



Academic, Governance, and Strategic Planning Council Minutes

CHEC 407 September 21, 2023

Attendees: Dr. Neil Matkin, Dr. Bill King, Dr. Allison Venuto, Dr. Jennifer DuPlessis, Melissa Irby, Steve Matthews, Monica Velazquez, Dr. Wendy Commons, Dr. Kerry Loinette, Dr. Kimberly Harris, Dr. Sukanya Subramanian, Dr. Adrienne Caughfield, Cecelia Umoh, Laura Varnell (note taker)

Action Items

- AGS Areas for Discussion and/or Vote – **Dr. Neil Matkin**

Dr. Matkin - Faculty convocation is tomorrow. During Covid, we learned that communication on why decisions were being made was an issue, so this council was created with everyone at the table to discuss issues and decisions. The original AGS format did not work as intended. We need to revamp AGS to give the council a deciding voice before executive decisions are made. The “AGS Areas for Discussion/Vote” document will guide that.

I would like to push the Oct AGS meeting back about a week before the board retreat to discuss what is going to the board and modify it if necessary.

Faculty Selection procedures - CourseVite especially. We need to improve selection process. Need a system to take facility space, time, course preference into consideration. We need to figure out a way to split faculty preference and need and student completion. Need to map what resources are, where/how utilized, and also equipment gaps.

Policies and other faculty at large - a past ethics policy was perceived as being “snuck in”. Make faculty involved at the front end of the policy decisions.

MYC and evaluation - needs work.

Remaining items - Please discuss.

Dr. King - Take AGS document with you to discuss next month. Laura will work on rescheduling the next meeting where all can meet. Document is self-explanatory. Primarily focus on district-wide initiatives. Previous meetings were more focused on campus-wide. Please bring recommendations.

- Active Shooter Stop the Bleed Kits – **Kimberly Harris**
 - CRASE training discussed that having these in every classroom would save lives.

CRASE training was completed on faculty development day. Feel the kits are imperative. How do we get these on campuses in more locations? Bill suggests getting total # classrooms per campus and unit cost. Look for grant opportunities to help fund. Please have numbers by next month. Steve suggested may not need entire kit. Look into what pieces we actually need. Bill got email with concerns about CRASE training. This is a state curriculum,

not college-developed. All CC trainers are certified by the state to teach. Attending is voluntary, usually positive feedback, but please do provide constructive feedback.

- International Travel Policy – **Kimberly Harris**
 - The current travel policy allows faculty to apply for this only every three years.

Board changed policy to allow funds for travel abroad several years ago (8-10). Currently only allowed every three years. If faculty attends an event outside the US and is invited back, cannot use funds. Can we reassess? Doesn't apply to very many faculty. This caused one faculty member to decline an invitation to return. Perhaps a clause to make it contingent on the invitation to return? Kerry Loinette suggests every other year. Her discipline has a conference that's abroad every other year. Kimberly clarified – the amount doesn't change whether used here or abroad, so why not allow it?

- Committees & Shared Governance – **Kimberly Harris**
 - Keep Faculty Council apprised of all special task forces, committees, and advisory groups formed with faculty membership. Give those faculty who are “tapped” agency to work with Faculty Council to improve communication throughout the district. In some instances, allow Faculty Council to choose a member from the faculty at large to add to the committees.

FC isn't in loop on what people are involved in. Some are being tapped for multiple areas. FC doesn't know who to go to with questions: ex. FC has dual credit committee, there is also another dual credit committee, but no one knows who is on what committee. Causing breakdown in communication to get information to Dr. Johnson from the FC. Minutes for committees that are sent to Carol are posted, so that is updated. Kimberly - issue is when new committees are created ad hoc quickly. *Note – Only committees required by SACSCOC are posted. All other committees must maintain their own lists.*

- Communication to students re: Outstanding Professor (OP) nominations – **Dr. Sukanya Subramanian**
 - Use of social media and Cougar Vision to announce the opening of nominations for OP to encourage student nominations.

