

FACULTY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027

**Tacoma Community College And
TCC Federation of Teachers Local 2196**



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Table of Contents

0.00	PREAMBLE	1
0.10	Purpose	1
0.20	Definitions	1
(a)	Academic Calendar Year	1
(b)	Academic Employee.....	2
(c)	Academic Year	3
(d)	Accredited Institution	3
(e)	Administrator	4
(f)	Appointing Authority	4
(g)	Assessment.....	4
(h)	Calendar Year	4
(i)	College	4
(j)	Departments and Programs.....	4
(k)	Dismissal.....	4
(l)	EDI - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Acronym)	4
(m)	Faculty Leadership	7
0.30	Conditions of Agreement	8
(a)	Applicability	8
(b)	Individual Employment Agreement	8
(c)	Health Faculty.....	9
(d)	Supersedure.....	9
(e)	Agreements Binding Except for Unlawful Parts.....	9
(f)	Contractual Agreement.....	9
(g)	Number of Signed Copies.....	9
(h)	Copies to Academic Employees	9
(i)	Individual Rights Reserved to Employees.....	9
1.00	UNION RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	11
1.10	Union Rights	11
(a)	Bulletin Boards	11
(b)	Mailboxes	11
(c)	Union Office.....	11
(d)	Space for Organizational Activities	11
(e)	Employee Orientation	11
(f)	Use of State Resources for Union Business	11
(g)	Representation Fee	12
(h)	Payroll Deductions of Union Dues	12
(i)	Reassigned Time	13
1.20	Exercise of Rights	13
1.30	Union Responsibilities	13
(a)	Organizational Costs	13
(b)	Alternate Space.....	14
(c)	Committee Lists.....	14
(d)	Communication	14
(e)	Summer Availability	14

- 2.00 MANAGEMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES15**
- 2.10 Management Rights15**
 - (a) Management and Control15
 - (b) Hiring.....15
 - (c) Programs and Services15
 - (d) Employee Assignments15
- 2.11 Exercise of Rights15**
- 2.20 Management Responsibilities15**
 - (a) Non-Discrimination16
 - (b) Information and Reports16
 - (c) Academic Employee Participation16
 - (d) Invisible Labor and Cultural Taxation.....16
 - (e) Information Sharing16
- 3.00 UNION-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS.....19**
- 3.10 Union-Management Committee19**
 - (a) Establishment and Purpose19
 - (b) Meetings.....19
 - (c) Chair19
 - (d) Documentation of the Meeting Discussion19
 - (e) Ratification19
- 3.20 Representatives20**
- 4.00 ACADEMIC EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION.....21**
- 4.10 Full-Time Academic Employee Compensation.....21**
 - (a) New full-time academic employee's21
 - (b) Compensation21
 - (c) Annual Increase in Full-Time Initial Placement21
 - (d) Compensation for achievement of tenure:21
 - (e) Annual increase in compensation21
 - (f) It is the intent of the College and the Union21
- 4.20 Initial Placement22**
 - (a) Educational Employment Experience.....22
 - (b) Non-Educational Employment Experience.....22
 - (c) Military Experience22
- 4.30 Compensation for Chairs22**
 - (a) Additional responsibilities22
 - (b) Stipend payments.....22
 - (c) Reassigned time.....23
 - (d) Calculations Based on Full-Time Equivalent Faculty23
 - (e) Reassigned Time for Core Duties.....23
 - (f) Maximum Chair Reassigned Time24
 - (g) Stipends for Summer Quarter24
 - (h) Stipends for Off-Contract Work.....24
 - (i) Additional Compensation for Application Activities24
 - (j) Additional Reassigned Time for Accreditation Activities.....24
 - (k) Compensation for Other Possible Chair Responsibilities24

4.40	Compensation for Full-Time Academic Employees Working Full-Time for Four Quarters	25
4.50	Travel Reimbursement	26
4.70	Salary Payments	26
(a)	Each full-time academic employee	26
(b)	Part-time academic employees working regularly scheduled quarters	26
(c)	Part-time academic employees not working regularly scheduled quarters	26
4.80	Compensation for Part-Time Academic Employees	26
(a)	Salaries for part-time academic employees	27
(b)	Part-time assignments	27
(c)	Canceled Sections	27
(d)	Full-time academic employees accepting part-time employment	27
(e)	Notifications	27
4.81	Part-Time Academic Employee and Part-Time Assignment Compensation	27
(a)	Formal Instructional Services Rate	27
(b)	Rate for Other Instructional Duties Not Otherwise Covered and Other Professional Services	28
(c)	Other Instructional Duties and Activities unique to BIPOC Faculty	29
(d)	Rate for Independent Study Classes	29
(e)	Summer Quarter Non-Classroom Duties	29
(f)	Rate for Online Course Development	29
(g)	Learning Management Systems	29
5.00	ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES' LEAVE AND BENEFITS	31
5.10	Sick Leave	31
(a)	Calculation and Accrual of Sick Leave	31
(b)	Usage and Reporting of Sick Leave	33
(c)	Unused Leave Balance	33
(d)	Transferability	34
5.11	Bereavement Leave	34
5.12	Emergency Leave	34
5.13	Shared Leave	35
(a)	Eligibility	35
(b)	Process	36
(c)	Academic Employees Donating Sick Leave	36
5.14	Personal Leave	36
5.15	Family and Medical Leave	37
5.16	Jury Duty Leave	38
5.17	Domestic Violence Leave	38
5.18	Military Leave	39
5.19	Professional Leave/Sabbatical – Full Time Academic Employees	39
(a)	Purpose	39
(b)	Eligibility	39
(c)	Agreement Regarding Professional Leave	39
(d)	Budgeting for Professional Leaves	40
(e)	Compensation and Benefits While on Professional Leave	40
(f)	Completion of Leave	40
5.20	Leave Without Pay	41
(a)	Conditions for Leave Without Pay	41

(b)	Application for Leave Without Pay	42
(c)	Types of Leave Without Pay	42
5.21	Insurance Plans	43
5.22	Worker's Compensation	43
5.30	Retirement Benefits.....	43
5.40	Unemployment Benefits.....	43
5.50	Parking.....	44
5.60	Severance Pay.....	44
5.70	Graduation Regalia	44
5.80	In-Service Education	44
5.90	Employee Assistance Program for Substance Abuse, Personal, Financial, Family and Other Issues	44
6.00	ACADEMIC YEAR AND LOAD.....	45
6.10	Academic Year.....	45
6.11	Full-Time Academic Employee Academic Year Appointment	45
6.12	Academic Year Definitions.....	45
(a)	Fall, winter, and spring quarters.....	45
(b)	Non-instructional days	45
6.13	Academic Calendar Year Definition.....	45
6.14	Alternatives to Academic Year Appointments	46
6.15	Suspended Operations	48
6.20	No Article.....	48
6.21	Definitions	48
(a)	Work Week.....	48
(b)	Daily Work Span.....	48
(c)	Instructional Contact Hour	48
(d)	Other Instructional Activities	48
(e)	Non-Instructional Activities	48
(f)	New Preparation.....	49
(g)	Combined Section	49
6.22	Academic Employee Types and Job Responsibilities	49
(a)	Academic Employee Types	49
(b)	Full-time Academic Employee Responsibilities:.....	49
(c)	Faculty Librarian Responsibilities	51
(d)	Faculty Counselors Responsibilities	51
(e)	Faculty Clinical Director/Coordinator	52
(f)	Part Time Faculty	52
(g)	Chair	53
6.23	No Articles 6.23 through 6.30.....	53
6.31	Instructional Load for Full-Time Academic Employees	53
(a)	Full-Time Instructional Contact Hours.....	53
(b)	Instructional Contact Hours for Full-Time Faculty Librarians and Counselors	54
(c)	Independent Study	54
(d)	Preparation.....	54
(e)	New Preparation.....	54
(f)	New Online Course Development.....	54

(g)	Learning Management Systems	55
(h)	Instructional Load for Part-Time Academic Employees	55
(i)	Combined Instructional and Non-Instructional Load	56
(j)	Course Assignments	56
(k)	Part-time faculty appointments, including moonlight appointments	56
(l)	Notification of assignments	56
(m)	Exempt staff limitations	57
6.32	Discontinuance of Small Classes.....	57
6.40	Class Size	57
7.00	CALENDAR.....	59
7.10	Calendar Development.....	59
8.00	ACADEMIC EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL PRACTICES	61
8.10	Academic Freedom	61
8.20	Personnel Records (Content)	61
8.30	Personnel Records (Maintenance and Inspection)	61
8.40	Selection of Academic Employees.....	62
8.41	Full-Time Academic Employees	62
8.42	Part-Time Academic Employees	63
8.43	Multiple Quarter Appointments (MQA).....	64
8.44	Substitute for Academic Employees.....	64
8.45	Recruitment and Retention of BIPOC Faculty	64
8.50	Selection of Chairs.....	64
8.51	8.50 does not apply to Professional/Technical Programs.	64
8.60	Intellectual Property	65
8.70	Professional Development Program Content.....	66
8.71	No Article 8.71 – 8.72	66
8.73	Addressing Invisible Labor for BIPOC Faculty	66
9.00	TENURED ACADEMIC EMPLOYEE SENIORITY	67
9.10	Seniority.....	67
9.20	Determination of Seniority.....	67
9.30	Seniority List	67
9.40	Other Factors.....	67
10.00	ACADEMIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT	69
10.10	Retirement Incentive Options.....	69
(a)	Phased Retirement	69
(b)	Retirement Transition Option	70
(c)	Early Retirement Option	70
(d)	Other Retirement Options	70
(e)	Death of Retiree.....	71
(f)	Benefits	71
(g)	Payment Schedule.....	71
11.00	GRIEVANCE.....	73

11.10	Grievance Definitions.....	73
(a)	Grievance.....	73
(b)	Grievant.....	73
(c)	Response Day.....	73
11.20	Procedure	73
11.21	Step One – Dean or Management Supervisor.....	73
11.22	Step 2 – Provost.....	74
11.23	Step Three – President.....	74
11.24	Step Four – Mediation.....	74
11.25	Function and Powers of the Mediator.....	74
11.26	Arbitration.....	75
11.30	Claims for Back Pay or Settlements.....	76
11.40	Grievance Unresolved Prior to Contract Termination.....	76
11.50	Grievances Occurring Between Contract Agreements.....	76
11.60	Appearance and Representation.....	76
11.70	Time Limits.....	77
11.80	Academic Employee Rights and Limitations.....	77
12.00	TENURE	79
12.10	Procedure Relating to the Establishment of Tenure for Tenure Candidate/s.....	79
12.11	Purpose of Tenure.....	79
12.12	Compositions of Tenure Review Committees	79
12.13	Duties and Responsibilities of Tenure Review Committees.....	79
12.14	Rights and Responsibilities of Tenure Candidate(s).....	81
12.15	Appointing Authority Renewal and Tenure Decisions and Notice	82
12.16	Non-Tenure of Specially Funded Full-Time Academic Positions.....	82
13.00	CONTINUOUS GROWTH PROCESS FOR ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES	85
13.10	CONTINUOUS GROWTH PROCESS	85
(a)	Rationale.....	85
(b)	Components.....	85
(c)	Management Feedback on Continuous Growth Process.....	87
(d)	Records.....	87
(e)	Guidelines.....	87
14.00	DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL FOR CAUSE.....	89
14.10	Discipline	89
14.11	Informal Resolution.....	89
14.12	Formal Disciplinary Process.....	89
(a)	Notice of Expectation.....	89
(b)	Written Warning.....	90
(c)	Temporary Reduction in Pay.....	90
14.20	Dismissal for Cause	91
14.21	No Article.....	91
14.22	Basis for Dismissal for Cause	91
14.23	Procedure for the Dismissal for Cause of a Tenured, Specially Funded, or Temporary Academic Employee.....	91
14.24	Procedure for the Dismissal for Cause of a Probationary Academic Employee.....	92

14.25	Hearing Procedure Relating to Dismissal for Cause of a Tenured or Probationary Academic Employee	93
15.00	REDUCTION-IN-FORCE FOR TENURED ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES	97
15.10	Definition.....	97
15.11	Lay-Off Units and Procedure for Assignment	97
15.12	Alternatives to Reduction-In-Force	97
15.13	Basis for Reduction.....	97
15.14	Order of Reduction.....	98
15.15	Right to Recall	98
15.20	Procedure for Reduction-In-Force.....	98
(a)	Reduction-In-Force Not Pursuant to Declaration of Financial Emergency.	99
(b)	Hearing Procedure Related to Reduction-in-Force not Pursuant to a Financial Emergency..	100
(c)	Reduction-In-Force Initiated by a Declaration of Financial Emergency by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges	102
(d)	Hearing Procedure Related to Reduction-In-Force Pursuant to a Financial Emergency.	103
16.00	CONDITIONS AND DURATION OF AGREEMENT	105
16.10	Duration.....	105
16.20	Opening of Negotiations	105
16.30	Past Practice changes	105
16.40	College Policy.....	105

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0.00 PREAMBLE

Tacoma Community College's Board of Trustees and the Administration, and the Tacoma Community College Federation of Teachers (Local 2196, American Federation of Teachers) recognize the systemic racism inherent across the educational system. As a part of this system, we acknowledge that our institution has been complicit in perpetuating racism on our campus and in our community. We also recognize that TCC is located on the ancestral territory of First Nations peoples. The Puyallup tribe, a member of the Coast Salish tribal peoples has called this area home since time immemorial. We recognize that the privilege of our campus being on this land comes at great cost to the Coast Salish peoples. In alignment with TCC's strategic mission and vision, Management and Faculty have a shared commitment to advancing anti-racist practices in all aspects of our work at TCC.

