Department Meeting Agenda Items October 23, 2020

**Welcome**

Accomplishments since last meeting

Rosalba Ramirez (Department Secretary) was just hired as an Administrative Assistant for VPAA, starting November 2.

**Guest**

Dean Reittinger

Announced results of search for next department chair for continuity and contingency purposes. Marc Hughes will begin training with a goal of being ready to take over by Summer 2021 if necessary.

**Reports**

Curriculum Committee

Not much

Faculty Senate

Not much

Scholarship Committee

Discussion on if we should continue supporting this. Will faculty actually make contributions to back up their vocal support for the scholarship? Donation form was emailed to the entire department for those who wished to make a donation.

**Instructor X**

Ghost IPH sessions (Sign in, sign out, no teaching): This is why we can’t have nice things

A faculty in Building J was caught not teaching any of their IPH classes but still claiming the stipend.

The Reason for the extra HR trainings coming up: The Math faculty arrested by the feds a few weeks ago.

**Sharing is Caring**

Roy & Jessica Gonzalez: BB Ultra

A good overview of what we can expect. Goal is to have all of STC switched over by Fall 2021. Faculty can start building shells in the new format now. Direct copy from old format is not recommended due to compatibility issues. Estimate 15-20 hours to rebuild a new shell in Ultra format.

Vanessa Valdez: Vidgrid

A good overview of what can be done with this tool. Already integrated in Blackboard and free to use. Students can also use this tool, but Vanessa hasn’t explored this far with it yet. She has received positive feedback for using it to narrate a walkthrough of the course shell as well as teaching various material.

**Old Stuff**

Self-Care; status of faculty, staff, and students

<https://studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/counseling/mental-health.html>

Students have access to free counseling services if needed. Faculty also have counseling services covered by their insurance. The link also provides free crisis counseling phone numbers.

Contact Hours in online classes

Some chairs are expressing concern that faculty are using the online only schedule option from the pandemic as an excuse to do minimal work while still drawing full pay. How do we know faculty are doing their jobs? How much time in their online classes is “enough”?

Budget: We did get the same amount as last year. Start submitting requests.

Spring 2021 schedule: updates and pending revisions

A few f2f classes were added on Wednesday. Some DC classes are still being added. November 2 is the deadline for ISDs to request new classes. DC sections will be (re-)assigned after this date.

Synchronous Online classes (up to departments to schedule for Spring 2021, Faculty Senate proposal still TBA)

Updated information: only 6 such sections are allowed for our division. Concern from senior administration is that students might be confused by the additional choices.

This conversation was revisited later in the meeting as a result of an email the chair received from the Dual Credit office. High Schools are complaining about the lack of direct engagement between faculty and students, since all S sections were shifted to online for this semester. High Schools are requesting either synchronous online instruction, or recorded video lectures. Faculty discussion went against the idea of recording lectures, as this is effectively just reading the book to the students, as well as concern that students can edit and re-distribute these videos to make faculty look bad. Another concern was the publisher copyright on support material preventing it from being openly distributed (such as through recorded videos). Faculty were supportive of synchronous online teaching if the logistics of scheduling could be worked out. Faculty reported their experiences with attempting these initiatives this semester, and generally reported poor attendance and engagement from students. The embedded HS teachers report that they are required to do synchronous sessions, but the schools provide so many loopholes for student attendance that actual attendance and engagement is generally low.

OER/ Z Sections (again) and TXDOT. Stipends now available. Next generation of textbook adoptions?

13,000+ TXDOT employees; STC is expecting at least 400 to participate starting in Spring. VPAA has revised the restrictions in the stipends; they now do not count against the faculty’s load limit. Increased pressure from above to offer this format. This lead into a discussion combined with the item at the end of the New Stuff section regarding department standard course shells.

Academic Classification: Anyone else? Next round is in Spring

This item was skipped due to conversation on the previous point.

**New Stuff**

More HR training coming up

Due to the Math faculty being arrested.

