TAMIU Faculty Senate Meeting

March 5, 2021; WebEx

I. The meeting was called to order by the Faculty Senate President, Dr. Lola Norris, at 12:02 p.m.

II. *Roll Call:* Dr. Lola Norris, Dr. Lourdes Viloria, Dr. Marvin Bennett, Ms. Malynda Dalton, Dr. Puneet Gill, Dr. Ariadne Gonzalez, Dr. Runchang Lin, Dr. Tatiana Gorbunova, Dr. Gilberto Martinez, Mr. Alejandro Mojica, Dr. Neal McReynolds, Dr. Mehnaaz Momen, Ms. Angela Moran, Dr. James Norris, Ms. Kimber Palmer, Dr. Leonel Prieto, Dr. Kenneth Tobin, Dr. Ruby Ynalvez

III. *Our Guest* was given the floor:

Dr. Pablo Arenaz:

Dr. Arenaz presented several Covid-related items to the Senate;

- TAMIU will be able to continue our current campus masking policy through the end of this semester. Our hope is that, pending future conditions, we can begin relaxing some of the restrictions by July.

- The City is giving us 100 vaccines for Faculty and Staff that fit the 1B profile. TAMIU will be using its own portal for creating appointments. We hope to continue receiving 100 vaccines per week from the City.

- Last weekend we did a city-wide vaccination of 700 people and almost 100 of our student nurses participated in the event.

- Beginning the 15th of March the City is going to open the Same's Auto Arena for public vaccinations. They hope they will be able to do 1000 vaccines per day.

- TAMIU has requested 500 Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

- We will begin to open up our campus more as we continue into the Spring Semester. Particularly to student-sponsored events. The plan right now is to do rapid tests on people coming onto the campus for these events before they can attend them.

- Also, we are currently planning on returning to fully face-to-face in the Fall, barring any set-backs in infection rates.

- We are waiting to see what the System and the City is going to do about masking and whether or not the City will still be using the Same's Auto Arena before planning for Commencement.

Budget-wise we have several priorities that we have sent to the Legislature. Our primary LAR request for the Pathways to Student Success is $6M, a second LAR request of $3M for Computer Engineering and Petroleum Engineering and a tuition revenue bond request for $80M for a health sciences education and research building. We have also been talking to local community people about helping us with our $40M endowment to try to double it over the next 4 to 5 years.

Dr. Arenaz mentioned that we have a unique opportunity, possibly in 2023, for our students. Texas A&M Galveston received $325M for the purchase of a 575 foot research vessel to allow them to do deep sea research. We are working with Galveston on an MOU that would allow several of our students to do summer field work on board this ship.

Dr. Arenaz recently went to Austin to report to the Senate Finance Committee. The main subject of conversation was how to get the students back into the classroom and return to 'normal'. We are at about $58,000 more this biennium compared to the last biennium. We are currently down about 2% in credit hour production compared to last spring. But we are currently up in upper level courses and graduate courses which may offset the lower credit hour production.

IV. Approval of February 5th Faculty Senate Minutes: the minutes were approved without corrections.

V. Report from the Texas Council of Faculty Senates.

Senators Lola Norris and Malynda Dalton presented a summary of their participation in the February meeting of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates. This year the meeting was held virtually. During the meeting the Senators presented their TAMIU roundup report on what we are doing, what issues we have, what we do well, what we need to improve on. This year the guest speaker was Dr. Harrison Keller, the Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Texas. Some common themes among the schools included Covid vaccinations, the opening up of campuses during summer/fall, whether or not merit pay was expected, the concern that scholarship may be suffering due to the pandemic and several other mutual concerns (see attached report).

VI. Old Business:

A. Faculty Handbook Changes:

Senator Dalton presented the results of the votes on Faculty Handbook changes in regards to the Ombuds Officer selection process and the Distance Education description. 56 Faculty approved and 4 disapproved, so both changes passed the Faculty vote.

Also the Ombuds Ad-hoc committee (Senators Dalton, Palmer and Bennett) requested that Senator Lola Norris send an All-Faculty announcement that the application for the Ombuds position is open and that all applications be forwarded to Senator Bennett for dissemination to the Senate to review. Senate review of the applicants will take place in April and the ad hoc

committee recommendations will then be sent to the Provost for approval and a vote of all successful applicants will take place by the Faculty the first week in May.