Students are the heart of our College. Management and Faculty have a shared responsibility to dismantle historically unjust institutional practices and policies and take focused action to support the success of students who as a result of these colonial structures continue to face oppression and inequities in their pursuit of higher education. We share a commitment to actively address ableism, classism, homophobia, racism, sexism, transphobia, and xenophobia at our College. This agreement articulates and implements policies and practices related to hiring, professional development, instruction, and compensation that support inclusion, promote the representation of systemically non-dominant faculty groups, and actively address barriers to equity for students.

0.10 Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to promote a harmonious and mutually supportive relationship between the two components of the educational community who are signatories of this agreement – the Board of Trustees and the Administration, and the Tacoma Community College Federation of Teachers (Local 2196, American Federation of Teachers) – by encouraging a spirit of cooperation between these groups to support the success of Tacoma Community College's diverse student population, for their mutual advantage, and in the public interest. To this end, the parties commit to a collaborative working relationship and the sharing of information with their respective constituent groups. Pursuant to the provisions of [RCW 28.B.52](#), the undersigned have entered into this agreement for the purpose of promoting an equitable and inclusive work climate for the academic employees of the Tacoma Community College as defined below.

0.20 Definitions

- (a) **Academic Calendar Year** - The academic calendar year shall consist of the academic year plus a fourth, or summer, quarter.

- (b) **Academic Employee** - Any professor, counselor, librarian, department lead, or vocational professional/technical program lead, who is employed by the College, with the exception of the President and any other administrator in the College, shall hereinafter be termed "academic employee". This definition shall include part-time as well as full-time employees. Academic Employees shall receive the title of Professor.
- (1) **Full-Time Academic Employee** - A full-time academic employee is one who is employed by the College for an entire academic year and who works a full-time load as specified in Article 6.00, "Academic Year and Load". The classifications of full-time academic employees are defined in [RCW 28B.50.851](#) and below
- (aa) **Tenure-track Academic Employee (Probationary academic employee)** is a full-time academic employee who is considered by the College to be in a tenure track status but has not received tenure. Also referred to as a "tenure candidate".
- (bb) **Tenured academic employee** is a full-time academic employee who has received tenure.
- (cc) **Temporary Academic Employee** A temporary academic employee is one who is employed by the College on a full-time basis, at a full-time rate of pay as determined in 4.10, and for a specific number of days which may differ from the academic year appointment. If rehired, the salary placement is recalculated for the new appointment. An employee shall not be retained on a temporary status for more than two consecutive years, unless mutually agreed upon by the Union and management. Temporary academic employees are entitled to all rights and benefits of a full-time employee except tenure, seniority, or where otherwise specified in this agreement.
- (dd) **Specially Funded Academic Employee** A specially funded academic employee is one who has been employed by the College on a full-time basis, at a full-time rate of pay for a specific number of days which may differ from the academic year, for more than two consecutive years, and whose position is funded from a grant or special service agreement or is a nonformula position. Specially funded academic employees are entitled to all rights and benefits of a full-time employee except tenure and seniority, or where otherwise specified in this agreement. Since specially funded academic employees are eligible to earn increments, they are not eligible to be replaced on the salary schedule.
- (ee) **Faculty Librarian:** An academic employee who provides research and information literacy services and instruction for students, staff, and faculty.

(ff) **Faculty Counselor:** An academic employee who provides personal, individual and group, mental health, career, and educational counseling services. Faculty Counselors also provide direct instruction related to student development

(2) **Part-Time Academic Employee** A part-time academic employee is one who is employed or has been recently employed by the College on a quarterly basis for a workload within the specifications of Article 6.00. There are two classifications of part- time academic employees:

(aa) **Active Part-Time Academic Employee** Is a part-time academic employee who is under a current appointment letter.

(bb) **Inactive Part-Time Academic Employee** Is a part-time academic employee who is not currently under an appointment letter with the college but who has had a previous appointment as a part-time academic employee within the previous twelve (12) months, and has not formally separated their employment or retired. These employees remain entitled to some benefits covered by this agreement and are considered members of the bargaining unit.

Unless otherwise specified in this agreement, any reference to part-time academic employees that does not specifically identify active or inactive is considered to apply only to active part-time academic employees.

Part-time academic employees who have retired, have formally separated their employment relationship or who have not had an appointment for active employment for 12 months or more are no longer considered employees of the College, are not covered by any provision of this agreement, and are not members of the bargaining unit.

(3) **Department/Program Chair**

An academic employee who performs non- instructional duties and provides leadership for an organizational unit of faculty. Chairs of professional/technical programs are appointed by management in consultation with program faculty. Chairs for other organizational units are elected in accordance with 8.50.

(c) **Academic Year** - The regular College year consisting of fall, winter, and spring quarters shall hereinafter be termed "academic year".

(d) **Accredited Institution** - An accredited institution is an institution accredited by a Regional Accrediting Association accredited by the Council on Post-Secondary Accreditation (COPA).

- (e) **Administrator** - Any person employed either full-time or part-time by the College who performs administrative functions as at least 50% or more of their assignment and has responsibilities to hire, dismiss, or discipline other employees shall hereinafter be termed "administrator."
- (f) **Appointing Authority** - Shall mean the Board of Trustees and/or President of Tacoma Community College
- (g) **Assessment** - The responsibility for monitoring, reporting, and implementing actions that result in the strengthening of student learning and success, particularly with regard to meeting defined course, program, and degree outcomes.
- (h) **Calendar Year** - The calendar year shall be a twelve (12) month period of January through December.
- (i) **College** - Tacoma Community College) shall hereinafter be termed the "College".
- (j) **Departments and Programs** - Organizational units of academic employees established by management.
- (k) **Dismissal** - The termination of a tenured academic employee appointment or a probationary academic employee by the appointing authority.
- (l) **EDI - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (Acronym)**
 - (1) **Ableism** - Discrimination or prejudice against individuals with disabilities.
 - (2) **Ageism** - Prejudice or discrimination against a particular age group and especially the elderly.
 - (3) **Anti-bias training** - Programs that are designed to expose people to their implicit biases and provide tools to adjust automatic patterns of thinking.
 - (4) **Antiracist action** - Action that seeks to dismantle institutionalized practices of racism. It also identifies and confronts racist ideologies which manifest overtly and covertly in institutions, conversations, curriculum, and organizational structures. (Kendi, 2019)
 - (5) **BIPOC** - Acronym for Black, Indigenous, and people of color.
 - (6) **Classism** - Prejudice or discrimination or favoring based on social class.
 - (7) **Cultural capital** - Distinctions that develop between individuals and groups due to differences in family and cultural background, education, occupation, and wealth. Based on the work of French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu who argued that it represents one of the many forms of capital that people can draw on to enhance their lives.

- (8) **Cultural taxation** - Term coined by Amado Padilla in 1994 to describe the unique burden and additional workload placed on faculty of color in carrying out their responsibility to the university. (Definition adapted from the Encyclopedia of Diversity and Social Justice)
- (9) **Discrimination** - The unequal treatment of members of various groups based on race, gender, social class, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion, and other categories.
- (10) **Diversity** - Diversity includes all the ways in which people differ, and it encompasses all the different characteristics that make one individual or group different from another. It is all-inclusive and recognizes everyone and every group as part of the diversity that should be valued. A broad definition includes not only race, ethnicity, and gender—the groups that most often come to mind when the term "diversity" is used— but also age, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, education, marital status, language, and physical appearance. It also involves different ideas, perspectives, and values. It is important to note that many activists and thinkers critique diversity alone as a strategy. For instance, Baltimore Racial Justice Action states: "Diversity is silent on the subject of equity. In an anti-oppression context, therefore, the issue is not diversity, but rather equity. Often when people talk about diversity, they are thinking only of the 'non-dominant' groups." (Racial Equity Tools, n.d.)
- (11) **Domestic Violence** - The United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women defines domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain control over another intimate partner, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, economic abuse, psychological abuse, stalking, and cyberstalking.
- (12) **Equity** - The guarantee of fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement while at the same time striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups. The principle of equity acknowledges that certain populations have been excluded from participation, and that fairness regarding these unbalanced conditions is needed to assist equality in the provision of effective opportunities to all groups. (Strategic Diversity Leadership: Activating Change and Transformation in Higher Education, Damon Williams)
- (13) **Explicit bias** - The conscious associations, attitudes, feelings, or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in a conscious manner toward any social group. Explicit bias "is characterized by overt negative behavior that can be expressed through physical and verbal harassment or through more subtle means such as exclusion." (The

National Center of Cultural Competence, Georgetown University-
<https://nccc.georgetown.edu/bias/module-3/1.php>

- (14) **Homophobia** - Irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against homosexuality or gay people.
- (15) **Implicit bias** - The unconscious associations, attitudes, or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner toward any social group.
- (16) **Inclusion** - The practice or policy of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized.
- (17) **Institutional racism** - Occurs when laws or policies are crafted and put into place through society's institutions, then disproportionately target oppressed people of color.
- (18) **Invisible labor** - Based on the foundational work of Arlene Daniels and Arlie Hochschild, invisible labor is defined as “activities that occur within the context of paid employment that workers perform in response to requirements (either implicit or explicit) from employers and that are crucial for workers to generate income, to obtain or retain their jobs, and to further their careers, yet are often overlooked, ignored, unpaid, and/or devalued by employers.” These “activities are performed for the benefit of the employer and from which the employer reaps profits.” Invisible labor disproportionately impacts BIPOC and other historically non-dominant workers. (Crain, Poster, and Cherry, 2016)
- (19) **Microaggressions** - Brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative racial slights and insults towards people of color. Those who inflict racial microaggressions are often unaware that they have done anything to harm another person.
- (20) **Race** - Refers to the physical differences that groups and cultures consider significant. Race is not a biological but rather socially constructed concept.
- (21) **Racism** - A perpetuation of historical, systematized discrimination against Black, Indigenous, and people of color.
- (22) **Sexism** - Prejudice or discrimination based on sex or gender. It includes behavior, conditions, or attitude linked to stereotypes and social gender roles.
- (23) **Stereotype threat** - “Stereotype threat is defined as a ‘socially premised psychological threat that arises when one is in a situation or doing something for which a negative stereotype about one’s group applies’

(Steele & Aronson, 1995). According to stereotype threat, members of a marginalized group acknowledge that a negative stereotype exists in reference to their group, and they demonstrate apprehension about confirming the negative stereotype by engaging in particular activities.” (National Institutes of Health - <https://diversity.nih.gov/sociocultural-factors/stereotype-threat>)

- (24) **Systemic racism** - Includes the policies and practices entrenched in established institutions which result in the exclusion or promotion of designated groups. No "individual intent" is necessary. In other words, we can be a part of this systemic racism without intentionally "doing something racist" because it is embedded in our society.
- (25) **Systemically non-dominant** - Refers to membership outside of the dominant group within systems of oppression. Systems of oppression are created to provide benefits and assets for members of specific groups. (Jenkins, 2015)
- (26) **Transphobia** - Irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against transgender people.
- (27) **Trauma informed care** - “Trauma-informed care is a strengths-based framework that is grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma, that emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers and survivors, and that creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment” (Hopper, Bassuk, & Olivet, 2010). Trauma informed care promotes healing environments that prevent re-traumatization.
- (28) **Xenophobia** - Fear, hatred, dislike, or prejudice of what is perceived strange or foreigner.
- (m) **Faculty Leadership** - Includes the union president, IC co-chairs, the faculty forum chair, and department or program chairs. Faculty serving as Chair on a committee that is part of the College’s Shared Governance structure; may also include faculty on special assignment as defined or assigned by management.
- (n) **Full-Time** - An appointment, which is consistent with the full-time appointment assignment specified within Article 6.00.
- (o) **Management** - The President of the College, administrators as defined above, and the Board of Trustees of the College shall be hereinafter termed "management".
- (p) **President** - The President of the College and of any other College hereafter established within Tacoma Community College, or in such President's absence, the acting President.