CoE honored to oversee OP process but sees the number of student nominations is far less than peer nominations. Gets many student emails asking how to nominate. It would help to use social media/cougar vision to publicize information. Students are social media focused not email focused. Feel might get more students interested. Faculty get their inspiration when students recognize them. TikTok and Instagram are most popular with students. Monica stated can't use TikTok by law so it must be Instagram. Steve - make a request on the communications page for Tricia to facilitate.

Discussion Items

- FDA/Workday issues – **Kimberly Harris**
 - The all-or-nothing with First Day Access is to the detriment of students.

Kimberly asked that we reevaluate. Whole disciplines must make the decision which is a detriment. Not all faculty use FDA, some use Open Access. The all-or-nothing forces either students to pay more or faculty to change texts to accommodate. Falls under Abe. Will get more info.

- Board Policy Update – **Monica Velazquez, J.D.**

The OEP on the board is who advises on policies. 3 ways policies come up for change – TASB sends legal policies as they change or proposes local policy changes. Second, policies are on a 3-year cycle for review. 3rd – people bringing issues/questions about policy implementation.

- First Reading of GD(Local)

Concerns change to the college purpose for 2-year vs 4-year degrees and mission (every 3 years per SACSCOC). Anything of concern with mission statement? The word “valuable” was added to align with HB 8 for completion and performance funding. Bill likes term “work ready students” to describe our mission. Have to ensure workforce students are ready to work the day they graduate. Monica – take back to your committees and discuss. Will come back in October.

- First Reading of AD(Local) - Definition of “Outdoor Common Areas”

The only change is on page 4 of 17. Had complaint from student organization that activities they had planned would not work because of definition of zone (Free speech zone). College tried to come up with rules to prevent disruption of classes, but the parameter was deemed restrictive by the organization. This takes zone from 75 feet to 20 feet. Feedback requested from AGS. Bill - still can't use megaphones, etc. to disrupt teaching. Definitely want feedback from students.

- Grading issue when students are seen by the Dean of Students – **Monica Velazquez, J.D.**

There was concern over students reported for academic dishonesty/integrity that process holds up grading. Kimberly said several faculty have had issues with turning in students (ex. plagiarism) for scholastic dishonesty. Students don't want to answer emails/letters/Z grade, and this stalls the process. DOS response to faculty is to “follow syllabus”, but this tanks students' grade. Faculty want option to put 0 as a placeholder to show students consequence and prompt students to respond to DOS. An additional issue is that faculty get in trouble for not putting in grades during the process as well. Kimberly says deadlines don't work; students just found to not be complying with college policy. We don't want faculty avoiding process and adjudicating it themselves. Cecelia says as a student the 0 is better to get student's attention. Allision- can you put a z in the canvas gradebook? Need more discussion.

- School Marshal Update – **Dr. Bill King**

School marshal began back in 2018. Finally had our first cohort graduate due to Covid-19. First college in state to do so. Anonymity is essential and policy. Being presented to board in executive session. Safety is of utmost importance to Dr. Matkin and him. Also, Go2Green being implemented as a trial at Celina, etc. Safety is never ending. More in MSP document.

- Master & Strategic Plan Update – **Dr. Bill King**

3) Developed over last 9 months by committee. Next board retreat in October to propose to board. Projected construction escalation is 6% per year so time is very important.

4) Culture is to always to be in a mode of continuous improvement. Grow brand and enrollment while ensuring rigor.

5) Master plan focuses on facilities. Strategic plan focuses on stretch goals.

6) HB 8 means it's no longer about intentions, but results. We are capped at 5 baccalaureate degrees by legislature but we will support growth and legislative support in the future.

7) Can't sacrifice rigor to get incremental funding.

8) If we completed all the identified scope at the Plano campus in today's dollars it would be \$113MM, working on multiple project options for the board to consider. We have developed a qualitative and quantitative rubric that will insure that we are making data driven decisions.

10) Dual credit has grown so fast we need to quickly develop better strategies to manage.

Round Robin

No comments from council. Bill is appreciative of the group. Revamped AGS will continue to improve and develop.