

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 04:05 PM by Jeff Fritz, Faculty Council President. A total of 17 Faculty Council members were present in person with four of those attending via a videoconference link to room A211 at the Hutto Center. An additional three members sent proxies for voting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the February 20, 2014 regular meeting were distributed electronically before the meeting with some paper copies available at the meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes and the minutes were approved as distributed (Motion: Sandra Creech/Second: Pat Clune).

Treasurer's Report: Secretary-Treasurer John White presented the report for the period February 20, 2014 through March 27, 2014.

- The General Operating Account had a beginning balance of \$2938.09. There were no deposits to or disbursements from this account during the period. The ending balance was \$2938.09.
- The Retirement Account had a beginning balance of \$580.37. There were no deposits to or disbursements from this account during the period. The ending balance was \$580.37.
- The College Account (Operating Expenses) had a beginning balance of \$300.35. One disbursement of \$2.25 for copier charges was made. The ending balance was \$298.10.

Committee Reports:

- **Faculty Development Leave Grant:** Lesley Keeling-Olson, Chair
 - No applications were received by the February 01 deadline. As a result, there will be no Faculty Development Leave Grant awarded for 2014-2015. There may be multiple applicants for the award during the 2014-2015 academic year.
- **Faculty Advancement Committee:** Jeff Fritz reported for Karen Robinson, Chair
 - The annual \$2500 allotment from the College as well as an additional \$1500 that Dr. Barron allocated have been distributed or committed. There is no more money available for this academic year.
- **Elections:** John White reported for Maryann Sorey, Chair
 - The ballot will go out by SurveyMonkey next week.
- **Social:** Claudia Turner, Vice President and Chair
 - No report.
- **Faculty Orientation Group:** D. Kirkland, Chair reported via e-mail to Jeff Fritz
 - The FOG requests pre-approval of \$400.00 for use in the upcoming academic year. A pilot version of online orientation will be ready for Fall 2015, including a first-of-the-year checklist and links to Craig Collins' training materials. D. recommended that future election nominations be revised to remove the explicit "full-time" designation from the nominees for FOG, since no other committee had such a designation and the FC Constitution does not have that requirement for any committee.
- **Barnhart Award:** Talma Botts reported for Cynthia Martinez, Chair
 - The request for nominations went out today.
- **Ways and Means:** Bill Cornelius, Chair
 - The Annual Faculty Survey will be sent out electronically soon.
- **Benefits (a TC committee):**
 - No report.
- **Athletic (a TC committee):**
 - No report.
- **Professional Consultation (PCC):** Jeff Fritz, President and Chair
 - The PCC has no current charges and thus no report.
- **Ad hoc committee on Faculty Titles:** Jeff Fritz and Pat Clune reported for Misty Lenox, Chair
 - Report appears under "Unfinished Business" below.
- **Ad hoc committee on Evaluating the Needs of Centers:** Bryce Olivier, Chair
 - Report appears under "Unfinished Business" below.

Unfinished Business:

- **Changes to faculty titles:**
 - The ad hoc committee [Misty Lenox (Chair), Pat Clune, Alyson Crow, Shannon Hill, Jason Locklin, and Brice Olivier] appointed to study this idea has examined possible options and reported four to the FC.
 - (1) All faculty to have the title of Instructor. (current TC practice)
 - (2) All faculty to have the title of Professor.
 - (3) Faculty to have the title of Assistant Professor when hired and automatically receive the title of Associate Professor when granted tenure. After ten years (total) at TC, the faculty member would receive the title of Professor.
 - (4) Any faculty holding a degree below the Master's level would have the title of Instructor, regardless of years of service. Faculty holding a Master's or Doctoral degree would have the title of Assistant Professor when hired and automatically receive the title of Associate Professor when granted tenure. After ten years (total) at TC, a faculty member with a Master's or Doctoral degree would receive the title of Professor.None of these options would involve a change in compensation and the title "Adjunct" would continue as a prefix to

the title of part-time faculty members. In any case (except Option 1), the final decision would be made by the Board of Trustees.

A letter (e-mail) to describe the proposals is almost ready to be distributed and a list of the pros and cons for each proposal is being prepared. Pat Clune reported that the Committee needs more time to tie down the details of the proposals.

- **Evaluation of the Needs and Challenges Faced by EWCHEC Faculty:**

- A concern has been raised that there are situations unique to EWCHEC (Taylor and Hutto Centers) relative to those seen on the Main Campus and that those situations are not being properly addressed and/or that the process of addressing them is more difficult. The creation of an ad hoc committee to be chaired by Brice Olivier to look into this matter was approved at an earlier meeting. The other members of the committee are Christopher Cregar, Susan Dean, Kimberly George, Nick Kocurek, Sudeep Majumdar, Valerie Peyer, and John Simpson. The committee sent an e-mail to all (known) instructors at all four satellite centers (TBI, Cameron, Taylor, and Hutto) and received some input from all four locations. Areas of concern that were reported to the committee included: security (especially at Taylor and Cameron), availability of professional development at the centers, and general concerns about the physical facilities. One additional concern that had not previously been mentioned was that the committee's scope should include dual credit classes taught at high schools. A motion was made, seconded, and passed with no negative votes to expand the committee's scope to include dual credit sections taught at high schools. (Motion: Brice Olivier; Second: Nick Kocurek)
- The committee wants to recommend that a permanent FC committee be created to address these concerns. It was noted that this would require an amendment to the FC Constitution and Bylaws. No action was taken on this proposal.

New Business:

- **Approval of the budget for 2014-2015:**

- The FC Constitution does not require the creation or approval of a formal budget. To better plan for expenditures and to set the dues for the upcoming year (see next item) at an appropriate level, President Fritz prepared a table of projected income and expenses for 2014-2015. Based on the current year's membership of 97 members, a dues rate of \$15 per year would provide \$1455 of "general income" (not including the money provided by the College for operating expenses or for Faculty Advancement). Expected expenses include one catered meal per semester, FOG activities, and the purchase of a brick for the TC Walk of Honor to honor the current year's recipient of the Barnhart Award. Meals (delivered sandwich lunches from Jason's Deli) are costing approximately \$550 per semester. The FOG has requested \$400 to be made available for orientation activities. The scholarship contribution to the College's Presidential Scholarship Fund was estimated to be \$200 based on 2013-2014, but that was noted to have been for four bricks to "catch up" and recognize all Barnhart recipients. These projected total expenses would exceed the income (based on \$15 annual dues) by \$245. No action was taken on a formal budget for the next year, but the information presented shaped the discussion of the approval of dues for 2014-2015.

- **Approval of dues for 2014-2015:**

- The FC Constitution requires that the dues for the upcoming academic year be set at the last regular meeting of the previous year. During the discussion of the budget, it was noted that the current dues level of \$10 per academic year is insufficient to provide two meals of the preferred type (delivered; lighter fare such as sandwiches as opposed to pizza), much less have any funds remaining for other purposes. A motion was made and seconded (Sandra Creech; Lesley Keeling-Olson) to set the FC dues at \$20.00 for the 2014-2015 year. The motion passed without opposition.

Announcements:

- Shannon Sinegal from the Taylor Center announced that a silent auction will be held in April to benefit Relay for Life and that donations are needed and appreciated.
- The next Faculty Council meeting will be on Monday, August 18, 2014 after the All-College Meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by consensus at 04:40 PM

John C. White, Secretary-Treasurer 2013-2014 and 2014-2015