- (q) **SBCTC** - The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges shall hereinafter be termed "SBCTC".
- (r) **Tenure Granting Authority** The Board of Trustees of Tacoma Community College.
- (s) **Tenure Review Committee** A committee composed of three (3) academic employees who hold tenured academic employee appointments, a division administrator/dean or dean or management supervisor, and a student appointed pursuant to statute.
- (t) **Training Facilitator** Shall mean an employee or consultant that is hired to teach not for credit community services classes using State Board for Community and Technical Colleges SBCTC intent code 31. Training facilitators are usually contracted for work through the college's Continuing Education Department and are not considered academic employees and are not covered by this agreement.
- (u) **Union** The Tacoma Community College Federation of Teachers (Local 2196, American Federation of Teachers) shall hereinafter be termed "the Union" and is hereby recognized by management as the designated representative employee organization for all academic employees.

0.30 Conditions of Agreement

- (a) **Applicability** - The provisions of this agreement, as specified in this agreement, apply to all academic employees who are employed by the College. However, for certain positions, which are funded solely by grants, special service agreements, or other non- traditional funding sources, there may be exceptions to provisions of the negotiated agreement. All such exceptions shall be reported to the Union. Should disagreements exist concerning exceptions; the matter is referred to the Union- Management Committee (3.10)
- (b) **Individual Employment Agreement** - Individual employment agreements are established between the Board and each full-time, temporary, and specially funded academic employee. Information about and the terms and conditions regarding part- time employment shall also be provided to each part-time academic employee.

Such individual employment agreements and information regarding employment shall be subject to and consistent with the terms of this Negotiated Agreement. Copies of individual employment agreement forms for full-time academic employees and information about employment forms for part-time academic employees can be obtained from Human Resources. Management has the right to modify these forms, but management's exercise of this right shall not alter the conditions of this Negotiated Agreement. During contract negotiations, management will not issue individual appointment letters to academic employees before ratification of the Negotiated Agreement without a discussion

with the Union at least one week prior to mailing provisional individual appointment letters.

- (c) **Health Faculty** - Health Faculty in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical & Health Services, Nursing, Radiologic Science, Respiratory Therapy, Health Information Technology, and Health Information Management are required to comply with clinical partnership requirements including drug testing, immunizations, and routine background checks. The College pays for all costs incurred for this requirement and uncompensated time.
- (d) **Supersedure** - This agreement shall supersede any rules, regulations, or practices of management that shall be contrary to or inconsistent with its terms. The provisions of this agreement shall be incorporated into and be considered part of the established policies of management.
- (e) **Agreements Binding Except for Unlawful Parts** – It is agreed that the provisions of this agreement are binding on both parties and that management, Union or their representatives shall take no action in violation of, or inconsistent with, any provisions of this agreement. If any provision in this agreement shall be determined, by an Act of the State Legislature or ruling by a court of competent jurisdiction, to be contrary to, or unauthorized by law, then such provisions shall not be applicable or performed or enforced, except to the extent permitted by law. In such cases, all other provisions of this agreement shall continue in full force and effect.
- (f) **Contractual Agreement** – The parties agree that all negotiable items herein have been discussed during negotiations leading to this agreement and therefore agree that negotiations will not be reopened except as provided for in Article 16.00 of this agreement.
- (g) **Number of Signed Copies** – There shall be two signed copies of this agreement, one to be retained by the Union and one to be retained by management.
- (h) **Copies to Academic Employees** – Within one (1) month of the ratification of this agreement by both parties, management agrees to provide a digital copy of the agreement to all academic employees, those hereafter employed under its terms, and, by request, to all those offered employment. *Hard copies will be provided to the Union and/or faculty upon request.*
- (i) **Individual Rights Reserved to Employees** – Nothing contained in this negotiated agreement shall be construed to deny to an academic employee their rights under the United States Constitution or Federal or Washington State law or regulations.

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1.00 UNION RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.10 Union Rights

- (a) **Bulletin Boards** - The Union shall be assigned a reasonable amount of existing bulletin board space for organizational announcements in each building in which academic employees are assigned offices. This is to facilitate communications between the employee organizations and is allowable pursuant to [RCW.42.52.560](#).
- (b) **Mailboxes** – Individual mailboxes shall be provided for full-time and part-time academic employees except that no mailboxes are required for employees with whom the College conducts all affairs by United States mail. The Union may have access to campus mailboxes for the purpose of distributing Union business materials when such distribution is conducted by academic employees covered by this agreement. This is to facilitate communications between the employee organizations and is allowable pursuant to [RCW.42.52.560](#).
- (c) **Union Office** – The Union shall be provided with an office for organizational use, to be assigned by the College President or their designee, subject to the rental payment of \$10.00 per month. The office space is for the purpose of negotiations, administering the collective bargaining agreement, and promoting the organizational effectiveness of employees.
- (d) **Space for Organizational Activities** – Classrooms and other campus space shall be made available to the Union for organizational activities provided that such use is requested and scheduled according to College procedures relating to the use of such facilities by non- profit organizations and provided that such use does not interfere with the programs and services of the College.
- (e) **Employee Orientation** – The Union President or their designee shall be authorized to participate in the planning and implementation of orientation activities for new academic employees toward the end that all new academic employees shall become informed of the Union's program and services. This is to facilitate communications between the employee organizations and is allowable pursuant to [RCW.42.52.560](#).
- (f) **Use of State Resources for Union Business** – the following College resources shall be made available to the Union to conduct Union business provided such uses comply with and do not violate the Washington State Ethics Act, and provided such use does not interfere with the programs and services of the College.

To the extent allowed by [RCW 42.56.020](#) or court ordered subpoenas, communications between TCCFT and its members are considered privileged and confidential.

Per [WAC 292-110-010\(4\)](#) state employees have no expectations of privacy in their work email, internet, fax, voice mail or other electronic recording technologies.

- (1) **Electronic Mail (Email)** - Elected officers of the union shall be authorized to use the College's email system on a periodic and limited basis to communicate with bargaining unit members about Union business. The Union shall be authorized to establish a distribution list of faculty represented by the Union. The use of email to the faculty distribution list is periodic and limited to short communications, such as announcing Union meetings. The communications may include attachments, such as agendas, or other small documents related to the communications.

Further, Union Executive Committee members shall be authorized to use the College's email system for the purpose of communicating with other Executive Committee members regarding union business.

This is to facilitate communications between the employee organization and employees and is allowable pursuant to [RCW 42.52.560](#).

- (2) **Campus Mail Services** – The Union shall be authorized to use the College's mail distribution services on a periodic basis for the purpose of distribution of Union business materials between the Main Campus and satellite locations. Mailings shall be limited to a single academic employee at each location. This is to facilitate communications between the employee organization and the employee and is allowable pursuant to [RCW 42.52.560](#). The Union is not authorized to use non-academic staff to distribute business materials within each location.

- (3) **Telephone** – The union shall be authorized to use the College's telephone system for conducting Union business. Such calls shall be limited to campus and local (non-toll) calls. The Union is not authorized to use the State's SCAN system for making long- distance calls. This is to facilitate communications between the employee organization and the employee and is allowable pursuant to [RCW 42.52.560](#).

- (4) **TCC Website** – The TCC website includes a page stating that academic employees are represented by the TCC Federation of Teachers. The page includes Union contact information, a link to the Union website, and how to join. This is to facilitate communications between the employee organization and the employee and is allowable pursuant to [RCW 42.52.560](#).

- (g) **Representation Fee** – There is no representation fee per the U.S. Supreme Court 2018 ruling on Janus v. AFSCME.

- (h) **Payroll Deductions of Union Dues** – Management shall provide for payroll deduction of Union dues upon written authorization by each academic employee. Payroll deduction authorization forms submitted to the payroll office by the tenth

of the month shall be recognized as effective for that month and each month thereafter until the employee submits written cancellation. Management shall deduct from the pay of each academic employee from whom it receives an authorization to do so the required amount for the payment of Union dues. Such dues, accompanied by a list of employees from whom they have been deducted and the amount deducted from each, and a list of employees who had authorized such deductions, shall be forwarded to the Union office no later than thirty (30) days after such deductions were made.

(i) Reassigned Time

- (1) Annual Reassigned Time** - Union Management agrees to provide the Union President with 7/9 annual reassigned time. Such reassigned time is defined in agreement with the supervising dean. Office hours, advising, and other assignments shall be proportionate to the instructional load carried. Upon agreement with management, the Union President shall be provided such additional reassigned time for organizational purposes. Union Release time for Union duties does not preclude the Union President from teaching moonlight courses, as discussed in section 4.80 (d); however, moonlighting should not interfere with the performance of Union duties. With agreement of management, the Union President may elect to transfer a portion of the annual reassigned time to a designee who is performing significant Union duties.
- (2) Legislative Hearings** - The Union President or their designee may attend legislative hearings upon invitation, State Board meetings, State Board committee meetings provided their classes are covered, and shall be limited to no more than six (6) meetings per quarter.
- (3) Meetings** - The Union President or their designee may attend, on appointment days, Union sponsored regional or state-wide meetings limited to no more than one (1) per quarter, and provided that their classes are covered.
- (4) Expenses** - In both instances cited in paragraphs (2) and (3) above, neither travel nor expenses are paid by the College, but no deductions from pay or leave are made for time away from campus.

1.20 Exercise of Rights

The exercise of the rights of the Union shall be consistent with the terms of this Negotiated Agreement.

1.30 Union Responsibilities

- (a) Organizational Costs** – The Union shall assume financial responsibility for costs related to organizational activity on campus, such as: postage, long distance telephone charges, office supplies, secretarial, and clerical services.

- (b) **Alternate Space** – The Union agrees to relinquish, upon thirty (30) days' notice, the rented office space and to accept reasonable alternate space in accord with the needs of the College as determined by the College President.
- (c) **Committee Lists** – Upon request, the Union shall provide management with a complete list of all Union committees including the names of all academic employees serving on those committees.
- (d) **Communication** – The Union shall assume responsibility for communicating to academic employees all information it derives from a collaborative working relationship with management, particularly the distribution of information having College-wide implications such as institutional planning, budgeting, etc.
- (e) **Summer Availability** – The Union President shall be available during summer and breaks between quarters for Union management business. If the Union President will not be available, an alternate is designated by the Union.

2.00 MANAGEMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.10 Management Rights

Management, on its own behalf, and on behalf of the public and of the appointing authority, hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitation, all power, right, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it by the laws and Constitution of the State of Washington, and of the United States. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, management shall have the following rights:

- (a) **Management and Control** – To execute management and administrative control of the College resources.
- (b) **Hiring** – To hire all employees and, subject to the provisions of law, to determine their qualifications and the conditions for their dismissal or demotion, and to promote and transfer all such employees. Management recognizes the value of collaborative, transparent, and equitable processes that promote inclusive excellence. Management, in consultation with the Union, appoints one member to search committees for all Deans and higher. Each Dean or above search includes a faculty member from the division.
- (c) **Programs and Services** – In response to identified student and community needs and interests, management will establish inclusive educational programs, courses, and services that build on and support the cultural capital of the College's internal and external community. This includes but is not limited to athletic, recreational, cultural and social activities for students and the community. All programs and services will align with the strategic mission and vision of the College.
- (d) **Employee Assignments** – To decide upon the duties, responsibilities, and assignments of academic employees with respect to teaching assignments, to administrative and non-teaching activities, and to specific terms and conditions of employment provided that, an employee will not be assigned courses or duties which the employee is not competent to perform or which are inconsistent with the terms of this Negotiated Agreement. Management and the College recognize and understand the impact of invisible labor and cultural taxation on BIPOC faculty and pledge to support equitable division of duties, as per the strategic plan and mission.

2.11 Exercise of Rights

The exercise of the rights of management shall be consistent with the terms of this Negotiated Agreement.