Enrollment problems across the country:

<https://www.ccdaily.com/2020/10/community-college-enrollment-plummets/>

Discussion on how various community colleges are responding. Mr. McMillan is now at Tarrant County CC; he reports that aside from classes that require direct instruction (such as the police academy), all other classes are completely online for the entire academic year.

Presidential Executive order possibly affecting STC and other academic institutions:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-combating-race-sex-stereotyping/>

Discussion on response submitted by chair to Council of Chairs to be forwarded to VPAA. In brief, the response expressed concern about the extreme divide being shown in the country right now, and how our department is caught in the middle of this. The CRIJ department remains politically neutral, and believes that all students and faculty should be free to discuss concepts without being considered a racist or an “enemy”. Several examples were related on how CRIJ faculty and students have been mal-treated by other faculty and administration because of this problem and our ill-perceived role in American society.

Distance Learning Advisory Committee Meeting: protecting academic integrity

Some loud voices pushing for removal of all publisher support materials and requiring faculty to create their own assignments (instead of exams) fresh each semester.

Chrome River system

New for travel and other expenses. Either submit something now before Rosalba starts her new job, or wait until the new secretary is hired.

Revising 2+2 with UTRGV: <https://utrgv.smartcatalogiq.com/2020-2021/2020-2021-Undergraduate-Catalog/College-of-Liberal-Arts/Department-of-Criminal-Justice/Criminal-Justice-Minor-Required-Bachelor-of-Science>

Faculty voted to leave it as is.

Curriculum: revise recommended course sequence? <https://lass.southtexascollege.edu/criminal_justice/>

Faculty voted to leave it as is.

BB Ultra: Department standard course shells? Required/Recommended/Freedom

This lead into a larger discussion on our Purpose, Goals, and Standards for our department. After some explorative discussion, it was decided to table the original question of standardized courses and continue the “Department Soul” conversation via email. The final result will be decided in the next department meeting November 20th.

**On the Horizon**

**Department Meetings Dates:** Nov 20, Dec 4 (if needed), Jan 11 (FTR only), Feb 12 (also PD Day), Mar 26, Apr 23, May 7 (if needed)

Conferences:

TACJE virtual conference: <http://tacje.org/> October 26-30

ACJS: April 13-17 in Orlando <https://www.acjs.org/page/Overview2021AM>

Summer and Fall 2021 draft

No request for drafts just yet. We’ve been told to expect 100% online for Summer, and 50/50 split for Fall 2021. As part of Marc’s training, he will practice developing these schedules.

**Workshops**

**Questions**

**Dismiss**

**Homework:**

Acknowledge Faculty Handbook by October 30

Faculty are to report any problems with this to the Department Chair to coordinate a solution with HR.

Equipment and Travel wish lists by November 30

Timeline revised due to promotion of department secretary to VPAA office.

**Links to register for future department meetings:**November 20

<http://apps.esc1.net/ProfessionalDevelopment/STC/Registration/Workshop/155885>

December 4 (if needed)

<http://apps.esc1.net/ProfessionalDevelopment/STC/Registration/Workshop/155886>

January 11 FTR Only

<http://apps.esc1.net/ProfessionalDevelopment/STC/Registration/Workshop/155890>

January 16 Adjuncts and DC Teachers

<http://apps.esc1.net/ProfessionalDevelopment/STC/Registration/Workshop/155892>

February 12 (also PD Day, might be changed to 19th if not allowed as part of PD Day)

<http://apps.esc1.net/ProfessionalDevelopment/STC/Registration/Workshop/155888>

March 26

<http://apps.esc1.net/ProfessionalDevelopment/STC/Registration/Workshop/155893>

April 23

<http://apps.esc1.net/ProfessionalDevelopment/STC/Registration/Workshop/155895>

May 7 (if needed)

<http://apps.esc1.net/ProfessionalDevelopment/STC/Registration/Workshop/155896>