

Alexandria Campus Forum Council

Minutes

March 29, 2019

Members present: Azza Ahmed, Nicole Cintas, Janet Giannotti, Pat Gordon, Kelly Hebron, Twyla Jones, Jack Lechelt (by phone), Siem Goitom, Mike Waguespack

Guest: Matt Todd

Minutes of the February 15, 2019 meeting were approved with one edit.

Old Business & Reports

Rewards and Recognition Committees

1. Administrative and Professional Faculty. Matt Todd was Alexandria's representative on the committee that reviewed nominations for rewards in this category. He reported that this is the second year of the program, and that he had been on the VCCS committee that established the criteria for the program. The committee was charged with giving up to 20 Rewards of \$2000 each. He noted that successful nominees are often nominated by more than one person, giving more details by which the committee can judge.

2. Classified Staff. Pat Gordon was Alexandria's representative on the committee that reviewed nominations for rewards in this category. This is also the second year of this program. There were 106 nominations for 85 individuals, representing roughly 10% of the nearly 900 Classified Staff. Rewards are either \$2000 or \$1000. The committee noted that the criteria, which were revised after the first year of the program, are still too geared toward white-collar jobs and against those who are unable to leave their posts to join extra committees and so forth.

3. Teaching Faculty. Mike Waguespack was the chair of the screening committee for the Alexandria Campus. He reported that his committee received 21 nominations for 18 individuals, and that the committee was charged with sending just 15 names forward to the College committee. As chair of the Alexandria screening committee, Mike also serves on the College committee. (It was noted that since many Administrative and Professional Faculty and Classified Staff are not attached to a campus, it is not possible to have a campus-level committee to screen nominations.)

Elections and Credentials Committee. Janet Giannotti was Alexandria's representative on this committee. The committee worked efficiently, learning a lot as they proceeded. Some members will likely continue next year, which will allow for institutional memory. A couple of issues came up. That is, the committee learned that they must check to see if candidates are attached to the campus where they work or if they are part of College Staff, which has its own Council. Also, it was noted that on some campuses adjuncts are elected and on others they are appointed. It was agreed that either practice is acceptable. And finally, the elections were delayed for about a week because of a proposed amendment to the Bylaws that would have classified Associate Deans as Administrative Faculty for the purposes of the Forum. The motion failed and elections proceeded as initially planned.

Janet also noted that students will be invited to serve on the Council rather than being elected. Siem Goitom reported that SGA is working on a plan for elections for next year.

Committee on Committees. Nicole Cintas reported that the committee met during spring break and that each campus was given responsibility for populating one or two committees.

Helping Hands. Janet reported that a few emergency grants have been given this spring. An idea about how to capture the words of the grant recipients to be used (anonymously, with permission) in “advertising” to encourage donations to the fund was discussed, and it was decided that a mechanism by which students are asked to write a short thank-you note could be investigated. Janet will propose this to Dr. Haggray to be taken up next year.

Food Bank. It was noted that almost all of the grab-and-go meals that were collected as part of the January food drive and through the MLK Day of Service were distributed during one week in late February. There was discussion about rethinking procedures by which food is distributed and perhaps moving the food bank. Janet will propose this to Dr. Haggray.

Evening Wardens. The Council has not had a report on whether the Provost Staff has taken up the issue of the lack of building and floor wardens in the evenings and on weekends.

Senate Report. Various issues that were discussed at the March 21 Senate meeting were reviewed. Several topics of interest included the failed amendment proposal mentioned earlier in these minutes, a clarification that any College employee can serve in Forum leadership positions, not just faculty, and that the Senate urges all faculty to attend commencement.

New Business

Jack Lechelt reported that he met with NOVA College Board member John Porter, who is a member of the Alexandria community. Mr. Porter would like to schedule a time to come by the campus for an informal conversation session. Jack will follow up on this to find an appropriate day and time. The Council was eager for Mr. Porter to visit at a time when he might see a variety of students and faculty at work.

The Netherton Award Committee (Janet, Twyla Jones, Azza Ahmed) reported that ten nominations were received across three categories. Plans were made for the voting session to be held on April 5, with Council members assigning proxies if they cannot attend.

The Netherton Awards will be announced at our Campus Convocation on August 16. The Council is pleased with the move from May to August for the awards and is eager for the entire campus to be present at the Convocation. In a short discussion about Convocation, Council members reported that many of their constituents would prefer a short, informative meeting at a time of day when the entire campus could be in attendance for an hour or 90 minutes. It was acknowledged that various offices on campus are very busy the

week before classes start, but it was suggested that offices could open late or close for a while at midday to allow faculty and staff to come together. Janet will review these ideas with the Provost and this will be the only agenda item at the last regular meeting of the 2018-2019 Council.

Next meeting: April 19, 2019. The 2018-2019 Council will meet for 30 minutes beginning at 12:30. Then Dr. Haggray will convene the first meeting of next year's Council at 1:00 for their organizational meeting and election of officers.