2.20 Management Responsibilities

- (a) **Non-Discrimination** – Management will not discriminate against any academic employee or applicant for any academic position (a) because of membership or non- membership in any employee organization, (b) because of race, ethnicity, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, status as a disabled or Vietnam era veteran, or age, or (c) because of the exercise of any other rights given said employee under [RCW 28.B.52](#), other state or federal law and the Constitution of the United States.
- (b) **Information and Reports** – Upon written request to the College President, copies of institutional data, if available, are loaned to the Union or made available to it for inspection at no cost. Management agrees to notify the Union President of the availability of such data within three (3) working days of the data's availability on campus. Examples of such data are:
- (1) **Tenth Day Report** – Report of tenth day enrollment figures reported to SBCTC.
 - (2) **Final Quarterly Report** – Report of final quarter enrollment figures for every section offered by the College.
 - (3) **Budget Reports** – The Union shall be granted access to all pertinent budget documents and shall be granted the right to make copies at its expense. Such documents shall include but not be limited to – copies of the detailed process, forms, scheduling, and preliminary compilation of division requests, detailed monthly status reports, and a copy of the College's final budget.
 - (4) **Reports Exchanged with SBCTC** – Formal reports routinely submitted to the SBCTC or received from it.
 - (5) **Annual Report on Progress towards SBCTC Resolution 19-05-23** - Annual report on Best Practice Principles affecting the employment of part-time faculty. This report is delivered to the Instructional Council.
- (c) **Academic Employee Participation** – Management shall insure academic employees the opportunity to participate on a regular basis in collaborative processes related to institutional planning and budgeting on behalf of the College. Whenever a process or group is structured to consider budgeting or planning issues, academic employees, selected by the Union, are included.
- (d) **Invisible Labor and Cultural Taxation** - Management shall recognize and take action against instances of invisible labor and cultural taxation on BIPOC faculty and shall support equitable division of duties.
- (e) **Information Sharing** - Management agrees to supply the Union President with certain other information. Examples of such information are:

- (1) **Employment Agreements and Appointment Letters** – A copy of each individual's initial employment agreement and subsequent appointment letters, noting the academic employees' specific assignment.
- (2) **Notice of Regular Board Meetings** – Three (3) copies of the monthly Board of Trustees meeting packet, including a detailed meeting agenda, minutes of the previous meeting, copies of all proposed resolutions and supporting data, and copies of all reports. These meeting packets are given to the Union President at least five (5) working days before the scheduled board meeting.
- (3) **Notices of Special Board Meetings** – A copy of the detailed agenda and supporting materials for all special Board meetings, including study sessions. These materials are given to the Union President at least one (1) working day before the scheduled special meeting or study session.
- (4) **Committee Lists and Appointments** – Management provides a clear and transparent process related to faculty appointments and participation on College committees. A copy of an annual listing of all President appointments of academic employees to campus committees, sub committees, and councils is also provided. Faculty reserve the right to decline appointments, particularly in instances where there is potential to perpetuate invisible labor and/or cultural taxation.

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3.00 UNION-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

3.10 Union-Management Committee

- (a) **Establishment and Purpose** In the interest of maintaining collaborative bargaining, the Union and the College agree to establish and maintain a joint Union- Management Committee, consisting of two Union representatives appointed by the Union and two management representatives appointed by management. More representatives may participate in the Union-Management Committee by mutual agreement of the Union and the College. The purpose of this committee is to review matters covered by this Negotiated Agreement and to recommend the resolution of problems related thereto. However, the committee is not to be used as a substitute for the existing grievance procedure.
- (1) **Established Channels** - The committee will not discuss any concerns which the members feel have not been taken through established channels of authority but will refer such matters to the proper administrator.
- (2) **Purpose** -The members of the committee may consider amending the Negotiated Agreement, with the approval of their constituencies; but the committee is not to be used to continue the negotiations process.
- (b) **Meetings** – Meetings of the Union-Management Committee may be scheduled by either party, through its spokesperson. Meetings shall be scheduled at mutually agreeable times and without unreasonable delay from the date of the request. Meeting requests are in writing from one spokesperson to another and specify the items of concern. During a requested meeting, and for the minutes, the two team members may mutually determine the agenda and time for the next meeting.
- (c) **Chair** – In the interest of collaborative bargaining the team is not required to have a chair, but may choose to do so. If desired, a management-designated spokesperson shall preside as Chair of the first meeting; thereafter, the Chair rotates between Union and management spokesperson.
- (d) **Documentation of the Meeting Discussion** – Written documentation of Union-management meetings shall include identification of each topic that is discussed and any decisions or recommendations regarding the item. Contents of the written documentation are agreed to by both Union and management and copies furnished to each member of the committee. Additional copies are made available to each academic employee office building, the College President, the Union President and the Board upon request, or by decision of the Union or College for distribution and sharing.
- (e) **Ratification** – All items handled by the Union-Management Committee, which alter the terms of the Negotiated Agreement in amendment, shall be ratified by

both the Board of Trustees and the Bargaining Unit before having the force of policy.

3.20 Representatives

Management agrees that accredited representatives of the AFL-CIO and the American Federation of Teachers, whether local, state, regional, or national, have the same access to the College and its facilities as any other person(s) from the community.

4.00 ACADEMIC EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

4.10 Full-Time Academic Employee Compensation

- (a) New full-time academic employee's initial placement shall be as follows:
- \$66,500 Full-time academic employees with zero experience and a bachelor's degree or less.
 - \$1,500 \$1,500 for each full year of experience, up to a combined maximum of seven (7) years, as described in section 4.20 (a) (b) and (c).
- (b) **Compensation** for advanced degrees from an accredited institution, at the time of initial placement, shall be for the highest degree earned and paid at the following rates:
- \$ 1,500 Masters
 - \$ 3,000 Doctorate
- If a full-time academic employee earns a higher-level advanced degree after their initial placement, they will receive an increase in base pay at the following rates:
- \$1,500 Masters
 - \$1,500 Doctorate
- Compensation shall be given the quarter immediately following submission of documentation to the Human Resources office.
- (c) **Annual Increase in Full-Time Initial Placement** – New full-time faculty initial placement as described in section 4.10(a)-4.10(b) will be increased with cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) as approved by the state legislature.
- (d) **Compensation for achievement of tenure:**
- \$2,650 Tenure (Promotion from probationary to tenured full-time academic employee).
- Compensation will be paid as a one-time stipend in recognition of achievement of tenure.
- (e) **Annual increase in compensation**
- \$1,700 Annual step increase will be paid to all continuing full-time academic employees.
- (f) **It is the intent of the College and the Union** to comply with the limitations imposed by the Appropriations Act in effect when the COLAs are payable, and to

pass through to the full-time academic employees the COLA authorized and allocated by the state legislature.

4.20 Initial Placement

The initial placement of all new full-time academic employees shall be based on documented professional qualifications to include educational experience. Full-time academic employees with a degree from an accredited institution and/or certification will receive credit based on the total experience added together from sections (a), (b), and (c). Credit shall be given at the rate of \$1,500 for each full year of experience, up to a combined maximum of seven (7) years, credited and rounded off to the nearest whole year as described in sections (a), (b) and (c) below. Management may grant an initial placement that is higher than an initial placement based solely on education and experience. The Union is informed when such a placement is made.

- (a) **Educational Employment Experience** – A maximum of seven (7) years of credit shall be given for previous applicable educational employment within the last 20 years.
- (b) **Non-Educational Employment Experience** – Previous non-academic experience directly related to the primary assignment which was earned in the last eleven years is credited as follows: the most recent three (3) years of such experience shall be credited on a year-for-year basis, and half credit shall be given for the preceding eight (8) years.
- (c) **Military Experience** – Credit for active military service on a year-for-year basis are granted to a maximum of two (2) years except where such experience is directly related to the individual's primary assignment at Tacoma Community College, in which case credit is allowed as professional experience in a non-academic setting.

4.30 Compensation for Chairs

Compensation for the upcoming year will be agreed to in writing by the Dean or management supervisor and the next year's Chair. Compensation may take the form of reassigned time, stipend, or a combination thereof. In exceptional circumstances, and with the mutual agreement of the Chair and Dean or management supervisor, adjustments to the compensation agreement may be made.

- (a) **Additional responsibilities** may be compensated as reassigned time up to forty (40) instructional contact hours and in whole course increments. Hours that do not convert to a full course release for the chair will be compensated at the professional services rate as a stipend
- (b) **Stipend payments** will be evenly distributed across the fall, winter, and spring quarters, and all reasonable efforts will be made to pay on the second payroll of the following quarter.

(c) **Reassigned time** does not preclude the Chair from teaching moonlight courses, as discussed in section 4.80(d); however, moonlighting should not interfere with the performance of chair duties.

(d) **Calculations Based on Full-Time Equivalent Faculty**

All department/program Chairs will receive compensation for completion of Core Duties, as outlined in the College's Department Chair Duties policy (INST-115.) This is determined based on Full-Time Equivalent Faculty (FTEF,) which is calculated by dividing the sum of the upcoming academic year's contact hours* by forty-five (45) and rounding the result to the nearest whole number.

*This calculation uses the sum of all contact hours to be taught in the department/program in the upcoming fall, winter, and spring quarters. The resulting number will be used as the FTEF for the subsequent year. Following the census date of the spring quarter each year, FTEF will be recalculated according to the actual class schedule offered that year. If the new FTEF exceeds the FTEF agreed to on the current year's chair compensation agreement, the difference will be converted to clock hours and paid as a stipend at the professional services rate, as established in 4.81(b).

(e) **Reassigned Time for Core Duties** – Based on the FTEF calculated in (a), above

- (1) **1-10 FTEF** = 15 instructional contact hours or one course reassigned per quarter, per academic year, whichever is greater, to a maximum of 21 instructional contact hours.
- (2) **11-21 FTEF** = 25 instructional contact hours reassigned per academic year
- (3) **22 and higher FTEF** = 30 instructional contact hours reassigned per academic year

Chairs are responsible for performance of core Chair duties as listed in Tacoma Community College Policy INST-115 during their reassigned time. If more time is required for the performance of core duties, Chairs are encouraged to delegate other responsibilities as necessary and listed below 4.30(h). If there is change to the core duties listed in INST-115, either party may request to bargain the impact of those changes. Additional annual compensation will be calculated based on time invested in other possible duties that demand significant time and labor, as described below in (f-h). Other possible duties will be evaluated and determined by management before Chair election/appointment for the next academic year.

- (f) **Maximum Chair Reassigned Time** - Chairs will teach at least five contact hours per academic year as a part of their regular faculty appointment unless it is required by an accrediting body to have 100% reassigned time.
- (g) **Stipends for Summer Quarter** – Chairs will perform Chair duties for a minimum of twenty (20) hours and a maximum of fifty (50) during summer quarter. Summer quarter Chair duties will be compensated at the professional services rate. Expectations for hours and duties will be agreed upon in advance, in writing with the appropriate Dean or management supervisor. In extenuating circumstances, additional stipend hours may be agreed to by the Dean or management supervisor and Chair in order to meet essential program needs.
- (h) **Stipends for Off-Contract Work** - Chairs will perform Chair duties for a minimum of twenty (20) hours and a maximum of fifty (50) hours during the following periods: from the end of summer quarter to the start of fall quarter, from the end of fall quarter to the start of winter Quarter, from the end of winter quarter to the start of spring quarter, and from the end of spring quarter to the start of summer quarter. Off-Contract Chair duties will be compensated at the professional services rate. Expectations for hours and duties will be agreed upon in advance, in writing with the appropriate Dean or management supervisor. In extenuating Circumstances, additional stipend hours may be agreed to by the Dean and Chair in order to meet essential program needs.
- (i) **Additional Compensation for Application Activities** - In consultation with their Dean or management supervisor, Chairs of programs with selective entry/program-specific applications may be approved for additional hours during the period that the work is required, in excess of the maximums established in (d) and (e) above, if necessary.
- (j) **Additional Reassigned Time for Accreditation Activities** - Chairs of areas that require external, program-level accreditation will receive additional reassigned time to complete effective self-study and accreditation reports and host accreditation site visits. This does not apply to required institutional accreditation, audit, or reporting activities.
 - (1) Up to three (3) quarters prior to the accreditor site visit, the Chair will receive an additional five (5) contact hours reassigned per quarter. The number of quarters will be agreed upon in advance, in writing with the appropriate Dean or management supervisor based on the accreditor's requirements.
 - (2) During the quarter of the scheduled accreditation site visit, the Chair will receive an additional five (5) contact hours reassigned.
- (k) **Compensation for Other Possible Chair Responsibilities** - It is anticipated that department/program Chairs may be responsible for items beyond those outlined in the College's Department Chair Duties policy (INST-115). The

specific duties of each Chair position are subject to variation and will be assessed and defined by the appropriate dean or managing supervisor. These responsibilities will be mutually agreed upon in writing before the election or appointment of the chair. The following table establishes the maximum annual value in clock hours for Other Possible Chair Responsibilities.

