

MDECOE FACULTY COUNCIL

MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2019 1-3PM Fleming Conference Room

Attendees: Ivor Weiner (President), Will Garrow, Jordan Eickman, Virginia Kennedy, Nathan Durdella, Rachael Friedman-Narr, Sandra Chong, Julie Gainsburg, Joannie Busillo-Aguayo, Shyrea Minton, and Shari Tarver-Behring (Ex-Officio, Interim Dean)

- **Welcome** (1:05 – 1:10 pm)
 - There are no minutes from 11-4-19 as the meeting was cancelled in solidarity with our Deaf Studies' council members who were not provided access due to only one interpreter present.

- **Dean's Report**
 - **Interpreters:** Dean's Office hired a full-time interpreter staff member to cover 6 faculty and will further request additional interpreter staff.
 - **Sabbatical:** Dean's Office worked with the Provost office to reinstate number of sabbatical's available for faculty in the COE.
 - **Chief Murphy:** will attend the MDECOE Self-Care event on 12/2.
 - **Saugus High School:** Dean reported that many of our students were at the site at the time of the shooting and that Strength United was on the frontline to provide trauma support.

- **Review of 2019-2020 Themes and Words Generated at our 9-16-19 Meeting**
 - Faculty Council Members agreed to table this work until after the 12/2 meeting.

- **Review of Incomplete Initiatives and Assign Workgroups**
 - Public Safety Report
 - **Deaf Studies Concerns** reported by Jordan and Will. Three main areas addressed in their report (submitted to Ivor):
 - **Workload**
 - The current staff ratio of faculty to students is 1:95 compared to 1:25 for ethnic studies programs on campus.
 - Will expressed challenges faculty experience due to DFST department personnel procedures and interpretation by college personnel committee and PPR about who can serve as an external reviewer for publications/contributions to the field. Increased awareness and support from college personnel procedures would help advocate for DFST faculty at the PPR level.
 - There is high attrition of DFST faculty who seek positions that only require MA degree and less emphasis on publication. Suggested consideration of establishing terminal degree for DFST faculty to MA due to extreme shortage of faculty with an earned PhD in Deaf Studies (only 3 in the U.S.). There is a need to change the terminal degree in order to hire FT faculty. CSUN has the largest Deaf Studies program in the U.S. and currently faculty have to either overenroll

MDECOE FACULTY COUNCIL

their courses or teach higher number of units per semester. Also, because of faculty workload, it is difficult for faculty to participate in University and College committee work.

- **Visual Alert System**
 - Need for videophones in all classrooms, elevators, hallways, faculty offices, DFST offices, dorms, and elsewhere on campus.
 - Blue emergency column lights are not accessible to Deaf and Deaf/Blind students. There are currently only 4 TTY phones located on campus blue column lights. Students reported that there are no alert lights in the dorms. Students report that emergency alerts from CSUN are delayed for Deaf students.
 - **Recommendations:** Install color coded lights in classrooms, offices, elevators, etc. that alert students and faculty to specific emergency (e.g., red-fire, etc.). Improve communication between Deaf students and faculty and police services/911 to include other means of communication in addition to text messages.
- **Building Safety Issues**
 - No peepholes on office doors is a safety concern as faculty have to open the door to determine who is outside. Classrooms with glass walls could enable students and faculty to observe if there are threats, which is impeded in rooms with closed walls.
 - **Recommendations:** Remove smoky glass divider in courtyard; consider use of emergency strobe lights as they are more visible; reconfigure seating in classrooms to create an open pathway for students who may need to exit the room quickly; install emergency exits for the second floor offices and classrooms
- **Letter to Provost**
 - Letter is in final draft stages and once the final changes are completed and approved, the letter will be sent to the Provost.
- **ESAC Bylaw Revision**
 - Ivor raised the question if BLaws are significantly changed for ESAC (or EFAC) does this require a vote by all COE faculty? There is currently no section in the Faculty Council By-Laws that addresses this. Ivor will work with Virginia and Sandra to submit a draft proposal with additional Faculty Council Bylaws that would specify procedures for approval of significant changes in ESAC or EFAC By-Laws.
- **FC Bylaw Revisions (Virginia and Sandra)**
 - Ivor created a side-by-side matrix for By-Laws (Sections 1.0 through 2.9) that compares current and proposed policies.

MDECOE FACULTY COUNCIL

- **Ethnic Studies AB1460 Impact on Deaf Studies Briefing – Will Garrow**
 - Would require every student in the CSU to take an ethnic studies course. There is an advising group of faculty on campus working on developing recommendations for SLOs. There will be a need for faculty on campus who can mentor and advise students about courses to take that support their majors. There is no expected impact on students as they can double count units. There should be no impact on faculty as the course is not listed as a GE course and it is not expected to increase demand or class size. Over 78% of students in DFST transfer from a community college and their lower division GE units are certified. Will raised concern about the quantitative reasoning proposal currently being considered by the Chancellor’s Office and the Board of Trustees.

- **President’s Report**
 - **Dec 2 Meeting Format**
 - Ivor led a discussion on the format and possible agenda (e.g., revised Faculty Council By-Laws, Public Safety report, DFST concerns, and Faculty Council goals) for the 12/2 Faculty Council/College Meeting.
 - Coordination of technology (e.g., Zoom, recording, and accessibility) was discussed. There was unanimous agreement that ensuring complete accessibility for faculty in DFST was essential – Ivor will consult with MDECOE technology to ensure that everything is coordinated in advance.

 - **Chief Murphy’s Visit**
 - Discussion about priorities for Chief Murphy’s visit. Faculty Council will request that he prepare and discuss updates and current status of items discussed with Faculty Council. Of importance, is why CSUN is not having regular drills on campus with faculty, staff, and students. What can be done now, and what will be done to address issues in the future.

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- **Announcements - none**
- **Hallway Comments and Discussion - none**

- **Adjourn (2:50pm)**

Next Meeting: **December, 2; 1-3PM.**

MDECOE FACULTY COUNCIL

NOTE: DECEMBER 2 MEETING IS AN **OPEN MEETING**. FACULTY MEMBERS WILL JOIN US IN PERSON AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM