

BRIGHT SUN DISPATCH

R C C F A C U L T Y S E N A T E

WELCOME BACK & HAPPY 2019!!!

Come in from the cold and join us at the next Faculty Senate Meeting: Friday, January 25 at 10am to noon on the Riverside Campus in HEC 129B.



Dorothy's

Recommendation:

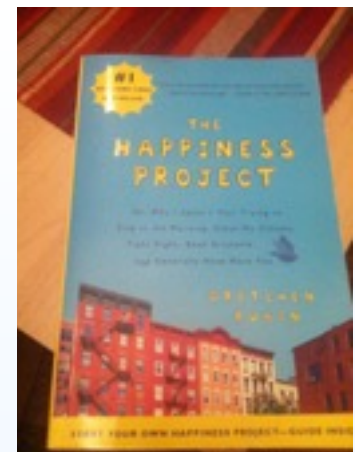
Americanah is a big-hearted, unflinching examination of race, class, freedom, love and absurdity from the alternating perspectives of two young lovers in Nigeria whose separate lives take them on divergent paths through America, England and eventually back to Nigeria. The social commentary is insightful and constructive. The tangled love story is believable and moving. And the writing is clear, humorous and engaging. This is our RCC Common Read book. Pick up a copy at the library and join a reading group to discuss it!



Deborah's

Recommendation:

From a middle-class childhood within a supportive family and community, Michelle Obama went from the South Side of Chicago to the White House. In an authentic voice she chronicles her personal journey. What resonates deeply with me is her struggle to achieve balance in her life. She is an articulate, smart woman who is finding her way in this world. Her life and her reflections upon it inspire my journey.



Marina's

Recommendation:

This is a good one that, while meant to be finished in one year, has taken me several years to complete. It's a commitment book and one that gives you much to ponder as you begin to poke into and dust off the deep corners and recesses of your own life. But I promise...smiles abound!

Faculty Senate Transportation Survey!!!!

do by 2/20 please

do by 2/20 please

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8RRXXZF>

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TIME! Isn't that what January is for? To really sit down and make that ever painstakingly laughable list: the resolution. What we vow to not to do any more of, what we want to do more of, and what we, well, dream about in some other life time or planet.... Listen, what it has always come down to for me is accountability. I'm fine working solo, doing my thing, but it is great to have that group of people to bounce ideas off of and learn from and ask me how that project is coming along!

So, let's be that for each other in this coming year. Let's share in the burden of "Getting @#!T Done!" and come to a Faculty Senate meeting. It will be worth your while!!



Recap From the Last Two Meetings

by Dorothy Swain

Bullet Points from 10/26 and 11/30/18 Meetings

* We had a conversation about what works best in terms of communication within and from the Faculty Senate. Outlook calendar invites are expected and relied upon for meeting reminders, but we may also use text messaging or social media. It's an evolving world.

* The librarians are in our corner, and they need our input! They are going to create a Faculty Senate reading list with titles on teaching and learning. Which books would you like to see on this list? They are also creating a break-out selection of these books in their own separate area at RWC (where there's room for it). * So many acronyms were flying around that we discussed starting a glossary page on the Faculty Senate web site. And it has been done ... check it out!

* Leo, our Vice President for Instruction, is interested in establishing a shared governance relationship with Faculty Senate. At his former institution, there were standing Faculty Senate subcommittees on Policies/Procedures, Academic Affairs, and Curriculum. He is very interested in having conversations with us about how things might be done better, stating "I am the faculty representative at the leadership table." It's a great time to get involved with Faculty Senate and have your voice heard!

* The issue of faculty credentials was discussed, in particular the phrase "demonstrable competency" which can be used in lieu of a degree in some cases to determine whether or not a teacher is qualified to teach a specific class. This is a big issue with our high school partners teaching dual credit classes (College Now). What does "demonstrable competency" mean? It's a nebulous area that needs specific criteria. Do you have ideas about this? Talk to Marina, Chelsea or any Faculty Senator, and/or come to our Faculty Senate meetings.

* For this first transitional year with a new VPI, Leo is invited to every Faculty Senate meeting. He will share information with us, and we will provide feedback to him.

* We are well into the swing of Guided Pathways. Keep an eye out for Leo's Guided Pathways newsletter.