Other Responsibilities		Maximum Work Hours
1	Participate in development of articulation agreements and activities with K-12 and higher education institutions	9 hours max.
	Build community relationships for internship partnerships and other student opportunities	
2	Conduct student recruitment activities (e.g., health fairs, high school visits, nurse camp, virtual/in-person information sessions)	18 hours max.
	Coordinate robust education planning day activities (see current list of committees and engagement activities listed on the HR Hub.	
3	Evaluate student scores and transcripts as related to permission codes, milestone, and course recommendations	21 hours max.
	Assist with quarterly review of department syllabi	
	Manage end of program degree/certificate applications and worksheets	
4	Collaborate with faculty to recommend library and educational material acquisition	6 hours max.
	Collaborate with department/program faculty and administrative staff to ensure timely compliance with textbook adoptions	
5	Direct or supervise part time-time STAFF, including tutors, work-study, science laboratory technicians, art studio technicians, music accompanists, and others	6 hours max.
	Coordinate and support the maintenance/repair of equipment	
	Coordinate and support accurate inventory of supplies/equipment	

Compensation for the additional responsibilities will be calculated as follows:

21 work hours = 1 instructional contact hour of reassigned time
Sum of annual work hours is divided by 21 and the result rounded up to the nearest tenth

4.40 Compensation for Full-Time Academic Employees Working Full-Time for Four Quarters

Any full-time academic employee working a full-time load as defined in 6.00 for four (4) consecutive quarters shall be paid one-third (1/3) of their current full-time salary for the fourth quarter.

4.50 Travel Reimbursement

- (a) All academic employees are assigned a base site for their College duties. Every effort is made to give the employee total assignment at their base site
- (b) When an academic employee's assignment requires travel from their base site to a non-base site location, College vehicles are provided for the travel, per established procedures, when they are available. Mileage payments are made in accordance with College policy and approved by the College President or their designee for use of private vehicles when College vehicles are not available.
- (c) Nothing in this Negotiated Agreement shall be construed to require academic employees to own or operate a motor vehicle. However, academic employees are responsible to get to their assigned locations. Management takes into account reasonable travel time in making employee assignments.

4.60 No Article

4.70 Salary Payments

Salary payments shall be made to academic employees according to the following provisions:

- (a) **Each full-time academic employee** shall be paid in accordance with State adopted, lagged payroll schedules and procedures in the following manner: one twenty-fourth (1/24) of their annual salary beginning with the September 25 through May 25 payrolls; six twenty-fourths (6/24) on the June 10 payroll and one twenty-fourth (1/24) on the June 25 payroll unless a full-time academic employee selects to be paid in nineteen (19) equal installments between September 25 through June 25. The selection deadline is July 1 preceding the start of the September 1 contract for continuing full-time academic employees. Once a selection is submitted, it remains in effect for the contract year. A full-time academic employee has an opportunity to make a selection each year. New full-time academic employees make a selection upon hire.
- (b) **Part-time academic employees working regularly scheduled quarters** are paid in accordance with State adopted lagged, payroll schedules and procedures.
- (c) **Part-time academic employees not working regularly scheduled quarters**
shall be paid at least once a month and pay dates are included on, or attached to, the employee's Individual Appointment Letter.

4.80 Compensation for Part-Time Academic Employees

- (a) **Salaries for part-time academic employees** apply to all part-time academic employment for summer, fall, winter, or spring quarters.
- (b) **Part-time assignments** are subject to change in accordance with the needs of the College. Unless specified within the terms of an individual appointment letter, all part-time assignments are for only one (1) quarter.
- (c) **Canceled Sections** To the extent possible, low enrolled sections are cancelled by ten (10) business days prior to the start of the quarter. Sections cancelled later than ten (10) business days prior to the start of the quarter are compensated at 1% of the contract per business day, including any course that was reassigned to a full-time faculty to make load.
- (d) **Full-time academic employees accepting part-time employment** beyond their regular full-time appointment (moonlight) are considered part-time academic employees for that portion of their service.
- (e) **Notifications** - To the extent possible, full-time faculty and part-time faculty with multiple quarter appointments are notified of their class assignments by the time registration starts or eight (8) weeks prior to the start of the quarter. All other part-time faculty are notified no later than 2 weeks prior to the start of the quarter if the section is open for enrollment. Exceptions may be made for late additions and special populations.

4.81 Part-Time Academic Employee and Part-Time Assignment Compensation

(a) Formal Instructional Services Rate

- (1) **Credit Hour Rate for New Part-Time Faculty** – New part-time faculty (and new full-time faculty with moonlight appointments) are compensated using the following formula:

$$\text{Credit Hour Rate} = \frac{\text{New Full Time Faculty Initial Placement (Sec. 4.20)} \times 80\%}{45}$$

- (2) **Credit Hour Rate for Continuing Part-Time Faculty** – Continuing part-time faculty (and continuing full-time faculty with moonlight appointments) are compensated using their credit hour rate from the preceding academic year plus any applicable COLAs.
- (3) **Additional Contact Hours** - Courses with additional instructional contact hours receive an additional contact hour rate that is 50% of the associated credit hour rate shown above. For example, a 5-credit class that involves six (6) contact hours per week would be calculated as:

$$5 \text{ Credits} + \left(1 \text{ additional contact hour} \times \frac{.05 \text{ credit}}{1 \text{ Additional contact hour}} \right) = 5.5 \text{ credit hours}$$

(4) **Combined Sections** - If a course involves combined sections, as defined in section 6.21, then instructional hours scheduled to be taught in front of combined sections are paid at a rate of 150%. For example, a lab science course that has been combined receives 150% of the standard credit hour rate for the combined lecture, but I receives the regular credit/contact hour rate for the separate labs. [Example: a double section of CHEM& 121 consists of five (5) credits (4 credits of lecture and 1 credit of lab) and 8 total instructional hours comprised of four (4) hours of combined lecture and four (4) hours of lab. For part-time faculty this would be calculated as (4 credit hours of combined lecture x 150% = 6) + (1 additional credit hour for lab) + (3 additional contact hours for remaining lab time)]

(b) **Rate for Other Instructional Duties Not Otherwise Covered and Other Professional Services** – \$46 per hour of service. For services for instructional duties other than those outlined in section 4.81, compensation for the quarter is based directly on the hours of assigned service. Services included in this category are as follows:

- (1) Library
- (2) Student Services
- (3) Special Office Hours
- (4) Curriculum development
- (5) Laboratory supervision
- (6) Seminar supervision
- (7) Program coordination
- (8) Certain clinical supervision
- (9) Advising responsibility equivalent in nature to the type of advising and educational planning expected of full-time academic employees
- (10) Anti-Bias Training
- (11) EDI Training and consultant work
- (12) Hiring committees
- (13) Development and delivery of PD and other in-service activities
- (14) Student inquiry groups
- (15) Work on federal, state, and local initiatives, such as grant writing.

Participation in other instructional duties as described above is subject to the approval of the dean or management supervisor and availability of funds. Prior to engaging in other instructional duties, part-time faculty are

encouraged to verify eligibility for compensation with the appropriate dean or management supervisor.

(c) **Other Instructional Duties and Activities unique to BIPOC Faculty** - (1) Mentoring and supporting BIPOC staff, faculty, and students; (2) PD focused on identify-based trauma and navigating dominant institutional culture; (3) serving as an EDI consultant; (4) Activities that focus on self-care and community building for BIPOC faculty;

(d) **Rate for Independent Study Classes** – Independent study classes shall be paid on the following basis – Number of Students multiplied by the number of credits multiplied by the independent study rate of \$74..

For example, if a professor has three independent study students and is teaching a 2-credit class, their compensation would be:

$$3 \text{ students} \times 2 \text{ credits} \times \$74 = \$444$$

Total payment for independent study classes shall not exceed the comparable credit/contact hour rate. Management may, at its discretion, choose to pay at the higher credit/contact hour basis for independent study class.

(e) **Summer Quarter Non-Classroom Duties** – Any part-time academic employee hired to teach during the summer who is otherwise appointed by the College as a full-time academic employee, may be offered additional hours to perform non-classroom duties commonly expected of full-time academic employees. Management makes every effort to identify non-instructional activities including invisible labor, which need to be accomplished during the summer, to determine the number of hours required for this work, and to offer additional hours to selected academic employees to accomplish this work. The rate of compensation for additional duties is the professional services rate per hour.

(f) **Rate for Online Course Development** – An online class is defined as a class in which 100% of the instruction and interaction between faculty member and student is delivered online. A hybrid class is defined as a course that displaces some, but not all face-to-face class time with web-based tools. When a part-time academic employee accepts an assignment to develop a new hybrid or online class, i.e., one that has not been taught online before, a part-time academic employee is paid an amount equal to the applicable rate for teaching that same course according to the part-time salary schedule, unless the employee is being compensated for the course development from some other funding source (for example, Foundation Innovation Grants or other grant sources). Compensation may be available to academic employees who provide significant enhancements or improvement to an existing online or hybrid course, contingent upon funding availability and approval by the employee's dean or management supervisor.

(g) **Learning Management Systems** – If changes to the learning management system occur a Union/Management Committee (UMC) is called to discuss the impact and identify implementation options.

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5.00 ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES' LEAVE AND BENEFITS

5.10 Sick Leave

Pursuant to [RCW 28.B.50.551](#), an academic employee may take sick leave for the following purposes:

- (1) Personal illness
- (2) Injury
- (3) Bereavement
- (4) Medical and dental appointments
- (5) Emergencies
- (6) Approved [Federal Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#) leave including family military leave
- (7) Care of family members as required by the [Washington Family Care Act](#)
- (8) Domestic Violence Leave as required by [RCW 49.76](#)
- (9) Disability Leave
- (10) Mental health

In addition to sick leave, academic employees may take unpaid leave for these purposes, in accordance with section 5.20.

Documentation may be required for sick leave use.

(a) Calculation and Accrual of Sick Leave

- (1) Full-Time Academic Employees Including Temporary and Specially Funded Academic Employees:
 - (aa) Are granted and accrue sick leave, as follows: For the first year of full-time academic employment, the full-time academic employee are granted twelve days of sick leave on the first day on which work is performed. Full-time academic employees starting mid-year are granted a prorated amount, based on the number of appointment days, on the first day on which work is performed.
 - (bb) Following the initial appointment of full-time academic employment, sick leave is granted, and accumulated without limitation, at the rate of four (4) days per quarter not to exceed twelve (12) days per academic year. Such leave is granted on the first day on which work is performed for each quarter.
 - (cc) All full-time academic employees are eligible for participation in the Attendance Incentive Program under which they may receive

remuneration for unused sick leave in accordance with the provisions of [RCW 28B.50.553](#).

- (dd)** Full-time academic employees are eligible to receive monetary compensation for accrued sick leave. In January of each year, and at no other time, an employee whose calendar year-end compensable sick leave balance exceeds sixty (60) days may choose to convert compensable sick leave days earned in the previous calendar year minus those used during the year to monetary compensation.
 - (i) No sick leave days may be converted which would reduce the calendar year-end balance below sixty (60) days.
 - (ii) Monetary compensation for converted days is paid at the rate of twenty-five percent (25%) and is based upon the academic employee's current base salary.
 - (iii) All converted days are deducted from the academic employee's compensable sick leave balance.

(2) Part-Time Academic Employees: Calculation and Accrual of Sick Leave

Part-time academic employees, including temporary and specially funded academic employees, are granted and accrue sick leave as follows:

- (aa)** In accordance with [RCW 28B.50.4893](#) part-time academic employees accrue sick leave on a proportional basis relative to the portion of full-time academic employee sick leave accrual attributable to in-class teaching time. Accruals are rounded to two decimal places.
- (bb)** Part-time academic employees are granted their prorated sick leave for each quarter upon the first day on which their quarter assignment begins.
- (cc)** Sick leave accrues each quarter of active employment and may accumulate without limitation up to twelve (12) days per academic year.
- (dd)** Part-time academic employees are eligible for participation in the Attendance Incentive Program under which they may receive remuneration for unused sick leave in accordance with the provisions of [RCW 28B.50.553](#)
- (ee)** The College maintains an individual's sick leave balance for up to 12 months following active employment. Active employment for the purposes of sick leave accrual for a part-time academic employee is being in paid status under a part-time academic employee

appointment for at least one in-class or online teaching hour every 12 months.

- (3) **Part-time academic employee sick leave balances** revert to zero following 12 months of inactive status or separation of employment.
- (4) **Part-time academic employees who reinitiate active employment** following a 12- month interim of inactivity or separation of employment begin their sick leave accrual from zero. Previous accruals are no longer available for reinstatement.

(b) Usage and Reporting of Sick Leave

(1) Full-Time Academic Employees: Usage and Reporting of Sick Leave

Full-time academic employees are entitled to use sick leave as defined in Section 5.00. Full-time academic employees report sick leave usage in accordance with the number of contract days missed.

