

Academic Branch Council (ABC) Minutes

April 11, 2022

- **ADA Instructional Committee:** Committee hasn't met since last ABC meeting so no new report. The committee will meet again this Thursday.
- **IRT:** No new Updates. April 4 mask mandate lifted, now masks are optional.
 - We are still updating case counts on the website.
 - Please make sure that people report to Rapid Trace so we can keep awareness of cases here.
- **KOPS Advisory Committee:** No New Updates. April 26 next quarterly meeting.
- **FA:**
 - Officer nominations for AY 2022-23 will be taken through tomorrow, with elections to follow 4/13 through 4/19.
 - The performance evaluation task force has been meeting and has a preliminary draft of a new form that is being considered by the CAO, IDC and FA executive council. Things seem to be on track for this to be approved in the fall, with implementation next spring. We're on track to get this out for a vote in the Fall.
- **Adjunct Council:**
 - Met on March 24th and had breakout meetings for two tasks.
 - One group is working with Faculty Development on an Adjunct Orientation module, the other group has planned a Virtual Adjunct Ed Camp to share information and bring Adjuncts together from across Campus. The topics will be Technology, Improving the Student Experience, and Identifying JCCC Resources. It will be held on April 21st from 5:30-6:30 pm. A zoom link will be sent via email and available in the Canvas Adjunct Shell. Next Meeting is April 28th.
- **Chairs Council:** (no update provided)
- **DEI Committee:**
 - Next meeting 4/19 at 4pm in the Co-Lab (with light refreshments provided by Kansas Studies)
 - Strategic Planning DEI Goal / Strategy Teams presented their work to the Committee of the Whole on Monday, 4/4. There was a lot of Q&A and it went over time.
- **Ed Affairs:**
 - Met last week (4/6)
 - The subcommittee that reviews General Education and Cultural Diversity designations submitted their recommendations during the previous meeting. After reviewing their recommendations, the committee voted to add the Gen Ed designation to four courses and the Cult. Div. designation to two courses.
 - Anne Dotter from the Honors Program spoke to the committee about upcoming changes to the structure of the honors classes. She has been working with the curriculum team to streamline the enrollment process and will be bringing several changes through Ed. Affairs over the next year to implement what they have been working on.
 - We discussed adding new sections to the Syllabus Template to address the copyright status of course materials and the instructor expectations if the campus is closed. The Procedures Sub-Committee will meet this week to work on that. (not

clear if there will be updates for the fall syllabus template or if it will be newly updated for spring 2023)

- Elections were held and Andrew Lutz will be serving as the Chair of Ed Affairs for the 2022-2023 academic year with Justin Dunham serving as the Vice Chair.
- **OLAC:**
 - OLAC last met on April 1, 2022
 - Much of the April 1, 2022 meeting was dedicated to discussing the two new proposed course modalities
 - HyFlex and Online with Face-to-Face Exams
 - OLAC formed a subcommittee to further discuss both new and existing course modalities and definitions.
 - Ideally, OLAC will vote on the new course modalities and any recommended changes to the course definitions so these changes can be in place for enrollment Spring 2023.
 - OLAC is scheduled to elect officers for 2022-2023 (chair, vice chair, and ABC rep) during the May 6, 2022 meeting.
- **ETAC:** We have not met since the last ABC meeting.
- **Assessment Council:**
 - Search for Dr. Sharri Barrett's replacement is ongoing
 - Dr. Sherri Barrett's retirement party
 - Thursday, April 28, 2022
 - 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
 - GEB 264
 - Light refreshments will be served.
- **Program Review Committee:** (still not sending representatives)
- **IDC:** Has not met since the last ABC meeting.
- **Faculty Development:**
 - JCCC Creates—all employees invited to contribute (more info to come)
 - Once Upon an Artifact, Faculty invited to present; September 29 (they have a special exhibit about Redlining during all of 2022). If you want to go and see artifacts (and get in free), to find an artifact, let Farrell know.
- **Academic Calendar Committee:** The committee has not met recently and will meet in early May to begin planning the AY 24-25 year. In addition, a subcommittee will meet to discuss the Final Exam Schedule language as it relates to the variable delivery methods we currently employ. Any changes will be reflected in the Fall 22 semester at the earliest.

The college's calendar page can be found here:

<https://www.jccc.edu/modules/calendar/academic-calendar.html>

Summer 2022 registration is active and Fall 2022 registration will **begin next Monday the 18th** at 8:00 am for career majors, employees and families, and athletes. General public enrollment for Fall begins on **Wednesday the 20th** at 9:00 pm.

- **Counseling:** (no update today)

ABC vote on support for FA's Academic Freedom statement

- [FA Academic Freedom Statement](#) (or in Canvas – Files-2021-22 documents)
- Does support the FA's Academic Freedom Statement?
- Mickey McCloud: This is an FA statement that is separate from the Academic Branch. The Branch already has an academic freedom policy. This is not something we should be voting on.

