
INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

3. Approval of Minutes

a) February 7, 2020

This item was removed from the agenda and would be voted on at a later date.

4. New Schedule

Vice-Chair McCormick explained that the schedule needed to be adjusted to accommodate the new date for TMCC Commencement on September 18th. Council Member Joe Nannini made a motion to approve the revised schedule, Council Member Biersdorf seconded the motion. The motion was APPROVED by a vote of 9 -0- 0.

5. President's Update

President Hilgersom thanked everyone for joining and having the flexibility to move the meeting a week later.

a) COVID -19 Response:

a. Operational Move to Remote

Dr. Hilgersom reported that TMCC very quickly moved all operations to remote March 17th. It was quite sudden, notice occurred on the first of the week of Spring Break. Many faculty availed themselves to training during that time and were

funds for the reduction came from the contingency fund, in addition to monies set aside for classroom updates and deferred maintenance. Those projects were canceled until further notice. Savings were also gained from restricting travel and drop in utility expenses with the college closure. Overall operations were minimally affected. President Hilgersom said the Budget Reduction Task Force was now charged with looking at cuts of 6%, 9%, and 15% as requested by NSHE. Dr. Hilgersom asked the Task Force to also look at ways for 20% and 25% reductions in case further cuts were needed.

Associate Vice President Elena Bubnova gave a presentation (Attachment B) reviewing information from faculty, staff, and students regarding how COVID-19 has them. SGA President Patri said she did receive comments and concerns related to online coursework saying that classes and exams were not long enough. Others felt the grading was not as lenient as in person instruction.

Vice President Marie Murgolo provided an update on Academic Affairs. The change to remote instruction was extremely quick. Faculty have been training to adjust to this modality. Future all courses will offer different modes of deployment, should TMCC remain to provide online instruction, return to face to face courses or shift to online instruction again if it becomes unsafe for students, faculty, and staff. Vice President Murgolo provided descriptions on how Career Technical Education (CTE) courses and courses require labs or hands-on instruction are being provided.

Vice President of Student and Diversity Services Estela Gutierrez gave a report on current operations for her division. She was concerned about students struggling with unknowns. Her division staff are determining who is essential and how to work in shifts to keep following safety procedures and the TMCC return protocols. Vice President Gutierrez was working with the Foundation to find monies for grants to help students who may be struggling financially, particularly focused on students who don't meet the criteria for CARES money.

b) Plans for Reopening

Planning efforts were occurring college-wide in alignment with a four-stage return plan. Overall institutional plans would be provided to NSHE for review and approval.

8. New Business

Vice Chair McCormick said it would be good to have an understanding of the different grant systems and initiatives that could potentially affect community colleges. She wanted to know what TMCC had already applied for and what was being planned for submission in the next month stating there are a variety of opportunities for additional funding related to upscaling and retraining. (A memo was provided to the IAC outlining this information following the meeting)

Discussion followed regarding Federal funding initiatives including opportunities to train displaced workers and targeted training for those wanting to become contact tracers.

SGA President Patri suggested additional information on OER and a progress update on student savings and implementation by faculty.

Council Member Brown suggested the IAC brainstorm as to what new and upcoming areas that will be needed to fill the

Reduction Task Force as buy -in was needed from everyone, these cuts may be painful. We need to listen to everyone and consider all aspects of the college.