or Dr. Haney who served on the CCCOnline committee (see her email).

For Consideration: Why did our Leadership Team not share this information with us earlier? The reasoning was that there were still too many questions and details to be figured out about it, but it is already a public document (<https://internal.cccs.edu/academic-affairs/academic-initiatives/>). This seems to be part of the concerning trend of not sharing information with faculty and not practicing shared governance with faculty. Those concerned about this top-down style of administration may want to check in with their deans / department about this.

Faculty of the Year Nomination

- The only nomination received so far is an "All-Faculty" nomination, in the light of the particularly challenging semester / year, with the suggestion that the monetary reward go to the Student Foodbank.

Action Item: Robert has sent out the letter with a vote mechanism, needs to be completed by 12 / 8 at 6pm: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Faculty_of_the_Year

Syllabus insert, changes to equity statement

- The Senate reviewed and approved changes to the statement in the syllabus insert. Updated syllabus insert should be available by (<when>?)

Action Item:

21-Day Challenge / Racism on RRCC Campus / Executive CIP plan

- Tim Kjensrud brings up his experience with the 21-day challenge to raise awareness about racial inequality and uses it to reflect on the ongoing Senate discussion about racism on the RRCC campus.
- Discussion about the Executive Team's CIP plan finds it largely lacking in progressive or well-defined goals.
- It is also noted that the Executive Team's actions around police have been totally inadequate. There has been zero follow-up since our "townhall meeting," which itself wasn't handled well, with pre-screened questions and was largely seen as an opportunity for the police to provide positive perspectives on their actions rather than an actual dialogue.

Action Item: Consider whether how you would feel about a vote of no confidence in our leadership, particularly around their failure to address racism and policing on campus. A vote of no confidence is a serious procedure that usually calls for resignations. Can we receive more information from Robert about what a vote of no confidence looks like, procedurally? Should we do an internal poll with all faculty addressing each member of the Executive Team to take the temperature of this action? Here are some questions around this type of vote: