

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

September 23, 2021 (virtual)

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Open Discussion – What is on your mind? What do we need to talk about for the general good of our faculty?
- IV. Adjournment

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021 (virtual)

- I. Call to order: 3:00
- II. In attendance: Kathy Chargualaf, Carol Cruz, Eric Chong, Debby Ellen
- III. Open:
 1. One concern noted was to have better or clearer communication with and guidance from admin. For example, it wasn't clear in August who could or wouldn't be denoted as Faculty Senate member. The confusion seems to be linked to a change in contract language (ex: Faculty Senate as Institutional Committee), rather than elected members – based on previous Faculty Senate bylaws.
 2. The other concern was related to the Standards-Based Grading, which is beginning to be implemented in high schools. The question was raised on who should address this – admin or Faculty Senate? We will explore this.
 3. Questions related to resources and supplies for secondary classrooms. Some were ordered two years ago. Sanitizing materials are provided by GDOE, but there were some questions raised on the status of other orders (i.e. computers, paper, and toner). Folks might want to check with their department chairs on this.
- IV. Adjournment: 3:40

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

October 12, 2021 (Virtual)

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll call
- III. Old Business
 - A. Standards-Based Grading
- IV. New Business
- V. Open
- VI. Adjourn

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021 (Virtual)

- I. Call to order: 3:03
- II. In attendance: Carol Cruz, Debby Ellen
- III. Old Business
 - A. Standards-Based Grading: Carol talked with Associate Dean Christine and with Dean Pilar regarding the SBGs. One key concern was about sharing GCC's SLOs as part of noting progress. Dean Pilar and AD Christine suggested creating an ad hoc committee to look into this. AD Christine brought this up at the recent AAD meeting. We wondered about the wisdom in creating a separate committee for this, whereas we (as Faculty Senate) could address the questions arising from SBGs. Debby checked with previous President Simone Bollinger on this. She supported the idea of Faculty Senate taking the lead on SBGs. Carol supported the idea of moving SBG concerns to Faculty Senate.
- IV. New Business – Nothing noted
- V. Open – Nothing noted
- VI. Adjourn: 3:30

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

October 21, 2021

Virtual

- I. Call to order
- II. Attendance
- III. Old Business
 - A. Standards-Based Grading
- IV. New Business
- V. Open
- VI. Adjournment

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2021

Virtual

- I. Call to order: 4:00
- II. In attendance: Eric Chong, Carol Cruz, Debby Ellen
- III. Old Business
 - A. Standards-Based Grading: If A.D. Christine and Dean Pilar prefer creating an ad hoc committee to address SBGs, each Faculty Senate member (Eric, Carol, Kathy, and I) will join the committee. We would see the ad hoc committee as being temporary. Eric and Carol suggested that they come up with a plan of action that could be used by all Secondary CT programs/instructors. They suggested that Vicky Schrage be invited into the conversation and planning to come up with a template for the SBGs. Eric said that he and Carol would meet Tuesday, October 26th at 2:00pm to finalize.
- IV. New Business – not noted
- V. Open – not noted
- VI. Adjournment: 4:40pm

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

November 9, 2021

Virtual

- I. Call to order
- II. Attendance
- III. Old Business
 - A. Standards-Based Grading:
 - Update from Eric
- IV. New Business:
 - A. Bylaws
 - B. Department Chairs
- V. Open – not noted
- VI. Adjournment

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2021

Virtual

- I. Call to order: 2:30
- II. In attendance: Kathy Chargualaf, Eric Chong, Carol Cruz, Debby Ellen
- III. Old Business
 - A. Standards-Based Grading:
 - Eric said the plan should be simple (“Keep it simple.”). He has talked with some other folks, and it was determined that Secondary folks could simply use GDOE’s language for the 4, 3, 2, 1 standards/scoring with conversions to percentages as needed. For example, a ‘3’ would equate to 80% (proficient).
 - Eric and Kathy will work on a draft which they will then share with Faculty Senate and then be shared at the next AAD meeting.
 - Carol also asked Eric to share with other Secondary faculty.
- IV. New Business:
 - A. Need to check if Eric and Carol can become official Faculty Senate members for S22. Nevertheless, both agreed that they would support Faculty Senate voluntarily.
 - B. We need to look at the bylaws. Should we be holding elections?
 - C. Debby will reach out to Department Chairs to ask for their support.
- V. Open – not noted
- VI. Adjournment: 3:30pm

Faculty Senate/Department Chair Agenda

November 23, 2021

(Virtual)

