Faculty Association Zoom Meeting: May 12, 2020

Rather than college representative reports given, multiple conversations were held on the following topics:

1. **Approval of the last meeting’s minutes** – Diana made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 5th, 2020 Zoom meeting, Fabian second, unanimous approval with no abstentions.

2. **Academic Senate** – Mark reports that there was a meeting between the 3 Academic Senate Presidents, the Presidents from each college, and the Chancellor regarding an addendum to summer 2020. This addendum is to discuss the classes that are typically not taught online to be offered online. Due to the emergency of the pandemic, these classes do not follow the typical DE & curriculum process.

3. A message that outlines the course caps for fall 2020 is set to be sent out to RCCD by the District.

4. There will be a District Strategic Planning council meeting on Friday where institutional support for accessibility will be addressed.

5. **Open hearing case** – a faculty member, presented their case for the Faculty Association Executive Board. Some members asked questions and instructed them to double-check their job description regarding responsibilities listed in it. It was reminded that administration has the right of assignment. The union is not able to go against an assignment that is within the scope and alignment to the job description for which the faculty member was hired for.

6. **Elections** – The two-week online voting period for the Faculty Association elections is set to close on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.
7. **Accessibility** – Rhonda stated that when students upload assignments on Canvas, if the upload is not deemed accessible by ALLY, it can lower your overall ALLY score. Again, this is an example of something that is flagged by ALLY that does not influence the actual accessibility of your course content. Diana explained that it could be due to the way that students upload their assignments.

8. Peter – do unpublished files and pages still lower your score? Rhonda explained yes, unpublished content is still assessed by ALLY and is part of your score. She is frustrated with the absurd amount of vigilance that faculty must take to make sure that their scores do not change as the semester continues. It seems like a never-ending battle.

9. **Chair elections** – Peter asked, can a contract faculty member serve as chair if they are voted in by their peers? Yes, on page 88 of the contract, “Eligibility. A Department Chair shall be selected from regular members as defined in Article I, Section D, who are assigned to the affected department. A contract faculty member shall be eligible only where the department (by majority vote) provides compelling reasons in writing to the President.”

10. **Science labs** – Monica explained the tentative plan for providing the Norco science labs in the fall 2020 semester by following social distancing. Since the labs will need to be spread out so that the students are six feet apart, scheduling will be more difficult, and the faculty member will need to spend longer hours supervising them. This seems like it will require more compensation for those extended hours.

11. **DE reassigned time** – Jeff asked whether the .2 reassigned time for the DE chairs has gone into effect. Rhonda explained that that has been negotiated and hopefully that will be an incentive for faculty to serve in that role, especially given the increased responsibility for that position.

12. **AB 705** – Jeff asked about the professional development compensation for training faculty for AB 705 and if that can be extended past the original year is was negotiated for. This is especially helpful for new and part-time faculty and the need still exists.

13. **Student equity chairs** – do student equity chairs get reassigned time? It does not seem that they do at Norco, Riverside, or Moreno Valley. It seems that since this position is part of the 10 + 1, then it should be compensated.

14. **Parking fees** – Dariush reported that there has been an agreement with the District regarding the parking fees that the district will cease deducting monthly parking fees from paychecks effective immediately due to campus closures.

15. **State budget** – Rhonda reports that the state will see a 55 million-dollar deficit because of the pandemic. The May revision will mostly likely be delayed until July 15 and we will see many updates until then.
16. Fabian reports that K-14 will mostly likely see devastating cuts worse than in 2009. During times of major layoffs, there tends to be an increase in college attendance. Which will lead to more students and less course offerings.

17. Rhonda shared the projected revenue loss and it is almost double what it was during the Great Recession. The Governor’s new budget proposal does not fund COLA but we will still receive our 2% for full-time and 2.5% part-time contractual salary increases.

18. Peter reported that there is a concern from some part-time faculty that classes could get cut right before the semester and the increased amount of workload that it takes for online teaching. This seems like an issue that the Faculty Association will need to explore.

19. Dariush discussed the challenges the Faculty Association will be facing when negotiating our collective bargaining agreement when it will expire at the end of upcoming academic year during economic downturn due to Covid-19.

20. **Archived syllabi** – A question was asked about librarians using submitted syllabi to look for potential books to order for the library. One suggestion is for librarians to contact the bookstore or look at the bookstore website that has a section for required textbooks. Another suggestion is to look at the OER. However, it was agreed that participation in this collaboration between librarians and faculty needs to be voluntary.

21. **Faculty Association meeting attendance** – a faculty contacted Emily regarding whether the meetings can be attended by faculty or if they can be recorded. The minutes are recorded and sent out as a way to communicate the matters that were discussed. In the fall 2020 semester, our zoom meetings will be alternating between colleges where all faculty from each college will be invited. For the rest of spring, it was agreed by the Executive Board that faculty are welcome to attend, if you are interested in attending a zoom meeting, please reach out to your representative and a link will be sent to you. There is a concern of zoom being overwhelmed with attendance or zoom “bombing” occurring.