Lincoln University Faculty Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2024; 12:30 p.m. John Miller Dickey Hall Auditorium, Room 136

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

The meeting was called to order by Provost and Dean of Faculty, Dr. Patricia Joseph, at 12:35 p.m. Dr. Joseph gave a brief overview of the agenda and called for adjustments. After approval of the agenda with amendments, she then turned the meeting over to vice chairperson of the faculty council, Dr. Larycia Hawkins, who facilitated the meeting in place of the chairperson of the faculty council, Dr. Sam Williams. The quorum requirement was satisfied.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- The agenda was amended to include two announcements; and two general announcements.
- The agenda was approved with the modifications.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• The October 1, 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

FACULTY COUNCIL

- Dr. Hawkins noted that the faculty council meeting minutes were approved.
- She noted that at the Department Chairs Meeting time blocks were mentioned.
- The Student Government Association (SGA) provided students to be assigned to faculty committees.
- Dr. Hawkins highlighted information received by the faculty council from faculty committees. Discussed with the
 Admissions, Academic Standing, and Financial Aid committee about having students take the math placement
 exams, courses, earlier. Discussed with Student Health Committee how students would be cared for during the
 Break.
- Free Speech and Recording policies were discussed, and approved; though, it was noted that, for the Recording Policy, there needs to be an alternative for students with ADA accommodations if instructor doesn't want to be recorded.
- It was noted that the faculty representative was not at the last Board of Trustees meeting

ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Nora Gardner introduced two Swahili courses, Swahili 1000 and 1002; though, she noted that elementary
Swahili I and II were previously on the books and were just being resurrected. Both courses were approved by
voice vote, with no abstentions or no votes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Dr. Brandi Berry announced a name change for the Department of Mass Communications to Department of Communications, citing the change came out of the program review.

FACULTY STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES / REPORTS

- Dr. Viridiana Herrera of the Research and Development Committee announced a grant writing workshop on November 7. She encouraged new faculty to attend; but, if could not, the meeting would be recorded.
- Dr. William Donohue of the Writing Committee reminded the faculty body of the revision of the Writing Proficiency Program (WPP), noting that while the Writing Portfolio component of the program was no longer in effect, the general education component (ENG1001 & ENG1002) and two writing intensive courses remain part of the WPP. He noted that 47 courses have been certified (list on website); but, not all departments programs have submitted writing intensive courses, and the Writing Committee will reach out to the individual departments. A question arose about assessment of writing; Dr. Donohue noted that the assessment is done through the writing intensive courses. Working with Faculty Council so that discipline—specific rubrics will be developed with each department.
- Dr. Gordon Stillman of the Curriculum Committee noted that the committee received 202 syllabi to be reviewed. He mentioned, and briefly showed, a spreadsheet detailing, by department or program, the syllabi received and where they are in the approval process. A question arose regarding feedback. It was noted that Nancy Smith provides feedback before Curriculum Committee meetings.

REQUESTED UPDATES / REPORTS

- Dr. Harrison Johnson and Maya Mapp from the Registrar's Office discussed updates, and showed, a chart
 detailing steps for Academic Matters, now available on the Registrar's website. They noted that this document
 would be updated frequently.
- Drs. Nora Gardner and Lennie Amores discussed details on the university's textbook options with Cengage. They
 noted benefits, such as media libraries, ability to set up sections, test banks, as well as no additional cost to
 students. They also noted, and provided, FAQ sheets for both faculty and students. There will be a Lunch &
 Learn with Cengage reps on November 21, 2024 in Grim Hall 212.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS

- Dr. Brenda Allen inquired about who voted.
- Dr. Allen encouraged the faculty body to look into Cengage, noting the cost benefit as well as the importance of access to resources for students.
- Dr. Allen noted the WPP changes and the Writing Committee recommendations and role in addressing issues, concerns with the previous portfolio and current student assessment.
- Dr. Allen mentioned the IT issues this semester, sharing that Lincoln is not the only university dealing with such issues; outside agencies are involved to resolve the issues.
- Dr. Allen highlighted the Election Day activities at the ICC, emphasizing student engagement.
- Dr. Allen discussed the Free Speech and Recording policies. Regarding the Recording policy, she reiterated that it was written to be consistent with state law. Regarding the Free Speech policy, Dr. Allen noted that the policy came about due to the incident with a student mural last Spring. There was a need for parameters to manage discourse, and the Board of Trustees wanted both faculty and the student body to add input. Dr. Allen praised the effort of the students to help put together a policy.

- A question arose on posting flyers, with Dr. Allen noting how the policy addresses the matter.
- A question arose on the IT issues coinciding with a change in the IT director and outsourcing. While noting that the equipment is from/operated by outside companies, Dr. Allen emphasized that the IT department consists of the same individuals as before the issues.
- A question arose on cyberbullying. Dr. Allen stated the University policy would be updated but cyberbullying had been previously addressed; students simply need to be reminded.
- Regarding Fall Break, Dr. Allen noted the University would be open that week, and students can stay on campus. And, with Fall Break, falling right before finals, Dr. Allen noted that faculty have discretion with their finals.
- Dr. Allen gave an update on the 4-credit model transition. Noted a timeline for the remainder of the process as well as asked faculty to share their experiences thus far to improve implementation.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Joseph congratulated the Curriculum Committee on their work thus far this semester.
- Nancy Smith from OIERP offered thanks for inclusion in the Curriculum Committee reviews. She also reminded the faculty body about the Campus Climate Survey needed for accreditation, encouraging faculty to complete it as well as remind students to complete it.

ADJOURNMENT

• The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Joseph at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Dr. Ray Saunders, Faculty Secretary.



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