

Lincoln University Faculty Regular Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2021 12:30 p.m.

ZOOM Call (Remote)

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

The meeting was called to order by Dean 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 via votes taken via survey on Zoom.

B. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the minutes from the September 7, 2021 regular faculty meeting via survey on Zoom.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Dr. Baskerville updated faculty on Faculty Council's recommendation regarding the Mental Health Days presented by the Student Government Association. The students asked for October 11 off to observe Mental Health Day; however, Faculty Council recommended postponing it to a later date due to scheduling conflicts. The SGA asked for a permanent Orange and Blue Mental Health Day to be included in the academic calendar in future years. There is a 15-week instructional requirement, so adding mental health days would add to the academic calendar. Faculty Council proposed a survey to faculty about Mental Health Days.

- b. Nominations Committee

- i. Dr. Limb presented the remaining openings on committees, which were filled by nominations during the faculty meeting.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Baskerville announced that at the end of AY2020-2021, the Department of History, Political Science, Philosophy and Religion was mutually split into the following two new departments:
[1] The Political Science department (Dr. Chieke Ihejirika serves as Interim Chairperson)
[2] The History, Pan Africana Studies, Philosophy and Religion department (Chaired by Dr. Gwinyai Muzorewa)

E. DISCUSSION ITEM

- a. None

F. FACULTY STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES / REPORTS

- a. Honors, Awards, and Honorary Degree Committee. Dr. Showell announced that the committee is accepting nominations for honorary degrees. She shared a list of nominees that were submitted after the deadline last year. October 15 is the deadline for this year.

G. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

- a. President Allen thanked faculty members for taking on the responsibility of committee membership.
- b. The University now has a vaccine mandate as a requirement for returning to campus in January.
- c. Tower Health has announced they will be closing Jennersville Hospital, which will affect the University's proximity to healthcare.
- d. The University's Covid dashboard is based on the information uploaded by campus members. Fifty percent of campus has uploaded their information to the portal, and the Covid taskforce is working on increasing participation.
- e. Chief Partee discussed the University's Covid dashboard. The University has performed almost 4000 tests on campus since August, which is above the national standard for surveillance testing. So far, the highest number of cases in one week was four, none of whom was a student. The University has also been certified as a Covid vaccine provider.
- f. President Allen thanked Faculty Council for their work with SGA on Mental Health Days.
- g. President Allen thanked the General Education Committee for their work revising the General Education curriculum. These revisions will help achieve equity for students and help faculty better distribute the workload.
- h. President Allen thanked faculty for their attention to helping students with the unprecedented mental health aspect of the Covid pandemic.
- i. President Allen recognized Director of Admissions Ms. Nikoia Ford '11 for her work combining admissions on campus and at SACE.
- j. In response to a comment made by a non-faculty member in the chat, President Allen noted that the faculty meeting is not an appropriate forum for this discussion.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Dr. Muhammed announced that the Underground Railroad Submission deadline is October 15, 2021. Conference submissions are open to all.
- b. Dr. Rainey noted that Health Services emails faculty directly on behalf of students experiencing health-related absences.

I. DEAN'S REMARKS.

- a. Dean Joseph encouraged all faculty standing committees to begin meeting now that every committee has the full number of members. Dr. Pelliccio will check in with Faculty Standing Committees as the Faculty Council liaison.
- b. Dean Joseph reinforced President Allen's comments that the meeting is open to all, but protocol should be followed if people have concerns.
- c. Dean Joseph thanked Dr. Rainey and Chief Partee for attending the meeting to directly address questions about Covid, and encouraged faculty to find the generous spot for students struggling with mental health.

J. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting adjourned at 12:41 PM on October 5.

Juan Martinez-Millan, Secretary