- Andrea: here is the JCCC statement <https://www.jccc.edu/about/leadership-governance/faculty/academic-policy-statement-academic-freedom.html>
- Jim Leiker: Is the FA's statement in opposition to the current policy?
- Mickey: No, this is in alignment with our current policy. I think this is not a role for this body.
- Jim: My purpose in asking for the branch's support was not to be in opposition to the current academic freedom policy. These do not need to be in conflict. FA is asking the branch: do you believe in these things? Does the branch want to work toward these things?
- Mickey: As a point of order, what you are asking for is alignment for something that already exists in the branch. Vote for nothing as it pertains to branch.
- Andrea Vieux: What would be involved with changing the college's policy on academic freedom?
- Mickey: It would go through the college's policies and procedures committee.
- Andrea: So would Academic Branch go through ABC?
- Mickey: It would go to policies and procedures, then they would contact CAO, then CAO would bring it to ABC.
- Kevin Cannell: If there is no conflict between the FA and Branch statements, why does the FA need a differently worded statement?
- Jim: The statements aren't in opposition, but they emphasize different things. The current one was authored by the CAO and it focuses on the responsibilities of the instructor. The FA's outlines the rights of the instructors. There has been recent controversy nationwide concerning academic freedom, mostly in K-12, which is why FA has its own supplemental statement.
- Mickey: If FA chooses to take a specific position, then it is more correct for them to have a separate statement. It is a completely separate body. ABC has no authority over FA and that will work both ways.
- Jim: I'm not bringing this to ABC for feedback on the text. The point of a vote of support might be irrelevant. Forget up or down vote for right now: does this statement embody things that ABC members support?
- Kate McNeil: I reached out to my division, full and part-time to find out if there was support. There was resounding support in my division.
- Jim: I'll defer to someone who could make a definitive answer concerning ABC's authority.
- Andrea: We're not voting on the policy, we're voting on if ABC supports the statement?
- Jim: A yes vote will not change the statement or have a substantive effect on the text.]
- Mickey: The policy already exists in the Academic Branch. The branch and the CAO already support this because the policy is already established. This policy has existed for four years. At the time there was no shared governance structure. It was shared with all faculty during the All Faculty meeting (possibly 2017 or 2018).
- Tai Edwards: Would you support a vote on: The Academic Branch Council supports the FA statement as it is in alignment with the basic tenets of the current academic freedom policy stated on the JCCC website?
- Mickey: We should not be voting on each other's policy statements.
- Andrea: We are just stating: do we as ABC support the FA statement?
- Farrell Jenab: Maybe FA should vote that their new statement is alignment with the current policy?
- Kevin: Hypothetical question: if ABC voted to support this FA statement and then the FA were to bring something on behalf of a colleague to ABC?

- Jim: Voting for this statement could mean that the ABC might be held to uphold the rights of faculty members under this statement.
- Andrea: The word “vote” is carrying a lot of weight here.
- Jim: What are we arguing about?
- Mickey: There are walls between the ABC and FA as separate bodies. Representatives on ABC do not have the authority to determine policy.
- Jim: The FA statement was done with faculty input. It’s a little ironic that the statement of academic freedom on the website currently didn’t involve faculty input.
- Mickey: It is not meant to let faculty decide that you can/can’t teach something; it is meant to preclude outside influences in the classroom.
- Jeffery Oden: I seem to remember when the ABC was formed; this was supposed to be a communications hub. The vote wasn’t to be between the people here, but voting would go out to all faculty.
- Andrea: The underlying issue: outside folks trying to dictate what is part of our courses/teaching. If we want to do a full branch vote, we can do that.
- Mickey: This is already affirmed in the policy that exists. We can send out a reminder that we already support this policy and that the basic tenets overlap with the FA.
- Jim: There is also a concern with internal intrusions. For example, there have been cases in the past of administrators taking too heavy-handed an approach in the operation of curriculum. Since I don’t expect administration to tie its own hands, I’m ok with leaving the two statements in separate contexts.
- Mickey: This gives us both a place to stand on in terms of our policies and for outside forces to intrude. As the person who drafted the statement and who faces the criticisms related to this, I will defend faculty academic freedom as long as I’m here.

CAO Update

- Early College Taskforce (KBOR):
 - Mickey represents CAOs at community colleges on this taskforce. The extension that HLC gave to early college instructors who didn’t have credentialing will run out in one year. A lot of our high school institution instructors are not going to be credentialed by the deadline of Sep 1, 2023. KBOR recognized this was an issue and created a taskforce with community colleges, tech colleges, and public/private university leaders. We are trying to prevent Early College from being crippled in the state.
 - We had a presentation from Wisconsin professionals in a similar context on how to certify instructors in another way and to see if that could work here. HLC allowed this presentation but we don’t know if it would be approved and if Kansas could adopt something similar.
 - In theory we could see the coursework, experience, alongside degrees to certify. We used to do it this way, but it is not allowed by HLC currently.
 - We are trying to find a path forward.
 - If not, we will end up in a place in where we feared we would be 3 years. Where JCCC might be expected to help out across the state with this lack of instructors.
 - Our folks have done a good job of documenting our instructors credentialing and trying to help them meet HLC requirements.
- Budget
 - The budget is still a work in progress. Thank you for everyone working on the cutting portion. We did not get to the number that was asked for. Our branch got to 9.75 percentage cut. This is significant because our branch is a significant part of the

college's overall budget. The budget is not finalized and the board will have to approve. I assume we will have more details after the next board meeting. These cuts are supposed to fund strategic planning initiatives.

- I applaud everyone who went around in those few days to make adjustments.
- Strategic Planning
 - We are still presenting our priorities to Committee of the Whole. We need all of those priorities included in the budget. That's my understanding that we will get that funding back in these priorities.

Academic Affairs Records Retention (and deletion) schedule

- Check [this spreadsheet](#) to determine when/what documents retention schedule you should be following (document also available in Canvas – Files- 2021-22 Documents)
- Mickey: Please get used to looking at the retention schedule. I don't want people to get caught up about something they were supposed to get rid of when you shouldn't have it anymore.