



## INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE (IFCC)

### HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022

**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Location:** WebEx

**Meeting Facilitator:** Tim Dineen

**Recorder:** Jason Kennedy

**Attendees:** Tim Dineen, Jason Kennedy, Maureen Wilson, Donna Hamil, Jessica Fesperman, Jacqueline Romero, Nathalie Dames, Jeremy Fajman, Natalia Meneses, Antar Fields, Heather Mobley, Ronald Laws, Amanda Dale Papalia, Muhammad Samat, Garrett Hall, Anna Louise Calliham, Corey Cantrell, Berton Stewart, Erica Roberson, Kathryn Kent, Zack Bates, Juan Esparra

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#### WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Tim Dineen at 2:05. Attendees introduce themselves to each other. Motion to accept minutes is entertained, seconded, and passed.

#### DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

First Order – Review enrollment for POLS 2401. Dr. Natalia Meneses reported she is currently teaching the course with high enrollment initially, but students tend to drop the course quickly.

Second Order – Online Teaching and Best practices presented by Erica Roberson.

1. Blackboard Qwickly- Access by adding to BbL via tool link. Quick way to send messages and announcements. You can also create assignments and take attendance using Qwickly.
2. Blackboard Retention Center – Helps to identify struggling students. Contains default rules, but custom rules can be created as well. Will help instructors communicate with students who are struggling.
3. SoftChalk Cloud – Site where one can create websites, activities, games, audio, media, etc. Request access to SoftChalk through TCSG.
4. Respondus 4.0 – Used to create and manage exams that one can print to paper or publish to BbL. This is a Third Party download available from TCSG with a license that renews every July.
5. StudyMate Campus – Allows teachers and students to create games and learning activities to help study materials. Options include interactive activities, flash cards, crosswords, quizzes, etc. These can be integrated into BbL. This can be added to BbL by using the 'tools' link.

### Third Order – OER Review.

1. Types of OER include free and openly licensed educational materials that can be found via Google or dedicated OER search engines. It is good practice to find OERs by using the dedicated repositories and websites.
2. OER resources include: OASIS, Skills Common Repository, OER Commons, MERLOT, OpenStax College Textbooks, HBCU Affordable Learning Community Portal, The Orange Grove, SkillsCommons, OpenTextbook Library, Saylor Academy, Lumen Learning, Open Course Library, and MIT OpenCourseWare.
3. The 5 ‘R’s’ of OER: Retain (Make and own a copy), Reuse (Use in a wide range of ways), Revise (Adapt, modify, and improve, Remix (Combine two or more), and Redistribute (Share with others).
4. Creative Commons Review: Nonprofit organization that enables the sharing and use of creatively and knowledge through free legal tools. Does not replace copywrite laws, but works with them to encourage collaboration. They are free, voluntary solutions for creators that want to grant public use for their works. CC License conditions are based on Attribution, Non-Commercial Use, No-Derivative, and Share Alike.

Fourth Order – E-Campus Review. Brief overview of the program was discussed. Discussed the small learning curve and confusion associated with E-Campus due to it requiring a separate portal to access outside of the campus BbL portal. Other difficulties include varying calendars, database access (such as FilmsOnDemand), and class setup. Future question to consider is how much standardization the E-Campus courses should have.

Fifth Order – Reminder of the KMS Standards and where/how to access them. KMS training is upcoming for November or December. Will be available for anyone who may need it.

### Sixth Order – Name Changes for History Courses (Old Business)

1. Discussed reasons: Clarity of course, let students know they don’t have to be taken in sequence. Congruence with USG as the majority of their institutions use a date-based naming system.
2. Discussed new names and dates. Concern was to align the dates in the new names with what is found in the KMS standards. The following were settled on”
  - a. HIST 1111 – World History I to 1500
  - b. HIST 1112 – World History II since 1500
  - c. HIST 2111 – US History I to 1877
  - d. HIST 2112 – US History II since 1865.
3. Motion called to a vote and seconded. Passes with unanimous decision.

### Closing – Questions and Comments

1. Synchronous classes have been challenging across the system. Many feel it defeats the overall purpose of an online course.
2. Faculty feel re-energized by the return to face-to-face learning. Students seem to be re-engaged, especially when faculty offer ways to earn extra credit or utilize creative thinking. There is a difficulty with collaboration and social skills though.

3. Assignment due dates and times. Many have 1159PM as the deadline, but a lot of students email at 11PM. Suggestions were made to have the deadline earlier, such as 8PM or 5PM. Reasons to make this change is because there is not IT design or support available after-hours.
4. Questions about how to get students engaged and keep them engaged. Suggestions included staying after class, using humor and stories, discussion boards, and assignments that require collaboration and engagement.
5. AI-written Essay concerns. What is our policy or position on these essays? They do not trigger plagiarism warnings but it is incredibly easy to spot them. This is something we should keep in mind and tackle in the future. Suggestions are to encourage writing skills, critical thinking skills, and ask extremely targeted questions on essay exams.

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**Minutes Submitted By:** Jason Kennedy