

Lincoln University Faculty Regular Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022 12:30 p.m.

ZOOM Call (Remote)

Patricia A. Joseph, Ph.D.
Provost and Dean of the Faculty
Presiding

The meeting was called to order by Provost Joseph at 12:30 p.m. The meeting was held on Zoom. Quorum was achieved at the start of the meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Approval of the agenda with amendments via votes taken via survey on Zoom.
 - i. Add CETL Announcement by Dr. Fu
 - ii. Substitute Dr. Showell for Dr. Carla Gallagher for the Honors, Awards, and Honorary Degrees Committee Announcement
 - iii. Add Faculty Council Announcement by Dr. Pelliccio

B. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the minutes from the December 6, 2021 regular faculty meeting via survey on Zoom with a correction, noted below.
 - i. Correction: the second friendly amendment to ILO.3 (in Section 4.b of the December 6, 2021 minutes) faculty voted to approve.

C. Provost-Dean Joseph led faculty in a moment of silence for Professor Timothy Chambers and Dr. Solomon Caudle who recently passed.

D. ACTION ITEMS

- a. *General Education Committee – ILO3 word change.*
 - i. Faculty voted to approve friendly amendment to add “political beliefs” to ILO.3.
 - ii. Faculty voted to approve ILO.3 with all three friendly amendments. The full, faculty-approved ILO.3 follows: “Diversity and Cultural Awareness recognizes the lives, contributions, struggles, and lived experiences of people of African descent throughout history in addition to the cultural contributions of people from all backgrounds, including but not limited to those of different ages, ethnicities, races, national origins, abilities, genders, language preferences, religions, sexual identities, and political beliefs. Outcomes: Through developing such an awareness, students will be able to: • Demonstrate an open-minded and inclusive worldview • Explain how social and cultural differences shape lived experience • Develop skills necessary for collaboration across culturally diverse groups.”
- b. *Nominations Committee – Nominations for Vacancies.*

Dr. Limb opened nominations. Individuals were nominated for the three open positions. Voting will be conducted via email within the next 48 hours.

E. DISCUSSION ITEM

- a. *Cengage Survey*. Dr. Gardner asked faculty to fill in the Cengage Survey to help improve Cengage. Link to survey:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5fe16eaca52a4486ac0691cb31351ca3>

F. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. *Honors, Awards, and Honorary Degrees Committee*. Dr. Showell discussed progress on Honorary Degrees and shared the rubric for selecting Honorary Degree nominees and the shortlist of nominees. Faculty may send their feedback to the committee. The Lindback Award will be awarded this cycle and more information will be forthcoming.
- b. *CETL*. Dr. Fu introduced Magna Publications to the faculty. Magna produces online content to support teaching and learning. Faculty have access to the content using the Lincoln institutional account. Workshops are forthcoming. Dr. Fu attached an informational packet to the chat.
- c. *Faculty Council*. Dr. Pelliccio announced that OIERP will be sending out the annual survey to committees to report on the happenings of each committee.

G. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

- a. President Allen discussed the impact of the omicron variant of Covid-19 on operations at the University. Lincoln is using science to move forward. Aramark and Thompson employees are being tested. Only people who are in contact with a positive case will be informed by contact tracing.
- b. Approximately 97-98% of campus members have been vaccinated against covid-19. At this point, no student will be allowed to return to campus unless they are fully vaccinated and have uploaded their data to the portal. Indoor masking is still important.
- c. Students will begin returning to campus soon. All students need a negative PCR test within 72 hours to return to campus and then will begin a weekly testing regimen. Individuals with an exemption, will need to test twice a week. There is a progressive disciplinary system to enforce testing.
- d. Once students return, there will be a protocol for leaving campus to maintain a bubble. The latest pandemic data predicts that illnesses should peak by mid-February. Lincoln is ready to contain and mitigate the pandemic here while maintaining the highest level of campus interaction with students.
- e. Because of the modified spring calendar, there will be no Spring Break this year. This action will help to limit travel and to lessen the risk of transmission. This also allows us to maintain the contract year for faculty. Faculty Council will be working on a plan to have a few days off from classes at some point in the semester for Mental Health Days campus activities.
- f. Dr. Donohue asked whether course offerings need to be adjusted since last fall, 450+ students had not yet enrolled for the spring. President Allen said no

adjustments are anticipated because 87% of students were registered as of Monday.

- g. Chief Partee said that the university will follow CDC guidelines for Covid-19 mitigation recommendations.
- h. Dr. Gaither-Hardy asked about cleaning protocol for Dickey Hall. Chief Partee said that he discussed this with the cleaning service.
- i. In response to Dr. Tucho's question about testing at SACE, Chief Partee said that they are setting up a testing site at SACE.
- j. Dr. Deas asked if cloth masks will be permitted, Chief Partee said yes with a double mask. Surgical masks will be available to layer.
- k. Dr. James Gallagher asked, on behalf of union, about what will happen with student absences during CIAA. Often CIAA falls during Spring Break, but Spring Break has been cancelled this year. President Allen said that the Department of Athletics is at work on this, and it depends on team rankings at the time of the tournament.
- l. Dr. Chieke Ihejirika asked what changes to Covid protocols have happened since last semester. Chief Partee said the university will continue to follow CDC regulations and President Allen emphasized the importance of hand-washing.
- m. Dr. Pelliccio asked if the quarantine time frame has changed given that the CDC has changed guidelines. Chief Partee said that they will follow the CDC guidelines conservatively given the residential nature of Lincoln.
- n. Dr. Cerin asked who will monitor student wristbands that indicate testing status, Chief Partee said that ultimately the responsibility falls on the Covid-19 Taskforce.
- o. Dr. Emmanuel Ihejirika asked if off campus testing counts for faculty. Chief Partee asked faculty to come to campus to be tested.
- p. Dr. Donohue asked when can faculty get tested and if can they return to campus before getting tested. President Allen said that the test center is open and faculty can come in and get tested on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before coming back to work on campus. Dr. Donohue also asked if faculty should get tested if they have tested positive for covid in the past 90 days. Chief Partee said yes, even if you are in the 90-day window after a Covid-19 infection, you still need to test.
- q. Dr. Gamie asked about testing protocol for people who are in close contact with a positive case, such as a family member. President Allen said that testing protocol will be adapted to the specific situation of each positive case.

H. PROVOST - DEAN'S REMARKS.

- a. Provost-Dean Joseph thanked presenters and wished everyone a good start to their semester and a safe return to campus.

I. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM on December 14.

Juan Martinez-Millan, Secretary