



Minutes
RCCDFA/CCA/CTA/NEA
August 31, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Present	Absent
Rhonda Taube (RCCD Faculty Association President)	
Emily Philippsen (Secretary)	
Lee Nelson (Treasurer)	
Fabian Biancardi (MVC VP)	
Jeff Rhyne (MVC FT Rep)	
Angelica Barraza (Interim MVC PT Rep)	
Darius Haghghat (RIV VP)	
Garth Schultz (RIV FT Rep)	
Wyn Moreno (RIV PT Rep)	
Peter Boelman (NC VP)	
Araceli Covarrubias (NC FT Rep)	
Diana Campuzano (NC PT Rep)	
Faculty Guests	

- 1) Call to Order 1:00 pm
- 2) **President's Report: Rhonda Taube** – Rhonda reminded that is open enrollment for Benefits is until 9/15. Edwina Cardenas sends out emails with information about our benefits packages and encourages everyone to attend.
- 3) Rhonda reported that some department chairs have received faculty exemptions that needed to be signed for a religious or medical exemption from vaccination. Rhonda explained that chairs do not approve exemptions, but need to be in the loop for scheduling purposes.
- 4) Rhonda advised that the Executive Board needs to update the MOU regarding IOI and Evaluations since not only has the contract language slightly changed, but we also need to consider extending online evaluations, as our previous MOU expired in spring of 2021.

Moreno Valley College

- 5) **Fabian Biancardi** – Fabian reported that everything seems to be running smoothly with the process of students in the in-person classes. There still needs to be better communication from the college regarding some of the hiccups.
- 6) **Jeff Rhyne** – Jeff reported that President Steinback will be starting the cabinet Zoom townhall meetings again to report on and answer questions related to safety on campus. This practice will help keep communication more consistent and transparent. He encourages MVC faculty to attend these if they are available.
- 7) Jeff will pick up more printed copies of the new contract for faculty in Moreno Valley College.
- 8) Jeff is still frustrated with the slow process of an investigation because the delay is adding more stress to the faculty involved.
- 9) Jeff reported that some faculty offices were moved to the new welcome center which was originally set-up for counseling. VP Lopez and VP Sweeten are working with the faculty to make sure that the new offices are set-up for faculty meeting with students.
- 10) Some chairs have asked Jeff about how they will be compensated for the extra time that was negotiated in the Return to Campus 2021 MOU. Will it be automatic or will chairs need to initiate the process to their IDS?
- 11) Dariush clarified that there are four different types of compensation for faculty: for the extra work that chairs are doing during the fall 2021 term, for faculty who are having to convert their course to online last minute, for faculty that worked in the welcome booths during the first week of the fall term, and for faculty that have had to move their course online for two weeks due to a Covid exposure (they can be compensated for up to five hours for each time that this happens). Faculty need to contact their dean for this compensation. Dariush suggested that he will contact the District Payroll services and Academic institution getting clarifications in the processes for these compensations. In the meantime, faculty need to contact their division deans for these compensations.
- 12) Jeff has had some faculty ask about more notification about Covid exposures. Some faculty suggested a District dashboard for total case numbers or letters to faculty that are exposed. It seems that are different processes for each department and division.
- 13) Dariush suggested the notification processes have been nothing short of a nightmare and is all over the place. The notifications are being sent to different stakeholders from different groups and some individuals have decided to forward

those notifications to different groups of individuals and as such there is so much confusion and panic and anxiety among some stakeholders. To avoid adding more fuel to that flame, the Association has suggested that the notifications should be directly shared to those individuals who have been exposed preferably by the Risk management office as well as the area deans in case of faculty exposure.

- 14) Emily reported that a faculty member contacted her regarding the district email that is sent to faculty when they have been exposed. This email asks for information about the class meeting and the students that attended. Rhonda advised for all faculty to respond to as many of the questions from this District email as they can because it helps with contact tracing. Rhonda also reminded faculty to take attendance for each in-person class meeting so that there is a record.
- 15) A faculty asked if there was an expectation for seating charts in in-person classes. Rhonda replied that there is not expectation but some classes do.
- 16) A few faculty members have been contacted by their students that they were exposed and are not able to come to class per a District email but the faculty themselves were not notified. Sometimes a student could be exposed outside of the classroom and not actually expose the class. It can be even more complicated due to the fully or partial vaccination or having symptoms versus no symptoms. There needs to be more clarification on students that are in multiple classes.
- 17) **Angelica Barraza** – A faculty member asked if part-time faculty are considered classified employees. Rhonda replied that part-time faculty are not classified employees and that faculty are separate from staff.

Norco College

- 18) **Peter Boelman** – Peter reported that there were more faculty asking about office hours. Faculty need to make their office hours proportionate to their online and face-to-face courses.
- 19) **Araceli Covarrubias** – Araceli reported that Mark DeAsis, Dean of Admissions and Records at Norco College was very helpful with getting students added into courses.

Riverside City College

- 20) **Dariush Haghghat** – Dariush reported that the Faculty Association issued a Demand to Bargain to the Chancellor regarding being in compliance for students with disabilities exemptions. A Side Letter of Agreement was signed and sent out to stakeholders. Exemptions include alternative courses or weekly testing for courses that do not have alternatives.

- 21) Dariush reported that there is a concern about the lack of check points for students. The administration reported that there is not enough staff to cover the check points. It was suggested that student workers might be a solution for this issue.
- 22) Dariush reported that faculty have contacted him to push for all classes to be put online. Dariush emphasized that the Board of Trustees will not go against the back to campus MOU. The union is not administration and cannot make those decisions to overturn what the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees have mandated. Dariush suggested that some individuals are trying to play hero by selling false promises to others and spreading unsubstantiated rumors. Dariush finds such behavior reckless and irresponsible. As educators we must deal with facts and credible and meaningful information.
- 23) Dariush wanted to express his and Association's heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Christopher Blackmore and his incredible IT team who worked around the clock finding solutions and resolving all the problems the registration freeze proposed and initiated by others had created for faculty and students. The registration freeze was discussed in a meeting that took place in a meeting of the representatives of key stakeholders by some individuals who have very good intentions. But the whole thing created so many unforeseen problems that took the several days by Mr. Blackmore and his IT team to fix. The Association does not wish to point figure at any one about this problem since we are convinced the intention for such course of action was sincere and noble. But the Association wishes to express its heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Blackmore and his IT team for their diligent work in resolving those problems.
- 24) **Garth Schultz** – Garth asked about whether department meetings needed to be in-person or Zoom? Rhonda clarified that it should be up to the individual departments.
- 25) Garth reported that one of the testing centers is the cafeteria and there is concern about a potentially positive student could be walking through campus for testing. It seems that it would make sense to move the testing center to a place that is more accessible.
- 26) **Secretary: Emily Philippsen** – No report.
- 27) **Treasurer: Lee Nelson** – Lee is working on the financial report and it will be completed soon.
- 28) **Open Hearing** – A faculty member would like the IOI process be updated for the fall 2021 term since so much has changed since last year.
- 29) **California Community College Association (CCA)** – No report.

30) **Closed Session** – Three items were discussed.
31) Adjourned at 2:15 pm