

# Taft College Academic Senate Minutes

## Special Meeting

Wednesday September 27, 2023

Cougar Room

12:45 pm - 1:00 pm

## Attendees

Based on the sign-in sheets and participation, the following faculty members attended: Abbott, A., Altenhofel, J., Bledsoe, A., Bogle, D., Cahoon, N., Carlson, K., Chaidez, J., Duron, C., Devine, W (B)., Duron, C., Eveland, S., Getty, S., Gonzalez, L., Jacobi, V., Jarrahian, A., Martinez, M., Mendenhall, J., Mendoza, T., Nishiyama, W., Oja, M., Page, J., Polski, R., Reynolds, J., Rodenhauser, D., Smith, T.

Additionally, based on the sign-in sheets and participation, the following administrators attended: Daugherty, D., Lopez, J., McMurray, B.

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:45pm by President Duron. She thanked the Faculty Association for allowing us to utilize some of their meeting time. Academic Senate learned of this grant opportunity last week, but the due date is this Friday.

## Public Comment

There was no public commentary.

## Action Items

Kern Health Systems 2023-2025 Grant and Strategic Initiative Program: includes the possible development of new curricular programs and new faculty positions.

- Dean D. Daugherty introduced the grant, sharing that Kern Health Systems reached out to Taft College to help us with the facilities, supplies, accreditation processes, and employees to get an Associates Degree of Nursing (ADN). Later questions clarified that this is similar to an RN. The grant will be for two years, but we have up to three years to complete the work.
- TC President McMurray shared that the college looks at a potential nursing program every few years, and recently started an evaluation about six months ago. What they had found was that hurdles to develop the program in the past have been decreased because there is such a need for nurses. He noted that a nursing program could help our local community, and may increase enrollment at the college.
- There were many questions. Below are a summary of the answers.

- No decisions have been made about what facilities might be converted. The most likely candidate, however, is one of the G-module buildings or adding a modular building to that area.
- It was clarified that this is for an Associate's degree, not a Bachelor's degree.
- The money would be paid after we complete different steps of the process.
- There was concern about ongoing institutional support so that this program doesn't flounder after the grant funding ended (like the struggle that Engineering has had). The response was that CTE funds and industry partners could help continue to fund the program, but that start-up costs are the most expensive part of developing a new program. It was also noted that there will likely always be student interested in the health field.
- The timeline is to start our first cohort in two years. It was noted that curricular approval processes would be finished in January 2025 at the very earliest.
- There was a comment that the nursing shortage may be more about compensation than the availability of people with nursing skills and education, but it was stated that the average starting salary of an RN is \$90k.
- We do not know if other colleges and universities in the county will also apply for this grant, but they are willing to write us a letter of support.
- There is no requirement in the grant that students would have to work at a specific location.
- The outline of the positions and funding is provided by the grant.
- To alleviate some of these issues, D. Bogle suggested that we include a counselor for Allied Health and a Biology faculty member, in addition to the other positions outlined by D. Daugherty.
- There were also many concerns that were shared that weren't questions or had not available answers at this time. These are summarized below.
  - There was concern that Dental Hygiene was also shut down because the equipment wasn't updated or maintained.
  - There was concern that we are already at capacity for offering Anatomy and Physiology sections.
    - It was also noted that our current Biology classes are already serving pre-nursing students. This might help those students actually get a nursing degree.
  - There was a question about whether there are available nurses who could become faculty.
  - There was concern noted that we have other CTE programs that don't have full-time faculty already, so it seems unwise to start a whole new program.
  - It was asked if this program would guarantee FTE (full-time equivalent students).
  - There is concern about all of the work that must be done by Academic Senate noted by the Past President of the Academic Senate (S. Eveland, including the following. She questioned whether we have the time.
    - Curriculum development and then review by the Curriculum committee
    - Viability of the program by other committees
    - Substantive Change reporting to ACCJC for accreditation

- Finding locations for clinical hours
- R. Payne requested that our graduates be granted preference.
- Support was shared for developing a new program in nursing right now.
- R. Payne motioned to approve applying for this grant, but with the addition of an Allied Health counselor and a Biology instructor.
  - The motion was seconded by G. Golling.
- In discussion. K. Bandy was worried that this workload would fall in her division. She also asked what happens if we change our mind.
  - D. Daugherty said that we can always pull our participation.
- Motion passed with four nay's:
  - A. Abbott
  - S. Eveland
  - V. Jacobi
  - M. Oja

## Adjournment

The meeting ran until 1:10pm when C. Duron adjourned it due to many faculty needing to go to classes or meetings.