(2) Part-Time Academic Employees: Usage and Reporting of Sick Leave

Part-time academic employees are entitled to use sick leave as defined in Section 5.00 for the number of in-class teaching hours missed. Sick leave may be used only during the duration of the part-time academic employee's current part-time academic employee appointment(s) and may not be applied to periods of time during which the employee has no current part-time academic employee appointment or is otherwise not in an active teaching status.

(c) Unused Leave Balance

- (1) **Retirement** - Academic employees who separate from the College due to retirement are compensated for their unused compensable sick leave accumulation at the rate of one quarter (.25) of the accumulated balance. Compensation is based upon the employee's salary at the time of retirement and the employer deposits the one quarter (.25) of the total compensable balance into a VEBA Plan.
- (2) **Death** - Upon an active academic employee's death, their surviving spouse or legal domestic partner, or if there is no surviving spouse or legal domestic partner, their child or children, or if there is no child or children, their father or mother, is compensated in cash for their unused compensable sick leave accumulation at the rate of one quarter (.25) of the accumulated balance. Compensation is based upon the employee's per diem rate at the time of death.
- (3) **Exclusions** - Compensation for unused sick leave is excluded from the computations of retirement allowance; therefore, no contributions are to be made to the retirement system for such payments, nor shall such payments be reported as compensation.

- (4) **Other** - An employee who separates from the College for any reasons other than retirement or death is excluded from compensation for accrued sick leave.

(d) Transferability

(1) Full-time Academic Employees

Full-time Academic Employees may transfer sick leave in accordance with the leave provisions provided by [RCW 28B.50.551](#)

(2) Part-time academic employees

Part-time academic employees may transfer sick leave balances in accordance with [RCW 28.B.50.551](#). For purposes of part-time academic employees, transfer to the College is defined as moving from one state agency or institution of higher education to the College as the sole employer without a break in service. For transfer purposes, a break in service is defined as not being in pay status with the transferring agency or the College for two consecutive quarters. When transfers are from another Washington State public community college and/or technical college, the College is considered the sole employer following two consecutive quarters of exclusive College employment within the community and technical College system. Requests for transfers must occur within the third quarter following the initial first two quarters in which Tacoma Community College has been the sole employer. If a part-time academic employee is simultaneously employed at another Washington State public community and/or technical college, the respective Colleges' negotiated agreement applies.

5.11 Bereavement Leave

Academic employees may use sick leave for bereavement purposes. Academic employees may use up to one week of sick leave for bereavement purposes for each occurrence of death. For the purpose of this section, one week is defined as five (5) days within a calendar week. The employee may request to use additional sick leave.

5.12 Emergency Leave

Academic employees may use accrued sick leave for emergencies. For the purpose of this section, an emergency is an event which is unavoidable, serious, important, unanticipated, beyond the control of the employee and for which preplanning is not possible. An employee taking such a leave shall, whenever possible, notify their dean or management supervisor or the Human Resources office prior to or at the time the leave is taken, but in any event no later than two (2) working days after initiating the leave unless there are extenuating circumstances.

The employee, upon return to work, may be asked to provide the College Human Resources office with documentation to substantiate the emergency absence from work. As an institution that strives to be trauma informed, Tacoma Community College

recognizes that there are circumstances when emergency leave is appropriately used that may be particularly personal, such as in the case of an employee or relation surviving domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or cyberstalking. In these cases, documentation may be difficult to obtain or may put the employee at risk of re-traumatization. These situations are handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with trauma-informed best practices as much as possible.

5.13 Shared Leave

Consistent with chapter 41.04 RCW, specifically [RCW 41.04.650](#) through [RCW 41.04.685](#). The shared leave program permits all academic employees who accrue sick leave to participate in the College's shared leave program. The shared leave provisions and guidelines for donation and receipt are available at the [Office of Financial Management](#). Shared leave guidelines apply to the donation and receipt of shared leave.

- (a) Eligibility** - Academic employees may be eligible to receive shared leave for the following purposes:
- (1)** The receiving employee or individual for whom the employee provides care must be suffering from an extraordinary or severe illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition.
 - (2)** The employee has been called to service in the uniformed services, is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or cyberstalking.
 - (3)** A state of emergency has been declared anywhere within the United States by the Federal or any state government and the employee has needed skills to assist in responding to the emergency or its aftermath and is volunteering with a governmental agency or a nonprofit organization to provide humanitarian relief in the devastated area.
 - (aa)** The employee must have depleted, or will deplete in the near future, all available sick leave, causing the College to place the employee on leave without pay or terminate their employment.
 - (bb)** The employee must be a Tacoma Community College academic employee who accrues compensable sick leave, has abided by the College's policy regarding the use of sick leave, and is not currently receiving time loss compensation or other types of State disability payments.
 - (cc)** The employee must have submitted a medical certificate from a licensed physician or health care practitioner verifying the employee's required absence, the description of the medical problem and expected date of return. Or, in the case of uniformed services, the employee must submit military orders. In the case of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or cyberstalking, the

employee must submit documentation as identified at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=49.76.040>

As an institution that strives to be a trauma-informed institution, Tacoma Community College recognizes that obtaining documentation in circumstances of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or cyberstalking may be difficult and puts the employee at risk for re-traumatization. Tacoma Community College follows best practices as much as possible to support faculty who are currently experiencing or have experienced these traumatic events throughout the legal documentation process.

- (dd) An employee may not receive more than five hundred twenty-two (522) days of shared leave for the entire duration of state employment. For this purpose, a day is equal to seven (7) hours.

(b) Process

Upon request for donation of shared leave, Human Resources reviews the request for eligibility and the required medical documentation. HR forwards the form to the President or their designee for approval/disapproval. Once approved, the Human Resources office notifies all employees of the eligible recipient's need for shared leave donations, if it is the request of the individual to notify all employees.

(c) Academic Employees Donating Sick Leave

- (1) An academic employee who desires to donate compensable sick leave must submit a completed Shared Leave Donation Request form for approval and forward the form to the Human Resources Department.
- (2) The donation of compensable sick leave may not cause the compensable sick leave balance to fall below twenty-two (22) days or one hundred fifty-four (154) hours after the transfer.
- (3) The value of the leave donated is converted to the current salary of the person receiving the leave. In other words, one hour of donated leave may cover more than or less than one hour of the recipient's salary.
- (4) Unused shared leave is returned to each donor's compensable sick leave account on a prorated basis and at the original value only upon Human Resource's verification with a medical provider that the need for such shared leave will not be needed in the future and is ready for return to the donor.

5.14 Personal Leave

A full-time academic employee is eligible to use up to four (4) non-accumulative personal leave days per academic year commencing with the first day upon which work is performed.

A part-time academic employee on a multiple quarter appointment of three (3) quarters is eligible for one (1) non-accumulative personal leave day during the appointment period (not to exceed 1 per academic year). This leave is intended to be used for situations of a personal nature such as conducting personal business affairs that cannot be reasonably accommodated during evening/weekend hours.

Whenever possible and predictable, academic employees give the appropriate dean or management supervisor at least one (1) weeks' notice of their intention to take personal leave.

5.15 Family and Medical Leave

Full-time academic employees are entitled to take family leave for one of the following reasons:

- (a) For a serious medical condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the job.
- (b) For the birth or adoption of a child or placement of a foster child; or
- (c) For the care of a child, foster child, spouse, legal domestic partner, legal ward, or parent who has a serious health condition.
- (d) For any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that a spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a military member on covered active duty or called to covered active-duty status.

Upon written request to their dean or management supervisor, full-time academic employees are granted up to twelve (12) weeks of family/medical leave without loss of position, seniority, or previously accrued benefits. The request must include reasonable documentation and meet the criteria established under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

In order to be eligible for family/medical leave, the employee must also meet the eligibility criteria under the Family and Medical Leave Act. Unless otherwise specified by the Family and Medical Leave Act, the following provisions apply.

Whenever possible, the employee provides three (3) months' notice to their dean or management supervisor of their intention to take family leave.

An employee may choose to use their accrued sick leave or take leave without pay or a combination of both for family/medical leave. The College will pay for the employer paid portion of health benefits for the first twelve (12) weeks of family/medical leave regardless of whether the employee is using sick leave or is on leave without pay.

An employee may request additional leave beyond the first twelve (12) weeks of family/medical leave. An employee on leave without pay beyond the first twelve (12) weeks of family/medical leave may use one day of accrued sick leave per month to remain in pay status and to provide for continuation of their health benefits, up to a maximum of three additional months. An employee on leave without pay beyond the additional three-month period may self-pay their medical benefits. The total request for

additional leave plus the initial twelve (12) weeks of family leave may not exceed one year.

Upon written request to their dean or management supervisor, an employee may take family/medical leave on a reduced schedule, involving a combination of work and leave. The combination of work and leave involved in such a schedule shall relate directly to the employee's job assignment and be practical for both the employee and the College. An employee on a reduced schedule shall have their salary and appropriate benefits prorated, proportional to the amount of work involved in the schedule. The reduced schedule for family/medical leave may not exceed a one (1) year period.

The probationary period for a probationary academic employee taking family leave will be extended as provided for in [RCW 28B.50.852](#).

5.16 Jury Duty Leave

Leave of absence with pay will be granted to all academic employees for jury duty, to serve as a witness at trials, or to exercise other required civil duties. An academic employee will be allowed to retain any compensation paid for such duties. An academic employee will inform their dean or management supervisor when notified of a jury summons.

Both parties will collaborate to minimize the instructional impact. In cases of extended service, both parties will collaborate to minimize the impact on the academic employee and the college.

5.17 Domestic Violence Leave

An academic employee who is a survivor, or whose family member is a survivor, of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or cyberstalking is entitled to take reasonable leave from work. Such leave will be granted in order to seek safety, legal assistance, treatment, or for any other purpose provided for in [RCW 49.76.030](#). An employee who is approved to be absent from work under this policy may elect to use any available personal and/or sick leave or may take leave without pay. Academic employees may also apply for shared leave.

An employee must give advanced notice of leave to the dean or management supervisor or Human Resources Office, unless advanced notice cannot be given because of an emergency or unforeseen circumstance due to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or cyberstalking. If advanced notice cannot be given, the employee or the employee's designee should, if possible, give notice no later than the end of the first day that the employee takes such leave, and make arrangements to complete/submit the appropriate leave forms and additional required leave documentation. As an institution that strives to be trauma informed, TCC recognizes that there are circumstances that impact physical safety and emotional health that may prevent an employee from giving immediate notice. These situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis following trauma informed best practices as much as

possible, except for reasons listed under section 8(b) of [RCW 49.76.040](#), the college maintains the confidentiality of information provided by the employee.

5.18 Military Leave

An academic employee who is called to report for active duty or participate in active training duty as a member of any of the United States armed forces or organized Reserves is entitled to a military leave of absence for up to twenty-one (21) days each year, between October 1st and September 30th.

Such leave will be granted in addition to an academic employee's available personal and/or sick leave. While on military leave, an employee is entitled to receive their normal pay, in accordance with [RCW 38.40.060](#).

The academic employee may elect to take unpaid leave beyond twenty-one (21) days for purposes of fulfilling military active duty or active-duty training, per section 5.20 (c) (4) of the negotiated contract and may be eligible to participate in the Uniformed Service Shared Leave Pool, per [RCW 43.79.500](#).

5.19 Professional Leave/Sabbatical – Full Time Academic Employees

(a) Purpose

The purpose of professional leaves are: To provide the full-time academic employee with an opportunity to improve, extend or renew their professional skills through a plan of study, research or creative work and to provide needed and useful services to the College upon the employee's return.

(b) Eligibility

- (1)** All full-time academic employees will receive a minimum of one (1) and up to a maximum of three (3) consecutive quarters of professional leave. No faculty will be forced to take professional leave.
- (2)** The faculty member must have at least three (3) years of full-time employment with the College prior to receiving leave. All efforts are made so that faculty who wish to take professional leave will be able to do so before they have completed ten (10) years of full-time employment with the college.
- (3)** Upon the faculty will have time to complete a period of full-time service to the College equal to the amount of leave.
- (4)** Professional leave is granted for a period of time not to exceed three (3) consecutive quarters, exclusive of summer quarter or the fourth quarter equivalent.

(c) Agreement Regarding Professional Leave

- (1)** Full time faculty will complete an agreement for professional leaves in consultation with their program/department chair and their management supervisor. Guidance for this agreement will be developed by the Faculty

Professional Development Committee and the Union and then provided by the College administration to faculty and supervisors. These agreements are submitted to the College President following consultation with the employee's management supervisor.