B. Report on the Administrators' Evaluations:

Senator Gill reported that the work (collation and summarizing comments) on the administrators' evaluations are still ongoing. After they have been completed the work; the Assessment Committee will hand them out to the Provost for him to hand in to the appropriate administrators over the next week or so.

There followed a rather lengthy discussion as to whether Faculty should see the results of the Administrator Evaluations. It was explained that these evaluations are meant to be constructive and help to develop people and that the Administrators have the same rights to the privacy of their evaluations as the Faculty currently have.

C. Update on the College-Wide Fixed-Term Faculty Promotion Policy:

Senator Martinez reported that there was an updated A&M System Policy (12.07) passed back in November where they set the same schedule for promotion of Fixed-term Faculty to that of Tenure-track Faculty. It was suggested by Senator Martinez that we simply adopt this policy as the proper procedure for our Faculty Handbook. It was also mentioned that the Provost wants us to create only two levels at the Instructor level rank and to either refer to these levels as Instructor/Senior Instructor or Lecturer/Senior Lecturer. It was suggested that the Fixed-Term Promotion Ad Hoc Committee meet with the Provost to discuss the exact wording that would go into the body of the handbook. It was also suggested that a University level Fixed-term Promotion Committee could be created to aid in making the promotion standards more uniform.

VII. New Business:

A. University Awards Selection Process:

Senators Gill and Gonzalez reported that the Awards Committee has sent emails to all the teacher nominees and they have until March 12th to submit a recording of their lecture for review by the evaluators. We have, thus far, received 7 electronic and 5 paper portfolios for review. It was suggested that a computer be set up in the Provost's conference room so that the electronic portfolios could be reviewed at the same time as the paper ones. They should be ready to be reviewed by the Senate from April 16th - 30th.

B. Discussion of Possible Faculty Handbook Change - Faculty Development Leave (FDL):

The Provost asked the Senate to consider a change in the Faculty Handbook to allow certain Administrators to be included as possible candidates for obtaining Faculty Development Leave. Currently Faculty who have more than a quarter release time for administrative duties do not qualify for an FDL. After much debate, it was decided that this really is not an issue for the Senate to decide because as a Senate we have no control over Administration. Also, it was

mentioned that it could create a potentially bad situation where a Faculty member was actually competing with one of their superiors for an FDL.

C. AEFIS - Faculty Electronic Portfolio (FEP)

Senator Viloria reported that they (Drs Gonzalez, Ynalvez and Viloria) have met with the AEFIS team and have gathered information to create a template for the FEP from all academic units except for Business, thus far. They are scheduled to meet with AEFIS on March the 9th where they will receive the drafts for the FEP. The ultimate goal is to share the draft with the academic units and the Faculty in order to get feedback so it can be available for the Spring 2022 evaluations.

A question was asked if Faculty are aware that they are suppose to start submitting information to AEFIS? The answer is that AEFIS is not ready to start receiving information from Faculty, but it is hoped that training can start in the Summer.

D. Ongoing Technology and Distance Education Issues:

A complaint was registered that the automatic updates with the school computers are still taking place at times when they are interrupting Faculty teaching.

VIII. Committee Reports:

A. The Budget and Finance Committee: This committee did not meet.

B. Academic Oversight Committee: See previous report.

C. The University Ethics Committee: This committee did not met.

D. The Committee on Creation, Composition, and Responsibilities of Committees:

It was reported that calls for nominations in the University Committees will take place on the week of April 5th, with elections to be held the week of April 12th. Applications for the Ombuds' position are due on March 31st.

E. The Awards Committee: See previous report.

F. The Faculty Handbook Revision Committee: See previous report.

G. The Assessment Committee: See previous report.

H. The Technology Advisory Committee:

Senator Viloria reported that TAC met and she did ask again about the Duo sign in and whether it could be extended past a day. It was reported that based on institutional security the sign in would not be extended past 1 day.

For the request for the Faculty to obtain Adobe Acrobat Pro to help input data into AEFIS, OIT is getting a quote to see if it is possible.

Dr. Abrego reported to TAC that the Provost did approve of the 'plan B' in case test monitoring software was affected due to a crash in the system or an overload of the system (see attached report).

I. The Distance Education and Instructional Technology Committee:

Senator James Norris reported that the DEITC met (see attached report) and announced:

- There are 2 new concentrations or tracks in the MBA; one with a specialization in Criminal Justice and one in Nursing Administration.

