



Bright Sun Dispatch

Our Fall term gets underway with meeting our new Senate Body, talking triggers, and taking a glimpse into the future!

Morning sunlight coming through the trees.

As we waited patiently in our own little Zoom boxes (a familiar locale these days), Tracy Redd (math), our new senior co-chair and Shaylee Graham (counseling), our junior co-chair welcomed us to a new session of Faculty Senate at Rogue Community College. We've been through a great deal since the last we officially met in June of 2020.

We're surviving a global pandemic.

We're surviving forest fires. And urban fires.

We're learning how to communicate across political, racial, and a myriad of other tensions that continue to gut punch us.

And still...we teach.

Because this is who we are.

The September 25th meeting:

Tag introductions of nearly 25 members. Ourselves. Our department. What we were most grateful in that moment. Tag the next person. Keep track. More difficult than one might think.

Erika Giesen (social science) spoke to us about the Equity Diversity Inclusion learning community and the first article that they read and then Zoomed to discuss. The article, [Lesson From a First-Gen, Working-Class Latinx Student](#) by Alicia M. Reyes-Barrientez clearly outlines the 5 things that Alicia wishes she would have known before leaving for not just college...but for PWI...predominately white institution. The article is a great read and gets us to think about how we speak to our students, how we encourage communication amongst our students, and how the academy creates strong boundaries of class and race...that we just may.. unknowingly support. Give it a read and then see if you can make the next meeting! Topic area: Trans students. Contact Erika for more information! egiesen@roguecc.edu

Mary Middleton (math), our new RCC union President, came to give us the latest RCCEA scoop. And it was awesome! The union voted to create a relief fund for those faculty members affected by the fires. They were able to give checks of \$300 to 20 faculty members in need! There was also some relief fund for those faculty affected by COVID who had hours cut (awards up to \$1000).

Shaylee Graham (counseling), our new junior co-chair, spoke with us at length about the traumatizing effects that the recent fires and our current COVID, political, and racial climate might have in our classrooms and outside our classrooms as we Zoom into our students' homes everyday. She brought to us a great video about "[self-regulation](#)" from Michelle Derr who is a senior fellow at Mathematica. Please take a moment to watch this 20 minute video. You won't be disappointed!



Stop and look at the leaves change color before you miss the beauty right before your eyes.

**The next Meeting is Friday October 23rd
10am to 12pm via zoom**

<https://roguecc.zoom.us/j/97551192664>

Agenda for Friday, October 23rd:

Among other short topics being discussed, reports being made, and GIFT's being presented, The Senate will be utilizing breakout rooms to discuss the mission from bylaws and consider contributions of one short term goal and one long term goal project idea for Faculty Senate. All hands on deck for this one! Let's make sure we are productive, positive, and persevering.



Other Interests:

From The Desk of Tina Weyland:

Fostering Student Success in Online Courses

Sherry Pagoto, a clinical psychologist at the University of Connecticut, surveyed students about what their instructors were doing that showed they cared about students' learning experience (forthcoming). The top responses:

Opportunities to connect

Easy contact through email and frequent office hours

Flexibility

Students might face more complexities in their home life and their schedules, or they may be new to online. They appreciated flexibility in deadlines, procedures, and grading.

Communication

Students enjoyed having the opportunity to discuss in class the difficulties of attending college right now. "Hey everyone, this is hard, let's talk about it." They also loved individual messages from instructors — simple emails asking about how everything was going.

Providing Feedback

Students wanted the opportunity to provide feedback during the term about the course structure.

Technology competency

Instructors' comfort with teaching in an online environment mattered to students, but even a positive attitude about negotiating tech issues made them feel the instructor cared.

Timeliness

Posting materials on time and returning emails promptly was important.

...Thank you!



Interesting Reads:

Sometimes we can get tongue tied. Sometimes we just need to know what to say in the moment rather than blurt out the thing we really *want* to say. Bill Murphy, Jr. from [inc.com](https://www.inc.com) has given us a cheat sheet of sorts in his article [10 Magic Phrases to Use in Video Meetings So People Will Like You More \(Start with “Let me be upfront”.\)](#) Give it a read. Print it out. Keep it by your keyboard for your next meeting. Maybe it will help you get thru a tough spot!

[The Death of an Adjunct](#) by Adam Harris in The Atlantic is the story of Thea Harris and is a cautionary tale of the winding and scathing roads into life of a career adjunct. It must be said that not all adjuncts find this life so terrible. Some find it manageable and even wonderful, being able to balance work, family and life. However, that is not the case for most, and the story of Thea Harris is quite common. Take some time to give this story read.

After that last read and, well, after 2020 really! we all need to breath in and breath out and meditate much more. Here is a simple guide for beginners. As the author, Kate Gavlick states, “Inhale. You can do it.” So take a moment for yourself before things get even more ramped up than they already are...with the holidays and grading and the season of illnesses and do I really have to say it....the thing that is happening on November 3rd? Do this for yourself. And others. Namaste, dear ones.

This is a recommendation from Marina:

The final book actually comes to us via a podcast. The podcast is Unlocking Us from Brene Brown and the interview is with twin authors Emily and Amelia Nagoski about their book Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle. I can't wait to read this book!! And if anyone wants to set up a book club and read this one as our first....I'm all in! Check out the podcast with Brene Brown if you're unsure and then send me an email and let's chat.

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