

Oklahoma City Community College
Faculty Association Meeting
April 27, 2021 – 11:00 a.m.
Online via Zoom

Chair George Risinger called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. He reminded attendees that a reporter was present, but would contact attendees for permission to quote.

The Staff Recognition Award for April was awarded to Gary Dominguez, from the BIT Student Computer Center.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Vincent Bridges addressed attendees. Vice President Bridges said he believes in communication and transparency and that faculty would get to know him. He asked attendees to let him know if we feel we are being purposefully hurt and that he builds his world around respect. Dr. Bridges said that the college had “been void of teamwork.” He knows not everyone will be happy, but decisions are made in the best interest of the institution and students. He encouraged faculty to not stress anymore and calm down. He stated that he believes in giving information out ahead of time in an informative style, but that decisions may not be final. He ended by stating “We are a team.”

The minutes of the March 2021 meeting were approved.

Dr. Michelle Cole gave the Treasurer’s Report:

Ray McCullar fund:	\$248 (as of December 31, 2020)
	\$11,783 (endowment as of December 31, 2020)
Scholarship fund:	\$6,754.45 (as of March 10, 2021)
	\$13,455 (endowment as of December 31, 2020)
MidFirst:	\$9,803.84 (includes \$905 for the scholarship account)
Membership (paid):	68

The Treasurer’s report was approved.

Dr. Shanna Padgham presented a gift of appreciation to Chair Risinger for his service as chair of the Faculty Association.

Dr. Ginnett Rollins reported that the scholarship committee will select the recipients of this semester’s scholarship on Friday, April 30th. The auction to raise funds for the scholarship will begin next week and hopefully an all-employee email will go out.

Chair Report

Chair Risinger met with Interim President Thomas on April 8th.

- They discussed the resolution the Faculty Association passed at the March meeting. President Thomas expressed his appreciation, as did Executive Vice-President Rose and Regent Youngblood.

- In response to whether the college would be paying for graduation regalia this year, Dr. Thomas said that no, but those funds would be used to create an outdoor experience at the commencement ceremonies this year, since graduates would be limited to a single guest.
- Dr. Thomas acknowledged the challenges of beginning a term on the first day back from Spring Break. He said there is a discussion of the calendar, and one option being considered is beginning the term on the Wednesday following Spring Break.
- There has been discussion of raises for adjuncts.

Chair Risinger met with VPAA Bridges on April 26th.

- VPAA Bridges confirmed with Division Deans that the extra “travel” pay for those teaching on high school campuses will be reinstated once on-site classes resume.
- Dr. Bridges said that on-campus class sizes may increase based on CDC guidelines.
- Chair Risinger and VPAA Bridges discussed A/B courses in the fall. Currently there are plans for two classrooms to be set up as Zoom Rooms for each division. There will be a practice room for all faculty to access, but it will likely not be set up until July or August. There was uncertainty on whether the equipment had been ordered, but it was indicated to Chair Risinger that the orders would be placed soon if they hadn’t been placed already. All plans for the A/B Schedule Classrooms are contingent upon the receipt and installation of the necessary equipment.
- VPAA Bridges said the Dean of Online Instruction position is still in the early stages of planning, and he hopes to hire this summer. The focus will be on a “truly online product” and divisions will retain control of existing online courses.
- Regarding the creation of the new Department Chair positions, VPAA Bridges confirmed they will be considered faculty, not administrative positions. The department chairs will be able to teach overloads. In response to a concern that these positions would be vulnerable in the event of a RIF, VPAA Bridges said he will do his best to avoid eliminating any position, including these. Once an individual becomes a department chair, they may not “step back” into a faculty position if they do not wish to be a department chair. In some divisions, there may be instances where there is one chair over several small departments, and there will still be special contracts for faculty (non-department chairs) to fulfill administrative duties that assist the chair.

Following the report of Chair Risinger’s meeting with VPAA Bridges, members expressed concerns about the following:

- What will the deans be doing if the department chairs are taking on many of their duties?
- Who will be leading the college going forward with HLC accreditation since the Director of Curriculum and Assessment is leaving?
- The voice of faculty has been ignored regarding the A/B schedule.
- The new department chair decision making process was too quick.

Elections for 2021/2022 officers were held.

- Chair-Elect: Librarian Dana Tuley-Williams
- Treasurer: Professor Paul Buckelew
- Parliamentarian: Professor Angela Cotner

- Secretary: Professor Thomas Horne

The previously selected chair for 2021/2022 is Dr. Shanna Padgham.

Retirees Professors Michael Cole, Peggy Newman, and Ray McCullar were acknowledged.

Chair Risinger noted that Glenna' Whisenhunt has been tasked with planning an end of term celebration and welcomes input from faculty.

Chair Risinger went over instructions for submitting requests to the print shop. These are temporary, until a permanent process is established. The process is summarized in the bullet points below:

- Use the Print Project Request form (www.occc.edu/mpr/project-request.html)
- Opt for "Print Passthrough (Quick Copies!)"
- Provide specifics, e.g. staples, hole punch, etc., in the "Key Information" box.
- PDF files are best for submission.

Peggy Newman's retirement party will be Thursday May 27th, at the I-240 On the Border patio at 4pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Tuley-Williams, Faculty Association Secretary