



TVCC Faculty Association Executive Council

Friday, April 19th, 2024

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Executive Council of the Faculty Association (FA) of Trinity Valley Community College met in the conference room of the Athens Administration building with a call to order at 9:02 a.m. on Friday, April 19th, 2024. The following were present:

- TVCC President Dr. Jason Morrison
- TVCC VP of Student Services Philip Parnell
- Jennifer Hannigan
- Tom Sheram
- Jennifer Stephens
- Craig Lee
- Mike Young
- Angel Martinez-Ellis
- Keith Patton (incoming TDCJ rep for 2024-26)

I. VPI Selection

Concerns were raised regarding transparency in the Vice President of Instruction (VPI) hiring process and candidate selection. It was noted that while an email was sent to the committee involved, it should have been distributed to all faculty to ensure broader transparency. Faculty emphasized the importance of all stakeholders being informed about the process. Dr. Morrison apologized for the communication oversight and noted that early communication about the process would have been beneficial to faculty. The discussion emphasized the need for clearer and more inclusive communication, when needed, to ensure transparency and engagement from all members of the TVCC community.

II. Syllabus Issues

Issues with the syllabus system and the changing of syllabus deadlines for Fall 2024 were discussed. Faculty noted the difficulty of being given a very short time to finish syllabus creation for the Fall 2024 courses, specifically noting that a 48-hour time frame was insufficient. The faculty noted they understand sometimes changes need to be made to the system and sections need to be added to keep TVCC compliant, but asked that those changes be made in the summer or at other times not so close to the syllabus due date. Dr. Morrison suggested implementing more templated items on the syllabus system, as needed, and ensuring that all notices allow enough time for completing required tasks. The discussion highlighted the

need for improved processes and adequate time frames for syllabus updates to better support faculty members.

III. Faculty Retreat

Plans for the 2024 Faculty Retreat leadership and direction were addressed. A new committee will be established to oversee the retreat, with the faculty retreat committee serving as a Faculty Association subcommittee. Dr. Morrison emphasized that the retreat's focus going forward should be on faculty-driven professional development. He indicated he wants to see the event shift toward empowering faculty members to shape their own professional growth opportunities. In the future, the retreat needs to be more faculty driven with administration support only as needed, he added.

IV. Course Scheduling

Discussion on course scheduling, specifically the issue of equity in assigning loads for faculty members was addressed. Faculty stressed concerns about adjunct instructors being assigned courses that should be prioritized for full-time professors. Dr. Morrison agreed, emphasizing that full-time faculty should take priority in course assignments, and there should be a balance in the distribution of teaching loads. The discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring fairness and equity in course assignments, with an acknowledgment of the need to prioritize full-time faculty members.

IV. Other items

A discussion was held regarding the HyFlex modality. Earlier this semester, faculty who teach HyFlex were asked to weigh in on the effectiveness of the current format, specifically if the online modality is effective in those courses. Based on the current responses from faculty, Jennifer Hannigan noted she couldn't make a recommendation regarding changes to HyFlex courses. Faculty input on including the online modality was inconsistent in those who responded, with some saying the online component should be removed and others indicating it should stay. Dr. Morrison noted a task force should be created to look at the effectiveness of HyFlex courses. He asked Angel Martinez-Ellis to oversee that committee and make recommendations next academic year as to whether HyFlex courses are effective in their current format.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.