- It was announced that TAMIU has reached the level of having 200 courses certified in Quality Matters.

- It was reported that the University is getting rid of Endnote and moving to Refworks.

- Blackboard now has 2 new features; one is called 'the Retention Center', to help identify at-risk students, and the other is under testing, but will allow you to see more of your students while in Blackboard.

- There is a free book conference sponsored by Blackboard on March 9th and 11th.

J. Fixed-Term Promotion Ad Hoc Committee: See previous report.

IX. Other Business or Announcements:

Senator Lola Norris announced that we are trying to set up a *Coffee with the President* for March and April. It was suggested that Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. would be good for March.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Report from Texas Council of Faculty Senate Meeting
Lola Norris, Faculty Senate President, and Malynda Dalton, Parliamentarian and Elections
Officer, attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senate meeting via Zoom on Friday and Saturday,
February 26 and 27, 2021. Guest speaker was Dr. Harrison Keller, the Commissioner of Higher
Education for the State of Texas.

Individual roundup reports from 30+ public institutions of higher learning across the state were
shared. Some of the common themes were COVID related: effect on teaching and university life,
on-campus testing, on-campus vaccinations, etc. (Most universities, but not all, administer on-
campus testing; few universities are also vaccination centers). Also mentioned in the reports
were plans to reopen universities for summer and fall or remain online. Several universities have
been teaching fully online since mid-spring 2020 and are planning to remain online in fall 2021.
Other topics discussed were:

- Merit raises or one-time bonus. An informal poll of the representatives at the meeting
  rendered the following: 44% no bonus and no merit, 11% one-time bonus; 11% merit
  raises, 11% one-time bonus added to salary, 22% don't know
- Experience with Ombuds Officer (e.g. selection process, annual report, dedicated phone
  line, dedicated email account, dedicated office)
- COVID and tenure process, annual review, burnout. Many representatives mentioned the
  addition of a year to the tenure clock. However, there were concerns that in some
  disciplines the compounded effect on scholarship and publication record would be longer
  than one year. It was feared that three years down the road the effect of the pandemic and
  lack of scholarship would be partially forgotten by admin and counted against faculty.
  There were comments about adding a letter (COVID Professional Impact Statement)
  signed by administration to accept/approve the one-year extension and possible
  subsequent effects. Gender and parenthood were mentioned as having a particular impact
  on productivity during COVID.
- Digital intellectual property (recordings for asynchronous classes – slippery slope – who
  owns the content?)
- Administrator/Faculty pay comparison to market and raises received by administrators
  while faculty was not receiving merit raises.
- Process for faculty investigation related to inappropriate social media posting. (Example:
  Non-renewal of contracts for three faculty at Collin College in violation of first
  amendment rights.)

Commissioner Keller talked about the high cost and effects of the pandemic on higher education
and how much colleges and universities (nursing students, research labs, etc.) have helped their
communities, states, and, nation during this time, something that is not always known or
acknowledged. He mentioned issues of access to quality education across the state as well as the
additional cost of educating first generation students. Reskilling and upskilling will become
necessary going forward. Other topics pointed out: Need of data infrastructure modernization,
increase educational attainment of younger population, educational mission of higher education,
improving transfer between institutions.

Texas A&M International University/ Technology Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2021

2:00 p.m. Virtual

Meeting Facilitator: Dr. Maria de Lourdes Viloria
Invitees:
Kenneth Tobin– Faculty Senate Appointee,
Frances Bernat- COAS
Cynthia L. Piña, COE,
Hugo Garcia –ARSSBA,
Seong Kwan Cho – CNHS,
Elizabeth DeZouche – KL,
Alma Jasso Chavez, University College
President's Appointee, Marvin E. Bennett, III
Fred Juarez III, VP for Finance & Admissions Appointee,
Albert Chavez, VP for IT Appointee
Cathy Colunga, VP for Institutional Advancement Appointee
Gina Gonzalez, VP for Student Success Appointee
Miguel Munoa, VP for Informational Technology/CIO, ex-officio
Patricia Abrego, Director of Instructional Technology & Distance Education
Pablo Reyes, Associate Director of User Services
Ricardo Ramirez, Associate Director of Student Information Services
Roberto Gonzalez, Associate Director of Instructional Technology Services

Welcome/ Roll call-

I. Review/Approve February 1, 2021 Minutes

II. New Business

1. Follow-up to our request to extend DUO to 30 days instead of 1 day for BlackBoard – Mr. Munoa reported that after an extensive discussion with VP's about this request, the final decision was to remain as is. The decision was made based on Institutional security. He added that if single users were experiencing additional issues related to the DUO Sign in to please contact him.