- (2) Agreements for professional leave must be submitted to the College President before 5:00 p.m. of the day eight weeks before the March Board of Trustees meeting. The date will be published to the academic employees during Fall Quarter professional development days.
 - (3) The general plan of the proposed leave will be specified in the leave agreement and may not be substantially modified except as agreed by management and the union.
 - (4) All professional leave agreements which have been properly prepared and submitted will be granted within the period of time stated in 5.19 (b) (2).
 - (5) The College President will make a written recommendation to the Board of Trustees by the day two (2) weeks before the March Board of Trustees meeting.
 - (6) Final approval and granting of professional leave, or the subsequent modification of leaves previously granted, shall rest with the Board, upon recommendation of the Faculty Union and the President of the College.
- (d) **Budgeting for Professional Leaves** -The total of the professional leaves granted by management for any single academic year will be based on fiscal and programmatic considerations.
- (e) **Compensation and Benefits While on Professional Leave**
- (1) An employee on professional leave for a period greater than one (1) quarter is compensated by the College at seventy-five percent (75%) of the normally appointed salary for the period of the leave.
 - (2) An employee on professional leave for one (1) quarter is compensated by the College at one hundred percent (100%) of the normally appointed salary for the quarter.
 - (3) Employment benefits, including seniority, salary increments, and College contributions to medical plans, shall remain in force during professional leave.
 - (4) Acceptance of professional leave does not prejudice the employee's rights to be considered for other forms of leave.
- (f) **Completion of Leave**
- (1) The recipient of a professional leave, upon completion of the leave, agrees to return directly to the College to render service of benefit to the College and commensurate with the value of the amount of leave so granted or for

a full-time assignment, for a period equal to the length of the professional leave.

- (2) In case the recipient does not return to the College, the faculty member will refund to the College all compensation provided to the employee by the College during the leave, on terms satisfactory to the President of the College and Faculty Union.
- (3) The recipient of a professional leave will share with the college community results or findings that are of potential value to the College, and the recommendations for implementing the results for the benefit of our students.

5.20 Leave Without Pay

Upon request, the President shall grant leave without pay to full-time academic employees for family/medical, temporary disability, and government service leaves. Furthermore, the President may grant leave without pay for extended family/medical leave or for other reasons to a full-time academic employee whenever such leave does not impose a financial or instructional hardship on the College.

A tenured academic employee may also request a partial leave without pay for personal or professional reasons. Prior to being granted partial leave without pay the employee submits the request in writing for approval. A tenured academic employee who is awarded a partial leave without pay will receive a proration of their regular full-time salary based upon the percent of a full-time assignment worked and will be entitled to the usual benefits related to salary paid and hours worked. These personal and/or professional reasons for granting leaves include, but are not limited to: study, research, teaching, travel, work experience, professional organizational work, or family reasons outside of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

(a) Conditions for Leave Without Pay

- (1) Management guarantees the full-time academic employee a position upon return from family/medical, temporary disability, and government service leaves. Furthermore, management guarantees the employee a position upon return from other leaves without pay if, prior to granting the leave, this fact is established in writing by the College President.
- (2) For leaves other than those specified in Item 5.20(a)(1) above, management guarantees the full-time academic employee that they will be reinstated at the end of the leave period if an opening exists for which they are qualified.
- (3) A leave without pay is limited to a maximum of one (1) academic year. Management may grant an extension of the leave.
- (4) A full-time academic employee on leave without pay may retain College fringe benefits by paying applicable contributions in full.

- (b) **Application for Leave Without Pay** – Written applications are presented to the appropriate dean after consultation with the appropriate Chair or dean or management supervisor. Applications are presented as early as possible, but not less than sixty (60) working days prior to the effective date of the intended leave.

Applicants will receive notification of the President's decision within fifteen (15) working days. When necessary, management will consider special applications on a shorter term than indicated above.

(c) **Types of Leave Without Pay**

- (1) **Professional Leave Without Pay** – Professional reasons such as study, research, teaching, travel, work experience, or professional organization work.
- (2) **Temporary Disability Leave** – Leave without pay is granted to full-time or tenured academic employees for a period up to one year for documented, temporary disabilities and temporary leave related to pregnancy, and may be granted for additional periods upon application to the President.
- (3) **Family/Medical Leave** – Upon request, leave without pay is granted to a full-time, academic employee for family/medical leave purposes, as defined in 5.15. Nothing in this provision limits the academic employee's right to use accrued sick leave per section 5.15.

A full-time academic employee who does not qualify for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), but who otherwise has a situation that meets the FMLA criteria for 1) a serious medical condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the job; 2) the birth or adoption of a child or placement of a foster child; or 3) the care of a child, foster child, spouse/ legal domestic partner, legal ward or parent who has a serious health condition, or 4) For any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that a spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a military member on covered active duty or called to covered active duty status, may request leave under this section. A full-time academic employee granted leave under this section and on leave without pay during the first twelve weeks of qualifying leave may use one (1) or more days of accrued sick leave per month to remain in pay status and to provide for continuation of their health insurance benefits, up to a maximum of three months.

- (4) **Government Service Leave** – Leaves of absence without pay will be granted to full-time academic employees for reserve annual encampment and other active duty for training, national emergency call up of reserves, conscription, or enlistment in time of national emergency. Applicable benefits accrue to the employee on such leave as provided by law, provided the affected academic employee indicates in writing to the President, their desire to return to this institution within sixty (60) days of severance from the armed services.

- (5) **Military Family Leave** – An academic employee whose spouse or legal domestic partner is a deployable member of the United States armed forces or organized reserves is entitled to fifteen (15) days of unpaid leave per deployment. Leave is to be taken after the deployment notice, but before the spouse/partner leaves for deployment, or while the spouse/partner is on leave from deployment, per [RCW 49.77.030](#).

Nothing in this provision limits the academic employee's right to use available personal and/or sick leave per section 5.10.

An employee who plans to take Military Family leave must provide notice to their dean or management supervisor after receiving the deployment notice, in order to aid in instructional scheduling.

- (6) **Other** – Full-time academic employees may be granted leave without pay for reasons other than the above upon making a reasonable request for such leave to management.

5.21 Insurance Plans

- (a) Management agrees to provide to full-time academic employees all employer-paid group health, dental, and other appropriate insurance programs which are approved by the State of Washington Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) and funded by the Legislature, provided that these full-time academic employees meet the eligibility requirements of the PEBB.
- (b) Management agrees to provide to part-time academic employees all employer-paid group health, dental, and other appropriate insurance programs which are approved by the State of Washington Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) and funded by the Legislature, provided that these part-time academic employees meet the eligibility requirements of the PEBB.
- (c) When possible, management agrees to make payroll deductions from an academic employee's salary for employee-paid insurance plans authorized by the State of Washington Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB).
- (d) Management provides information detailing eligibility criteria to academic employees for insurance benefits and notifies each academic employee of their eligibility for insurance benefits upon meeting the criteria for eligibility.

5.22 Worker's Compensation

In case of accidents that occur to academic employees during working hours and/or while carrying out professional responsibilities, management agrees to maintain maximum allowable coverage under current Worker's Compensation legislation.

5.30 Retirement Benefits

Management will make available retirement options as provided by statute.

5.40 Unemployment Benefits

Management will provide, as approved by law, Washington State Unemployment Benefits.

5.50 Parking

Management agrees to make parking facilities available, free of charge, to academic employees in accordance with Board approved regulations governing campus parking and traffic.

5.60 Severance Pay

Management agrees to provide severance pay as authorized and funded by the Washington State Legislature.

5.70 Graduation Regalia

Any full-time or part-time academic employee who participates in commencement will be provided with a loaned cap, gown, and hood at no cost.

Such cap, gown, and hood is purchased by the college and issued to the academic employee, the cap, gown, and hood are replaced every ten (10) years as necessary.

In addition, the College will award to each academic employee, at the time they are tenured, the appropriate masters degree hood or doctoral hood.

If a tenured academic employee receives a subject-related masters or doctoral degree from an accredited college or university after receiving tenure the College will award the academic employee the appropriate masters degree hood or doctoral hood.

5.80 In-Service Education

Management and the Union agree that individual professional development is extremely important to the continued professional growth of academic employees, the quality of educational programs and services, and the future of the College. To promote professional development, management and the academic employees agree to work together to offer a quarterly series of professional development activities, funded by management. Management and the Union will encourage all academic employees to participate in the activities provided.

5.90 Employee Assistance Program for Substance Abuse, Personal, Financial, Family and Other Issues

Academic employees may seek employee assistance services through the Human Resources Department of the College, or the employee assistance program contracted by the College to provide such services. Assistance provided by the Human Resources Department will be restricted to referrals to service/counseling agencies in the community. The request for assistance will be kept confidential and is not used as a basis for disciplinary action.

6.00 ACADEMIC YEAR AND LOAD

6.10 Academic Year

The academic year for all full-time academic employees is one hundred seventy-six (176) days, consisting of three (3) instructional quarters (fall, winter, and spring) plus non-instructional days as defined below.

6.11 Full-Time Academic Employee Academic Year Appointment

Each full-time academic employee appointment is for a period of one hundred seventy-six (176) days of the academic year.

6.12 Academic Year Definitions

- (a) Fall, winter, and spring quarters** each consist of no more than fifty-one (51) days and are typically scheduled Monday through Friday. Each quarter, an additional four (4) days are scheduled for final exams. Pre-instructional days shall not start earlier than September 14, with spring quarter ending not later than June 18. There will be a minimum of five (5) working days between quarters.
- (b) Non-instructional days** shall be utilized for such activities as advising continuing students, course preparation, professional development, workshops, minor curriculum revision and/or minor program development, division/faculty meetings, new academic employee orientation and other tasks assigned by the appropriate dean or management supervisor. These non-instructional days, except for advising days, will typically be scheduled immediately prior to, and/or following each instructional quarter, as follows:

 - (1)** Three (3) days for advising continuing students as set forth in 6.22.
 - (2)** Five (5) days for division/academic employee meetings
 - (3)** Remaining non-instructional days to grade final exams, calculate course grades, review course evaluations, complete course preparation, pursue individual, professional development activities, and perform other job responsibilities identified in 6.22. The individual's immediate supervisor is informed of the work arrangements (i.e., site, time, activity, etc.) for these days.

6.13 Academic Calendar Year Definition

The academic calendar year consists of the academic year plus a fourth, or summer, quarter. Summer quarter consists of no more than thirty-two (32) days (exceptions may be made to meet program requirements) and typically is scheduled four (4) days per week, Monday through Thursday. Courses offered during the summer quarter typically include an equivalent number of instructional contact hours as the same courses when offered during the fall, winter, or spring quarters.\

Included in each quarter, one day each is scheduled for preparation and grading. There will be a minimum of five (5) working days between quarters.

6.14 Alternatives to Academic Year Appointments

- (a)** The following alternatives to the definitions of an academic year appointment and daily work span (Sections 6.12 and 6.21) may be implemented either by mutual agreement between the full-time academic employee and the appropriate dean or management supervisor or through management assignment of a full-time academic employee where there is a lack of necessary work within the periods of time specified in Sections 6.12. In either case, the agreement will be documented by the first business day of June of the academic year prior to the schedule. If the agreement is mutual then documentation will be maintained between the dean or management supervisor and the full-time academic employee.

 - (1)** If the agreement is not mutual, the employee is informed in writing of their right to Union representation prior to any action taken. The Union will be informed in writing of management's intention to exercise this option along with supporting evidence as to the necessity of this action. The Union will be informed in sufficient time to allow a discussion to take place should the Union not fully understand the evidence related to the action.
- (b)** **For all alternative academic year appointments**, the following provisions apply:

 - (1)** The agreement will be documented by the first business day of June of the academic year prior to the schedule.

 - (aa)** Documentation will be maintained between the dean or management supervisor and the full-time academic employee.
 - (bb)** Once the agreement is in place, it will remain in effect for the academic year without changes unless extenuating circumstances exist.
 - (cc)** If the agreement is not mutual, the employee is informed in writing of their right to Union representation prior to any action taken. The Union will be informed in writing of management's intention to exercise this option along with supporting evidence as to the necessity of this action. The Union will be informed in sufficient time to allow a discussion to take place should the Union not fully understand the evidence related to the action.
 - (dd)** Any agreement must include a minimum accumulation of twenty-five (25) credits, or the equivalent contact hours completed by the end of winter quarter.
 - (ee)** Arrangements may be made to substitute alternate days for an equal number from the academic year as defined in 6.12.

