



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Faculty Association

November 2020 Report

Executive Committee Update:

Ray McCullar Scholarship:

After collecting input from colleagues in the Social Science Division, the Executive Committee has settled on the following criteria for the Ray McCullar Scholarship:

- Student must be a history major
- Student must have a 2.75 GPA
- Students will write a minimum 200 word essay explaining the student's interest in history and their financial need

The Executive Committee is under the impression that the scholarship could be awarded as early as next spring. We are in need of three volunteers to serve as judges for scholarship selection. If you are interested, please email George Risinger (grisinger@occc.edu).

Chair Report:

Vice-President for Academic Affairs Search:

Dean John Claybon from BIT and George Risinger are co-chairing this search committee, which in addition to the co-chairs is composed of one faculty member from each division (George Risinger is serving as the SEM representative and co-chair), a representative from the Library, a representative from the CLT, a representative from the student body, a representative from the Cabinet, a representative from the student success advisor group, and the Registrar. The job was posted in October (<https://www.occcjobs.com/postings/17435>) and is listed as "Posted until filled," however, the search committee plans to review and select candidates to interview shortly after the return from the holiday break. Interviews will occur in two parts: first, the search committee will interview candidates via Zoom, and second, the candidates who make it through the first round will be invited to campus and participate in a series of forums and be interviewed by Provost Thomas. Individual forums wherein multiple stakeholders will be able to attend and ask questions will be held for faculty members, Academic Affairs staff (e.g. Library staff, Lab Staff, CLT Staff, Division Office Staff), and the Cabinet. The co-chairs are envisioning the faculty and Academic Affairs staff forums to run similar to the recent Friday Listening Sessions, but the details are still being worked out. Of course, there will be limitations on how

many people can attend the forums due to social distancing standards. The Provost will plan to interview each candidate brought to campus for the second part of the interview in order to minimize trips to campus for the candidate. First round interviews and tentatively planned for early February and second round interviews for mid/late February.

Resolution Updates:

The resolution was presented to the Provost the day it was approved by the Faculty Association and the Board of Regents received it shortly thereafter. One regent reached out to thank the Association for our “candid message,” and Provost Thomas later indicated that the majority of the resolution was favorably received by the Board of Regents.

Provost Thomas indicated that the call for a direct line of communication between the faculty and the Board of Regents in the resolution might be problematic as per HLC guidelines, Regents are not to be involved directly in the day-to-day running of the college. A mechanism for direct faculty communication with the Board would be indicative of such. Provost Thomas indicated the Board is looking into a way for this type of communication to potentially occur.

Points of Discussion from Meetings with the Provost (October 8 and November 12):

- Class sizes in writing-intensive courses: Class sizes in these courses will be analyzed. Provost Thomas will work with the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, the AEH Dean, and Composition Faculty from AEH to take a closer look at these course capacities. A meeting with composition faculty, the Provost, and Chief of Staff Rose is planned for early December.
 - As an aside, Provost Thomas wanted to the group to know that if there are groups of faculty that share serious concerns, that they should feel comfortable reaching out to him to facilitate these types of discussions as well.
- 8-week Survey/Poll: Provost Thomas does not yet have the surveys completed or an ETA on when they will be sent out. However, this is in the early enough planning stages that he is interested to receive input from all areas of the college. He asks that any faculty members that have ideas for the survey/poll to send them to Chair Risinger (grisinger@occc.edu), who will collect and collate these to send forward to the Provost. Provost Thomas asks that leading questions be avoided and also reminds everyone that shorter surveys tend to have better response rates.
- Board of Regents Meeting Changes: The Regents will now receive regular updates from various areas of the college during their meetings. In their October meeting, Dean Bridges from HP gave an update of his division.
- Rumors: Please feel comfortable to ask Provost Thomas about concerning rumors you might have heard.
- HLC Accreditation: HLC will be visiting in approximately one year, and much preparation is underway for their accreditation visit. Provost Thomas asks that you please consider volunteering/helping/participating in activities associated with this. He would like for the HLC to hear from multiple stakeholders at the college, not just administrators.

Points of Discussion from a Meeting with the Vice-President for Academic Affairs (November 5):

- Email/grading Response Time: Vice-President Jameson indicated that there is no plan from Academic Affairs to micromanage individuals and their email response times. This item was added to the agenda of the Instructional Learning Committee more to ask folks to give serious consideration to timely responses, especially in the new online environment many students have found themselves in. Other types of considerations that were mentioned: If answering email over the weekend might be problematic, consider shifting deadlines to sometime during the week.
- Exceptions for 16-week Courses: This process is planned to work that same way as last year. Please contact your deans about moving forward with any requests you have for specific classes to be offered in the 16-week format.
- Proctoring: Pilot is underway, and anyone is welcome to participate. See the information sent out by your deans in October regarding getting involved if interested.
- Salary increases were funded by enrollment revenue, and past years' merit was not part of the determinations regarding the size of individual salary increases.
- Vice-President Jameson is working with a math faculty member to begin establishing best practices for the offering of synchronous online courses. The plan is for a single pilot to be run by this math faculty member in early Spring 2021, and another 10 pilots are hoped for in late Spring. Faculty interested in the late Spring pilot will be training and designing their synchronous course during the early spring. Please reach out to Vice-President Jameson if you are interested to participate in this synchronous online course pilot program.