



Friday, August 19, 2022

Regular Meeting

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Executive Council of the Faculty Association of Trinity Valley Community College met in the conference room of the Athens Administration building with a call to order at 8:59 a.m. on Friday, August 19, 2022. The following members were present in representation of TVCC faculty and administration:

- Dr. Jerry King
- Dr. Kristin Spizzirri
- Dr. Phillip Parnell
- Jennifer Hannigan
- Tom Sheram
- Jennifer Stephens
- Regina Clary
- Carol Pendland
- Craig Lee
- Mike Young
- Michael Hart
- Angel Martinez-Ellis

I. Introduction of New Members

The slate of officers for the 2022-24 term were introduced. Dr. King welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Dr. King recalled his history with TVCC for the last 44 years and said he looked forward to his last year with TVCC and the many projects and programs that are in the works.

II. Discussion on campus culture

A discussion was held regarding the priorities Faculty Association will have for the upcoming year. Administrators and faculty members identified some of the challenges facing TVCC and how the faculty, administration, and staff can build solutions for those issues. Items discussed included:

1. **New hires and the need for a campus community.** Faculty and administration expressed a need for more group-orientated opportunities for faculty, staff, and administration to build relationships outside of day-to-day responsibilities. Possible events: graduation party, carnival, tailgate parties, pep rallies, bonfire, gathering for a food-truck event, and holiday

- gatherings. Dr. King indicated events such as the Christmas luncheon, put on hold since 2020, should be returning soon.
2. **Need for greater community involvement.** Dr. Parnell suggested that more community-based events could build a rapport with the Athens community. Possible events: Learning symposium, academic colloquiums, the academic symposium, and Frisbee golf (Athens has the oldest in state and considered a destination for frisbee golfers). Another idea was opening facilities for the public to use for events.
 3. **Lack of cohesion between campuses.** Administration and faculty need to work together to create more continuity between the campuses. Those who work on satellite campuses expressed a need to be seen as more a part of the cohesive TVCC group.
 4. **Bridging the gap between faculty, staff, and administration.** Dr. Kristin Spizzirri and Jennifer Hannigan suggested ways to improve culture and break down barriers, including small-group lunches with administrators, events where employees are in buildings where they don't work regularly, and sessions where administrators listen to the concerns of faculty and staff. A simple walk around between buildings to involve others in informal lunches was also mentioned. Tom Sherman raised the issue of division between workforce and academics and stated that events such as a "show and tell" with the welding department could aid in building a relationship between workforce and academics.
 5. **Changes in enrollment.** Ever-changing technology and the impact of Covid are a cause for face-to-face classes getting slimmer with more students wanting to be online. The challenges of offering of multiple modalities, course redesign, and restructuring many courses to 8 weeks were discussed. Faculty members expressed a few of the concerns surrounding those initiatives, particularly the 8-week schedule. Dr. Spizzirri said she is aware of some of the issues and encouraged the association to keep bringing questions forward as they arise. She said numerous conversations would be scheduled this year in order to identify and solve issues created by the changing schedule. An increased focus on workforce is also needed, Dr. King noted, to keep TVCC competitive and to continue to meet the need of today's employment market.
 6. **Improvements in communication.** Those in attendance agreed improved communication between all campuses is essential, especially in the light of the numerous changes over the last two years and with more significant changes in curriculum and operations being discussed. There are benefits to students seeing a connection between professors and staff. Reaching out to others on a regular basis and developing an inviting environment will create community.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am.