- I. Called to order: 11:00am
- II. Attendance
- III. Purpose of meeting: Are Department Chairs willing to be involved in Faculty Senate conversations?
- IV. Concerns/Ideas
- V. Adjourn

Faculty Senate/Department Chair Meeting

November 23, 2021

11:00-11:52am

In attendance:

Simone Bollinger (Faculty Union President and English Department Chair)

Carol Cruz (Tourism Department Chair and Faculty Senate member – volunteer)

Kennilynn Miranda (Culinary Arts Department Chair)

Carl Torres (Math/Science Department Chair)

Debby Ellen (Faculty Senate President and Education Department Chair)

1. Conversation related to Faculty Senate:

- We were informed today via AVP Dr. Gina that no new official members can be added to Faculty Senate until F22: “Because the commitment to serve on a committee is for an academic year, to ensure the seamless work of each committee and because of workload implications, I suggest that potential members complete the interest forms for the next academic year. Workloads for spring 2022 have already been approved by the Deans. As for DC participation in FS, that can be done regardless of membership.”
- Carl mentioned that there should be a way to cut through this, since there are only two ‘official’ members of FS (Kathy C. and myself).
- We need to revise the bylaws to align with the contract, and we need to push for taking greater control over the ‘vetting’ of officers – and elections.
- Department Chairs are encouraged to participate in Faculty Senate conversations and meetings. Their input and ideas are important to helping Faculty Senate through this year of minimal membership (please, please, please!)
- Department Chairs present indicated their interest in supporting Faculty Senate through attendance at meetings or other communication.

2. Concern regarding students (absences, dropping off the radar, not submitting work) – which ultimately affects faculty who are being asked to accommodate students’ needs due to Covid or other health (physical and mental) issues and deaths in family (Covid-related or other).

- Carl noted that students in developmental level courses attend but don’t complete work, in order to maintain financial aid payments.
- Simone and Kennilynn noted that faculty in their departments have a “3-day absence” policy, wherein students are not penalized for the first 3 absences, but can lose -10% of their grades for each subsequent absence. Attendance affects participation within or during class time, which cannot be ‘made up’ outside of the class time. While attendance itself cannot be ‘graded’, their attendance is directly linked to participation. *Note: This is not always the case, such as students may attend every class session but never or rarely actually contribute to discussions or activities. Nevertheless, at this point in time, attendance is the main objective measure of participation.*

- For the ED department, most faculty (ED and ECE) set a limit of 5-7 absences for receiving credit for the course. It's a bit different for ASL and Cosmetology students/courses due to the nature of their class sessions and other requirements.
- It might be good if there was a bit more consistency across the programs/departments, although we recognize that each program will have specific hours linked to completion of their specific program.
- Absences alone are not the issue, since some students are attending but just not submitting assignments (or not enough to pass the course).
- We understand that folks are worn thin by this extended time of the pandemic and that we all need to be a bit flexible with our students. Nonetheless, it would be good if we could have more conversations on this topic in order to address increasing rates of students failing or dropping out – to bring this forward to the administrative team rather than admin-driven mandates such as the one in S2020 of providing Incomplete grades to many of the students.
- I am mentioning the possibility of incomplete grades to some students (whom I know were ill with Covid over several weeks or other extenuating circumstances), but students must initiate the process and provide documentation such as positive Covid tests. Considering incomplete grades affects faculty members as well, since we will need to help students in the subsequent semesters. This was a problem (especially last year) when we were being told to help monitor students completing coursework for courses they had been taking with adjunct faculty who were not working at GCC anymore.

3. College Assembly

- Carl brought this topic up – to which others agreed with – that perhaps College Assembly time could be either altered or dropped. For example, much of what is being presented could simply be sent in notices or shared as documents with faculty rather than using class days.
- At the very least, if we are required to meet on those days, the sessions should be more worthy of our time and taking from class/instructional time.
- If College Assembly is run during the day, there is a risk that Secondary faculty will not be included due to changes in GDOE schedules. This was the case this semester.
- There is a question as to the need for College Assembly days. There may be times/semesters when such times could be useful and helpful, such as times for folks to get together, or to share concerns/ideas; however, the day is usually taken up with reports (not relevant to all faculty) or sessions which faculty could look into on their own time. It is hoped that more time would be provided to have conversations that are relevant, meaningful, or supportive in nature *for faculty/staff members*.
- We would like other's input on this topic, so that we can make suggestions for S2022 before they plan another College Assembly day.

I think this was the gist of what was covered.

Respectfully,

Debby Ellen

Faculty Senate President (on behalf of Faculty Senate)