2. Follow-up on ADOBE PRO (Can we invest in getting ADOBE Pro for all faculty?) Mr. Munoa reported that he is still working on this quote. Dr. Viloria added that faculty need access to ADOBE Pro as this relates to the AEFIS Faculty Electronic Portfolio artifact submissions and its implementation Spring 2022.

3. Last meeting of the year April 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

III. Open Agenda- Dr. Abrego reported that the Dr. Mitchell approved the Plan B Resolution for

In the event that the proctoring solution (Respondus Monitor, Proctorio, and Examity) experience an outage or an overload and services are not available, faculty may consider any of the following alternate solutions:

1) Turn off proctoring solution and allow students to proceed with the exam at the time it was originally scheduled, or

2) Re-schedule the exam to another day (make-up day) based on consensus from students but still within the final exam window.

In addition, if only a couple of students are having technical issues with the proctoring solutions, it will be up to the faculty member to determine an alternate course of action and create an exemption **only** for those students. Please contact the eLearning group if you need assistance.

DEITC Meeting

Minutes

Date: 3.1.21
Location: WebEx
Co-chairs:
1. Dr. Patricia Abrego, ex-officio
2. Dr. James Norris (Faculty Senate Appointee)

Members Present:
1. Dr. Jared Dmello
2. Dr. Yong Chen
3. Dr. Cynthia Pina
4. Karla Linero Reyes
5. Dr. Kevin Lindberg
6. Elizabeth DeZouche
7. Juan Garcia Jr
8. Karol Batey
9. Dr. Jennifer Coronado

1.

2.

3.

Time: 3:05pm

Administrative Associate
 Stephanie Alderete

Instructional Designers (non-voting)
1. Tony Ramirez
2. Julio C. Tovar
3. Carlos Vallarta
4. Anna Gonzalez

Associate VP/CIO IT
Miguel Munoa, ex-officio

Members Absent:
1. Melissa Garcia
2. Dr. Marcela Moran
3. Dr. Lorraine Dinkel
4. Triana Gonzalez
5. Gina Gonzalez

6. Dr. Mehnaaz Momen

7. Rene Prado (alternate for Juan Garcia Jr.)

Item	Action/Information
Approval of Minutes/ Member Introduction	Committee members reviewed the minutes from November 30, 2020. Dr. Jennifer Coronado, and Dr. Jared Dmello motioned to approve minute. No changes were noted.
Academic Partnerships (AP) Updates	❖ Dr. Jennifer Coronado updates included: - Launching short learning courses from Continuing Education: we have successfully migrated the content from the three courses from Nursing from the Thinkific platform to the D2L platform and in the process of having nursing faculty review the three courses before going live. These courses should be live by late March or April 2021. - AP been meeting weekly to prepare for the launch of MS School Counseling, which will take place in fall sub term 1 of 2021. We are working on the program guidelines and getting the carousel out for course offerings. - AP will be adding two new concentrations to the MBA: Criminal Justice and Nursing Administration. There will be three new courses that will be launched thru CJ that will be a part of the new concentration once review is complete for a fall sub term 1 of 2021 launch. - AP is also processing applications for second sub term for spring 2021, which starts Monday March 22nd. 4. ❖ Questions: - Dr. Abrego asked what you can do with a MBA with a concentration in Criminal Justice. Dr. Coronado replied that the courses identified in Criminal Justice for the concentration were CRIJ 5300 -"Overview of Criminal Justice System", "White Collar Crime", and "Cyber Crime which involves cyber security. Nursing Administration concentration will assist students who have the health care background, but don't have the business background (for example a student who may be interested in opening a clinic and don't know how to do billing and coding, etc). - Dr. Abrego asked if we are one of the few universities offering this combination of Nursing and Criminal Justice. Dr. Coronado replied we will be unique in offering the combination of Nursing and Criminal Justice. However, the MBA in Nursing Administration is offered in several other universities. Dr. Dmello added that as far as he knows TAMIU will be the only university offering Nursing and Criminal Justice. There is a demand for students who have a background in CJ associated with white collar crime or corporate crimes, this concentration will be useful to students whose goals are to stay along the border region or the Dallas area.