* RCC is moving toward Sharepoint sites to facilitate communication, rather than shared internal drives. We can expect to see more Sharepoint sites appearing on the Faculty Resources page. Advantages of Sharepoint include security (shared drives are more susceptible to data loss but Sharepoint automatically saves old versions), productivity (more than one person work on the same document at the same time) and ease of Internet access (eliminate the cost of remote access to shared drives).

* Should we hold Faculty Senate meetings by remote access (IP video and/or Zoom and/or ...)? We like the camaraderie (and the refreshments) that come from all meeting in the same place at the same time, but we would also like to open the meetings to as broad a participation level as possible. What are your thoughts? Talk to Marina, Chelsea or any Faculty Senator, and/or come to our Faculty Senate meetings.

* We need to elect five at-large Faculty Senators. If you are interested in serving, please show up at the meeting on Friday or talk to Marina, Chelsea or any Faculty Senator.

Our next meeting is Friday, January 25 from 10:00-noon at the Riverside Campus (HEC-129B). All faculty are welcome to attend and participate in meetings, although only members of the Faculty Senate can vote on issues. Please join us! We hope to see you there.

Recap From The Last Board Meeting

by Marina Whitchurch

The Board met on Tuesday, January 15th at 4pm on the Riverside Campus in HEC 129B. Many from the Board come back from Winter and Holiday breaks and it was a nice time to see everyone again.

Claudia Sullivan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4pm and took us through the various beginning agenda items in where we are introduced to the Quorum, the Board, asked if there are any public comments, College Reports (this is where our report is given), then we hear the President's Report.

Cathy Kemper-Pelle gets to tell us about the last month from her perspective. She has four different reports or updates that she presents to us. There is open dialogue amongst the Board and the Executive Team. [*I have always felt (**please know this is my opinion*) welcome to raise my hand for questions or comments.]

Claudia then takes us a few of the Board's Action and/or Information Items, if any, before heading into the Foundation and Senior Management Team Reports.

In this section, we get to hear from Laurie Roe about Institutional Research, Effectiveness & Planning and she also has a monthly FTE Report which can be quite interesting and I'm learning more and more... especially sitting next to or behind Laurie!

After Laurie, Curtis Sommerfeld tells us about the status of RogueCyberLand...! I do not envy their work, but I have great gratitude for it as I listen to his reports. Then we hear from Leo **RAWR CHEER YEAH** and he generally echoes what he has told us at the last Senate meeting.

Finally, we get to hear from **Kori Ebenhack**. Now!

This is where it gets interesting for us...and where I'm going to direct you to...the right:

Achieving the Dream

The ATD web site <https://www.achievingthedream.org>

has lots of good information about innovative approaches to student success at the community college level. I especially enjoyed the article about Open Education Resources under the Stories & News tab, and there are some other good articles under the Resources tab.

Kori Ebenhack and her Student Services Team held a retreat in December with the main focus on the experience of prospective students. Staff members participated in a new student simulation, and were able to gain firsthand knowledge of the many steps of the procedure to enroll and prepare for the first day of classes. Each staff person then provided feedback to improve the process. An intake form was generated to capture answers to questions that we have not previously been gathering. There are 14 questions in all but only one open ended question at the end. The form should only take students five minutes or so to answer and will be required prior to registration. After initial data is gathered, Student Services will work with Faculty Senate to finalize the intake form. - *M. Whitchurch*

SAYING HELLO & GOODBYE TO LOVED ONES

WELCOME WYATT! FACULTY SENATE EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME TO WYATT EFRAÍN JENKINS WHO ENTERED THIS WORLD ON OCTOBER 24, 2018, WEIGHING 7.5 POUNDS. CONGRATULATIONS TO MOM FELISHIA JENKINS (LIBRARY FACULTY) AND TO DAD TIM JENKINS (TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES). WE SEND ALL OF OUR BEST WISHES TO THE JENKINS FAMILY!

Ron Sumrall died October 8, 2018. Ronny was a math/science/writing tutor in the RWC Tutoring Center. He assisted students, supported instructors and brightened many people's day with his patience, kindness and good cheer.

Mary Pool died on January 11, 2019. Mary was adjunct faculty in the Academic Success and Math departments. She was well-loved and will be sorely missed.

Donald Schultz died on December 10, 2018. Don was a full-time science faculty member on the RWC campus. He was beloved for his knowledge, kindness and irrepressible sense of humor.