



FACCC Policy Committee Meeting Notes

February 22, 2024
2:00 – 3:00 pm

Attending: Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, John Freitas, K. Frindell Teuscher, Cynthia Mahabir, Richard Mahon, Anna Mathews and Andrew Walzer

Absent:

Action Items

K. Frindell Teuscher

Send feedback on one-tier policy paper draft

Compile the group's feedback on the one-tier policy paper draft and give it to the board by mid-March.

Cynthia Mahabir

Revise draft paper

Reorganize the draft paper to emphasize the point about inequality at the top of the document.

Cynthia Mahabir

Prepare legislative document

Create a separate, concise document for legislators that flows better and clearly conveys the message.

Wendy Brill-Wynkoop (brillwynkoop@gmail.com)

Incorporate academic freedom

Revise the paper to include the importance of academic freedom for both students and faculty.

John Freitas

Develop executive summary

Create an executive summary that distills the main points of the paper into a one-pager.

Overview

- Andrew and Richard have prepared a strategic plan for the FACCC conference, focusing on aligning with community college visions and making terms more appealing.
- Debbie's one-tier policy paper draft highlights benefits for students, with a mid-March feedback deadline, considering separate versions for academics and policymakers.
- A unanimous decision was made to include an executive summary at the beginning of the FACCC one-tier system proposal paper to immediately convey the main argument.
- The committee agreed on the need to closely connect moral arguments to student success in policy papers and to start planning three new papers on Saturday.

FACCC Conference Session Planning

- Kay placed the agenda in the chat; she will paste it again when more join.

- Andrew and Richard are co-chairs of the strategic plan session at the FACCC conference.
- Andrew's approach is themed around the "Jeremiah" strategy, which is a rhetorical approach, not focusing heavily on policy.
 - It expresses the promise of community colleges, recognizes deviation from it, and suggests aligning with that vision.
- Cynthia provided word choice suggestions to make clearer the difference between mission statements and goal lists.
 - She sent these directly to Andrew to prevent overwhelming the group.
- The document is current and will include suggestions over time.
- It addresses FACCC's strategic priorities and is changing based on feedback; Andrew and Richard prepared it.
- There's an agreement to make the document better for FACCC members.
- Choices on changing terms like 'local control' were made, aiming to appeal across the political spectrum.
- Anna highlighted the importance of the document showing that colleges understand their communities and can meet their unique needs.
- During the meeting, it was clarified that the focus might need to switch from "local control" to "addressing community needs" or "flexibility in spending" due to political meanings.
- There was agreement that the term 'local control' might require careful explanation due to its political meanings and historical background.

One-Tier Policy Paper Draft

- The paper, drafted by Debbie Klein, addresses why a one-tier system is good for students, colleges, and the public, moving focus away from a primary concern with part-time faculty.
- The board wanted a paper based on evidence, pointing towards strategies to improve student-faculty engagement to enhance student success.
- The group agreed that two versions of the paper might be needed: an academic research paper and a brief version for policymakers.
- Anna proposed including clear action steps and requests for the legislature in the paper.
- Cynthia suggested including arguments about faculty equality as well as student benefits.
- John proposed an executive summary for the academic paper to provide a quick one-pager for an initial understanding.
- The group considered reaching out to John Govsky about the CFT's stance on solutions for a one-tier system.
- Deadline for feedback on the one-tier policy paper draft is mid-March.
- The group will send suggestions directly to Kay, who will compile them and present to the board.
- Conversations are ongoing about creating a focused paper to present to policymakers, detailing issues, solutions, and specific requests.

FACCC Policy Feedback

- Wendy informed the group that CFT is moving forward in their process but is keeping details private.
 - John Govsky presented at AFT Higher Ed Conference last weekend, but specifics of legislative change were not shared.
 - Jim Mahler has about 9 bills he wants to propose to support the effort.
 - Tiffany Mok, CFT's advocate, is involved in conversations but not ready to share detailed plans.
- Wendy and other members stressed the need to educate faculty on the goal and gain their understanding, also mentioning reaching out to the Academic Senate for future talk at the fall plenary.

FACCC One-Tier System Proposal Paper

- Wendy shared that the FACCC needs to complete the paper on the advantages of a one-tier system for our education system.
- There's agreement that an executive summary should start the paper to act as a signpost for readers.
 - The aim is to give a brief preview of the main argument without waiting too long before the main points are exposed.
 - Wendy mentioned feedback should be finalized and returned by **March 1st** to meet the deadline.
- Wendy and Cynthia supported emphasizing academic freedom and its effect on all faculty and students, looking at John Govsky's presentation and its attention to academic freedom.
 - Full engagement from dedicated faculty is part of the emotional pitch to lawmakers, emphasizing students' needs and academic freedom for faculty and students.

FACCC Policy Committee Suggestions

- The paper needs to highlight its main argument immediately, potentially improved early on by indicating the objective.
- A stronger focus on the effects of a two-tier faculty system on student experiences and academic freedom is important, with special attention to how this affects minority and immigrant students who need more support.
- Adding a moral argument is seen as important but not enough for legislative action; it should go hand in hand with arguments about student success and equality.
- The paper should also connect with policymakers' personal histories and support student success and equality.
- The emotional impact can be transferred from the paper to FACCC's actions and organizational efforts. Wendy underlined that the power comes from us, our actions, and organizing, not just from the paper.

Preparation for Upcoming Policy Papers

- The committee needs to start planning to write three new policy papers.
- Potential teamwork and assignment of topics to specific committee members will be talked about on Saturday. No tasks assigned yet, but plan to move forward with conversations.
- No definite choices were made, but a decision to proceed with planning was made and will include considerations of how policy papers should connect with policymaker histories.