	• Dr. Coronado reiterated that these concentration programs are set to launch fall sub term 1 of 2021. The courses already exist in CJ and Nursing Administration so it's just a matter of aligning the MBA carousel with CJ for the program to be ready. • Dr. Abrego asked how if there are any updates for the Instructional Technology Program with Dr. Cindy Pina. Dr. Pina replied that she is finishing up data for Blackboard for both courses should be done by mid-week. • Dr. Coronado noted that we will be relaunching the Alternative Certificate program (ACP) in fall 2021. They will be adding two additional courses, EDIT 5330 technology course and a reading course, which were both required by TEA. Dr. Abrego noted that the ACP program is for students that do not have a BA in education, but have a BA in another concentration and would like to go into teaching. • Dr. Abrego mentioned that we are in the process of to get approval for the PhD in Criminal Justice program. The presentation to the coordinating board was supposed to take place on February 19, but due to the freeze it was rescheduled for April 21. This degree is scheduled to launch fall 2021. TAMIU currently only has one standalone PhD in International Business and a collaborative Program with A&M thru COAS.
QM Updates	❖ Carlos Vallarta discussed QM Updates: • January 2021 TAMIU met their goal of having 200 QM courses certified. • Carlos shared the QM 200 video that was posted on social media with the committee. The video was posted on our TAMIU page on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. • Carlos went over audience engagement data (impressions, people reached, and audience engagement) on Facebook for our social media page. • Carlos noted that we have started a LinkedIn subpage to put information for workshops and profession development for faculty or students. • Dr. Abrego asked committee to please advise Carlos of anything important going on in any of the departments so that we can promote it on our social media or Blackboard banners. ❖ Questions/Additional Information: • Dr. Abrego mentioned that Elizabeth DeZouche has been doing promotion on the transitioning of Endnote to Refworks. The first workshop was successful and there will be a second more advanced work shop held in April 6 at 2:30pm. Dr. Abrego reiterated that this would be a great topic to promote on our social media. • Dr. Yong Chen asked, what is TAMIUs goal for the total number of QM certified courses for the next five years? Dr. Abrego responded

	that our goal is that every single course that is taught online will be in the process or already QM certified. • Dr. Abrego noted that QM certification lasts five years and after the five years is over we have to go back and recertify the course.Our eLearning team will be working together with Vincent from AV, to put together a short video to explain to faculty what the difference is between being certified to teach online and your course being QM certified.
Final Exam Schedules for Online Courses	❖ Dr. Jared Dmello put forth an item for discussion with respect to final exam schedules for online courses: • There isn't any guidance on when final exam schedule will take place for online classes which caused a bit of confusion among his classes last semester. • Juan Garcia mentioned that as far as online courses is concerned the only guidance is for faculty to schedule them within the final exam window and grades are submitted on time. • Dr. Norris stressed the importance of faculty being flexible with students and to take under consideration their class schedule, work schedule or responsibilities. He suggested allowing 24-hours for students to take their final exam but to make arrangements in the event that a student can't take the exam. • Dr. Abrego asked full time online faculty if they have experienced a lot of conflicts with online students and final exams and Dr. Chen responded that he has experienced these sort of conflicts with his students both pre and post COVID-19 but he adjusted to their needs and was flexible with his students. • Dr. Abrego noted that the only implementation guidance from Dr. Mitchell is as long as the window to take the final exam is not the entire week, we can be flexible with the students. She mentioned that a good testing strategy is to have a test bank where students get different versions of the exam to deter instances of cheating. • Dr. Coronado also added that she often uses a project-based assessment as a final exam at the graduate level. Students work on a paper throughout the semester and submit their final paper on a specific due date. Instructions are given on the course syllabus and prior to midpoint students are asked to submit final exam project ideas for approval and evaluation. • Dr. Dmello asked if all final exams will be virtual this semester, including flex courses. Dr. Lindberg responded not yet but we'll share this information with the committee members as soon as we get an answer from the Provost's office.
Blackboard Retention Center	❖ In an effort to identify At-Risk students, the eLearning teams activated a new feature inside of Blackboard called the Retention Center. Gloria Sanchez discussed Blackboard retention center:

