



## Faculty Council

# NEWS + UPDATES

**November/December 2023 Newsletter**

President: Kimberly Harris, kharris@collin.edu  
Vice-President: Rebecca Orr, rorr@collin.edu  
Secretary: Matthew Hamilton, mhamilton@collin.edu  
Treasurer: Joshua Arduengo, jarduengo@collin.edu

## Note from the FC President...

End of semester greetings! I hope this semester has gone well for everyone. I want to thank you for the work that each of you do for our students. As faculty we know our number one priority is our students. We mentor, counsel, advise, listen, and yes, teach. Over the course of the semester I have heard multiple accounts of faculty helping students both in and outside of the classroom. I love that Collin College faculty quietly go about prioritizing students. The mission of Faculty Council states that the Faculty Council represents faculty members in college matters and is responsible for:

- Supporting the College mission and core values;
- Safeguarding **academic freedom** and promoting academic excellence;
- Participating in College District shared governance;
- Promoting effective communication among faculty, between faculty and administration, and between faculty and student services;
- Promoting unity and cohesion among the faculty; and,
- Promoting the professional, economic, and social welfare of the faculty.

Faculty know that when FC is able to accomplish the above stated mission, it is our students who benefit the most. Students benefit when faculty can focus solely on students.

For those of you who have not heard, I was granted a spring-semester sabbatical to work on an OER Music Appreciation Textbook. FC Vice-President Rebecca Orr will serve as FC President in the spring. The transition will be smooth since the FC Executive Council has worked together with Administration all semester.

Have a great winter break!

Here are our personal email addresses:

Kimberly Harris, kimberlyh.ph.d@gmail.com  
Rebecca Orr, dr\_orr@att.net.

## In Other News...

- The Faculty Council recently published three surveys to garner faculty input. We learned more from you about the following– look for more on this soon!
  - Dual Credit Concerns
  - Paycheck Disbursement (9 month vs. 12 month)
  - Canvas Gradebook (mandatory use)
- Check out our updated **Faculty Council Website** (must be logged in to CougarWeb) for our meeting schedule, list of FC Reps, Committees and Task Force minutes, copies of previous newsletters, and more!

## Did you know?

- There is a Canvas setting to notify you when someone is placed in your class... You can set this up by clicking on your account (picture) in the upper left of your Canvas page. Select "Notifications" and scroll down to "Alerts: Administrative Notifications." Turning on "notify immediately" will trigger an email notification being sent to you when a new person is added to your course.
- FCI- How is it determined?... We have gotten some questions about who determines what courses we are credentialed to teach and how those determinations are made. The Faculty Credentialing Manual guides our credentialing-- questions should be directed to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs office. You can find this manual and this office in CougarWeb in the Faculty Tab. In the section called "Inside Collin Section," select "Curriculum Office." Then in the left margin, select "Vice-President for Academic Affairs and select "1. [Collin College Faculty Credentialing Manual](#)"
- Faculty Travel... Faculty are traveling to engage in professional development and most of the funds allocated for fall PD have been encumbered! This year, faculty may request up to \$2000 to engage in professional development, with an additional \$200 available to presenters. You must submit a Spend Authorization at least 42 days prior to travel, selecting COE as the business purpose and including a COE Justification form. Faculty cannot expense COE funds without prior approval through the Spend Authorization. Complete travel instructions are available on the COE website in CougarWeb (Faculty tab).

## Faculty Accolades...

- *Kyle Kundomal*, professor of Mathematics at the Frisco Campus, was elected treasurer for the American Mathematical Association for Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC). Kundomal will serve a three-year term from Jan. 1, 2024 to Dec. 31, 2027.
- *Dr. Sarah R. Fish*, an English professor at the Technical Campus, was recently published in the Texas Community College Teachers Association (TCCTA) Messenger. Her article is titled "Are We Really at Odds with Each Other? Bridging 'Academic' and 'Workforce' Labels in First-Year Writing."
- *Dr. Salena Parker*, English professor at the McKinney Campus, has completed her Ph.D. in Rhetoric from Texas Woman's University. Her dissertation title is: "'What She Carries with Her': Investigating Women's Interwar Travel Narratives".

The next *Faculty Council meeting* will be held on **Friday, January 19, 2023 in CHEC 107**. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 1:00 pm. Topics of discussion will include academic freedom, the status of dual-credit, shared governance, board policies that affect faculty, and more.

***Happy Holiday Season to all of you - enjoy the Winter Break!***

***Do you have news or photos to share with your colleagues or questions you would like answered?***

Please email [rorr@collin.edu](mailto:rorr@collin.edu) so that we can include more faculty accolades or answer your questions in this monthly newsletter!