	• Went over the steps for faculty to access retention center in Blackboard. It is visible in the Blackboard men or at the top right corner or in the Evaluation section of the course's control panel.
	• The Retention Center allows faculty to monitor students throughout the course. There are four default rules: missed deadlines, grades, course activity, and course access. Faculty can edit rules and add as many rules that would best apply to them and their course.
	• Faculty can stop/start tracking individual courses by clicking on a course from the past so that the notification can go away.
	• Instructor course activity would be useful for evaluation and portfolio purposes. It provides a one-stop collection of your own activity, engagement, and participation in your course. This is custom to each faculty and it shows how much you have been engaging with your students.
	• Color coding of the grade center option is available to faculty thru Blackboard. Color coding options: Grading status such as in progress, needs grading or exempt and grade ranges.
	❖ Questions:
	    • Dr. Abrego asked if faculty members see the benefit of the retention center and Dr. Dmello mentioned that he finds it useful because it helps him manage assignments of his different courses and to immediately determine the students that are still pending assignments. It's a nice visual way of tracking if a student is falling behind and other student data. The information provided has also helped him fill out the early alert form.
	    • Dr. Coronado responded that he early alert forms at the graduate level go to her, so it's critical that her staff reaches out to those students at risk that are coming in from the undergraduate program. These features in Blackboard are really going to help the faculty identify those students and be able to submit that form and assist students.
	    • Dr. Abrego mentioned to Karla Linero Reyes if she could share the retention center information with Dr. Hong. Dr. Abrego will remind Dr. Mitchell to send out an email about the retention center so it can be promoted.

ECHO360 Usage Before/After COVID-19	❖ Dr. Abrego mentioned that currently the policy on recording is to not make the lecture recording available to students who missed class unless they have an excused abases. Tony will be presenting the data on ECHO before and after the policy to be able to see the comparison. We will be sharing the Collaborate data with you once we have it available. Dr. Abrego and Tony noted there has been a dramatic drop in recording and live sessions, most likely due to the policy

	• Mr. Munoa asked if these are classes or courses in the data. Tony responded: It is classes that were created on ECHO360, sometimes it can be merged courses as well, but yes they are classes. • Dr. Abrego would like to know the impact of the policy on the availability of the recordings. The concern by looking at this data is that faculty have stopped the recordings of their classes. Elizabeth DeZouche noted that maybe faculty have migrated to another tool. Dr. Abrego stated the importance of having the Blackboard Collaborate data to be able to compare recording usage. ECHO and Collaborate are the only two tools we have available at the university; however, they could also possibly be using Zoom or WebEx. We will continue looking at this data and gather more data and share with committee at a later date.
Open Agenda	5. ❖ Dr. Abrego went over an update on a request that was brought forth from the committee last meeting in regards to proctoring solutions and choices faculty will need to make if technical difficulties arise at the time of final exams. Both Dr. Norris and Dr. Abrego addressed these concerns with Dr. Mitchell thru email and the first solution was approved which reads: "In the event that the proctoring solution (Respondus Monitor, Proctorio, and Examity) experience an outage or an overload and services are not available, faculty may turn off proctoring solution and allow students to proceed with the exam at the time it was originally scheduled, and in addition, if only a couple of students are having technical issues with the proctoring solutions, it will be up to the faculty member to determine an alternate course of action and create an exemption **only** for those students" ❖ Mr. Mike Munoa discussed the retirement of Spark & MS Teams rollout. TAMIU will possibly be retiring the Spark system and replacing it with MS Teams for internal employee communication. Announcements will be sent out around April 2021 with more information and visual aids to assist employees transition over to MS Teams. In addition, he mentioned that Teams has a lot of components such as video conferencing collaboration and instant messaging tools. The video conferencing component can be a useful tool for departments and an alternative to WebEx. Once we get the final approval to retire Spark, it should be taking affect around June 2021. ❖ Dr. Abrego mentioned that Blackboard Collaborate will allow faculty to view more students at a time instead of the 2 or 4 students. ❖ Dr. Abrego announced an upcoming DYOC workshop. This training will take place on March 17 & 18 in the afternoon (actual dates are March 9 & 11). Carlos Vallarta mentioned that there is currently 14 spaces still available.

	❖ Dr. Dmello asked that a topic for next meeting on Plagiarism be added to the agenda. From what he observes in his classes, Turnitin isn't working anymore and lately there has been a far higher level of plagiarism taking place on campus. 6.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.