- (ff) A summer quarter of full-time employment may be substituted for a fall, winter, or spring quarter.
 - (gg) Arrangements may be made for full-time employment for a specific task and for a specific number of days that may differ from the academic year.
 - (hh) Arrangements may not convert a faculty member, involuntarily, from a 9 month to a twelve (12) month contract.
 - (ii) The employee may be assigned a class with an alternate schedule involving fewer days per week, more hours per class session, and/or days not included in the definitions of fall, winter, spring, or summer quarters defined in 6.12. In such cases, the total number of instructional contact hours for the course are maintained and the instructional load requirements remain the same.
 - (jj) An employee's workweek may be extended beyond five (5) days.
 - (kk) An employee's daily work span may be extended beyond seven (7) hours
 - (ll) Arrangements may be made to spread the full-time instructional load across four continuous quarters (beginning in the summer and ending in the spring.) This will require a twelve-month contract with a minimum load of five (5) credits in the summer.
 - (mm) In the case of an alternative academic year appointment that spreads the load across four quarters, office hours will be distributed among the four quarters and documented in the agreement.
 - (nn) This does not change or expand the committee requirements in 6.22.
- (2) Moonlight - In the case of an alternative academic year appointment, Moonlight contracts will not convert to workload.
 - (3) Moonlight contracts will be paid in the quarter identified in the alternative academic appointment agreement.
 - (4) Early separation, or failure to reach workload may result in repayment of overpaid wages, per RCW 49.48.200
- (c) In those cases where an alternative to academic year assignments is made by dean or management supervisor assignment and not faculty request, the following provisions apply
 - (1) There shall be a lack of necessary work within the periods of time specified in Sections 6.12 and 6.21 of this agreement.

- (2) The appropriate dean or management supervisor will consult with the members of the department or program affected.
- (3) Alternate schedules are rotated through the faculty in the program or department as much as possible.
- (4) Management will make every effort to avoid assigning an individual employee more than one alternative to the standard work assignment in any one year.

6.15 Suspended Operations

If the President finds it is necessary to suspend College operations because of emergency conditions, the President may, after consultation with the Union President, extend the class schedule to regain the days lost by the emergency. Except in cases of extreme exigency, the College President allows the Union five (5) working days to consult with the academic employees before rendering their decision on extension of classes. Emergency conditions include, but are not limited to, severe weather, riot, civil disturbance, loss of power, and loss of heat.

6.20 No Article

6.21 Definitions

- (a) **Work Week** – The normal workweek for full-time academic employees shall be thirty-five (35) hours spent on College services as assigned.
- (b) **Daily Work Span** – The daily work span for full-time academic employees shall not exceed seven (7) hours. By mutual agreement between the appropriate dean and the employee, arrangements may be made for a longer daily work span.
- (c) **Instructional Contact Hour** – An instructional contact hour is defined as 50 minutes during which an academic employee meets with a group of students to engage in the following teaching/learning activities:
 - (1) Lecture and/or discussion instruction, or
 - (2) Laboratory, clinical, physical education (activity classes) or studio instruction.
- (d) **Other Instructional Activities** – Instructional activities without preparation or grading responsibilities. These activities involve professional counseling services, library services involving contact with students, and self-paced instruction, laboratory and clinical supervision that do not involve preparation or assignment of grades.
- (e) **Non-Instructional Activities** – Services in this category include program coordination, research, and development, meetings and symposia, student services (other than counseling), and library services that do not involve contact with students.

- (f) **New Preparation** – Any new course that a full-time academic employee has never taught before as reflected by course number, name, and content. The course will be considered new if significant changes have been made to an existing class such that it would be considered a new course as determined by the dean or management supervisor.
- (g) **Combined Section** - A combined section refers to two or more sections of the same course scheduled to meet together for the lecture portion of the class with the laboratory portion scheduled separately. Only classes that have laboratory components may be taught as combined sections.

6.22 Academic Employee Types and Job Responsibilities

(a) Academic Employee Types

- (1) Full Time Tenured Faculty
- (2) Full Time Tenure-track Faculty
- (3) Full Time Temporary Faculty
- (4) Full Time Specially Funded Faculty
- (5) Faculty Librarians
- (6) Faculty Counselors
- (7) Part Time Faculty
- (8) Faculty Clinical Director/Coordinator

(b) Full-time Academic Employee Responsibilities:

All full-time academic employees share the same core responsibilities. Responsibilities unique to Faculty Librarians, Faculty Clinical Directors/Coordinators, and Faculty Counselors are further specified in section 6.22 (c), 6.22 (d), and 6.22 (e). All full-time faculty are academic employees whose primary professional responsibilities involve performing an instructional assignment. This assignment includes all those activities that are necessary to complete this process as noted in section .20 and below. Activities which are an integral part of the full-time academic employee's core responsibilities include the following:

- (1) **Instruction** - Preparation and delivery of teaching and learning activities.
- (2) **Student Feedback** - Ongoing review and grading of student work throughout the quarter, and submission of final grades.
- (3) **Curriculum** - Regular review of courses, with adjustments as needed. When necessary, minor revisions will be submitted to the Curriculum Committee and new course proposals will be developed collaboratively by faculty.

- (4) **Assessment** - Quarterly course level assessment of learning outcomes, department, and division-level assessment.
- (5) **Scholarship related to keeping current in related disciplinary and/or industry focus** - Includes inquiry, research, professional development, and discipline-specific training and certification required by industry and/or external accrediting bodies.
- (6) **Advising and Counseling of Students** - Engaging in the college's advising process, and participation in quarterly Educational Planning Day activities as well as advising tasks such as direct advising, early alerts, and college resource referral.
- (7) **Active participation in college governance and initiatives that support departmental, divisional, and college goals** – Includes program review, strategic planning, institutional effectiveness, and College accreditation activities.
- (8) **Attendance at department, division, and general faculty meetings** - Department meetings are generally limited to ten (10) hours, except that if extenuating circumstances exist, an additional five (5) hours per quarter may be utilized.
- (9) **Community Engagement** - Academic employees are encouraged to participate in college recognized and related collaborative community activities and initiatives which advance the mission and strategic priorities of the College.
- (10) **Designated Worksite** - All full-time academic employees have a schedule of twenty-one (21) hours per week at their designated work site. Faculty who request to work remotely more than fourteen (14) hours per week must submit the college's approved telework request form. The appropriate dean or management supervisor can agree to and document alternative worksites in accordance with the college's telework policies.
- (11) **Office Hours** - Full Time academic employees who are teaching credit courses will be available to confer with students at a designated work site for at least one (1) hour per week, per five (5) credits of instruction. These office hours should be at the designated worksite or online in proportion to any online classes in the teaching assignment for the quarter. This schedule will be made readily available to students. Exceptions may be made by mutual agreement between the faculty and dean or management supervisor.
- (12) **Required Training** - Includes all state, federal, and new faculty training. If changes to the college-required training are proposed, a Union/Management Committee (UMC) is called to discuss the impact and identify implementation options.

(13) Committee Work and College Engagement - Participation on two College recognized committees and one engagement. A current list of committees and engagements will be maintained on the HR Hub. Any changes or additions to the list require mutual agreement of the Union/Management Committee (UMC).

(c) Faculty Librarian Responsibilities

- (1)** Provide research and information literacy services online and in-person during Library open hours.
- (2)** Provide multi-disciplinary research and information literacy instruction to TCC students, staff, and faculty.
- (3)** Provide direct information literacy instruction, according to current Library Science professional standards, which includes but is not limited to LS credit-bearing courses, one-on-one student instruction, and single or multi-session class instruction in collaboration with the instructors.
- (4)** Develop and provide a variety of Library, research, and information literacy learning objects to meet curriculum needs and to meet informational needs related to current political, cultural, social, technological, and environmental events and issues.
- (5)** Collect, develop, and continually assess Library materials that represent and support curriculum needs, and the academic needs and diverse personal developmental needs and interests of TCC students.
- (6)** Provide research assignment consultation and support to discipline faculty.
- (7)** Promote and assist faculty across subject areas in the development, adaptation, and adoption of open education resources.
- (8)** Participate in the development and maintenance of the Library's website.
- (9)** Assess and develop recommendations for enhancements of Library instruction and services.
- (10)** The Library Faculty Chair, in collaboration with Library faculty, will develop and recommend to the Dean or management supervisor, a staffing schedule to meet student needs, the physical Library open hours needs, and Library staff needs, in alignment with the negotiated contract.

(d) Faculty Counselors Responsibilities

- (1)** Provide personal, individual and group, mental health, career, and educational counseling services to TCC students in a comprehensive student-centered manner.
- (2)** Develop, present, and provide mental health and wellness outreach programming and instruction to the diverse campus community.

- (3) Provide credit bearing and non-credit bearing instruction related to supporting holistic student development in areas of human development, wellness, and proactive skills and resourcing.
 - (4) Adhere to ethical standards of the American Psychological Association and the American Counseling Association and the statutes and laws (WAC and RCW) of the State of Washington to provide ethical practice upholding the counselor's licensure
 - (5) Collect, develop, and assess Counseling learning outcomes, services, programming, courses, and materials that represent and support student and curriculum needs.
 - (6) Provide consultation and support regarding student success and student needs which may include crisis intervention, case management, and referrals.
 - (7) Counseling faculty Chair - The Counseling faculty Chair, in collaboration with the Counseling faculty, will develop and recommend to the Dean or management supervisor a staffing schedule to meet student needs, the physical Counseling Services open-hours needs, and Counseling staff needs, in alignment with the negotiated contract.
- (e) Faculty Clinical Director/Coordinator**
- (1) Clinical placement duties
 - (2) Accreditation required duties as related to clinical experiences
 - (3) Coordinate with community partners to ensure adequate clinical sites
- (f) Part Time Faculty**
- (1) **Instruction** - Preparation and delivery of teaching and learning activities
 - (2) **Student Feedback** - Ongoing review and grading of student work throughout the quarter, and submission of final grades
 - (3) **Assessment** - Course level learning outcomes assessment
 - (4) **Curriculum** - Minor curriculum revision and course development at the individual class level
 - (5) **Scholarship related to keeping current in related disciplinary and/or industry focus** - Includes inquiry, research, professional development, and discipline-specific training and certification required by industry and/or external accrediting bodies.
 - (6) **Advising and counseling of students** - Informal Advising and Counseling of Students including early alerts and college resource referral
 - (7) **Office Hours** - Part Time academic employees who are teaching credit courses will be available to confer with students at a designated work site

for at least one (1) hour per week, per five (5) credits of instruction. These office hours should be at the designated worksite or online in proportion to any online classes in the teaching assignment for the quarter. This schedule will be made readily available to students. Exceptions may be made by mutual agreement between the faculty and dean or management supervisor.

- (8) **Required Training** - Includes all state, federal, and new faculty training. If changes to the college-required trainings are proposed, a union/management committee (UMC) is called to discuss the impact and identify implementation options.
- (g) **Chair** – The additional duties of a Chair may vary and will be determined by management. Management will maintain a general description of these duties in the Policy INST-115, Department Chair Duties. All full-time academic employees will be notified whenever changes are made to the policy. The initial term for any Chair is two years. After the first two (2) year term elections/appointments are held/made annually. If at any time an elected or appointed Chair becomes unable or unwilling to continue to serve, they may, in coordination with their dean or management supervisor, step down.

6.23 No Articles 6.23 through 6.30

6.31 Instructional Load for Full-Time Academic Employees

- (a) **Full-Time Instructional Contact Hours** – An instructional load for full-time academic employees is an annual average of fifteen (15) instructional contact hours per week. A quarterly load greater than nineteen (19) instructional contact hours per week may only be assigned with the permission of the academic employee.
 - (1) An exception is permitted in the case of science and engineering faculty teaching courses that are seven instructional contact hours where the faculty may have an assignment of up to twenty-one (21) instructional contact hours during one quarter per academic year in which the faculty is teaching a seven-contact hour course.
 - (2) If a course involves combined sections, as defined in section 6.21, then each instructional hour taught in front of combined sections will be considered as one and a half (1.5) contact hours. For example, a lab science course that has been combined will receive one and a half (1.5) contact hours for each hour of combined lecture, but will receive non-adjusted contact hours for the separate labs.

[Example: a double section of CHEM& 121 consists of eight (8) total contact hours, four (4) hours of which are combined lectures. For full-time faculty this would be treated as (4 contact hours of combined lecture x 150%) + (4 additional contact hours for lab) = 10 contact hours]

- (3) Online or hybrid courses/labs are considered to have the same contact hours as person-to-person contact hours in the classroom or other traditional means.
 - (4) If an academic employee's annual average instructional contact hour load is greater than fifteen (15) contact hours per week, the employee will be compensated for the additional contact hours as a moonlight, as discussed in section 4.80 (d).
 - (5) This additional load compensation will be issued during the quarter that the moonlight occurs.
- (b) **Instructional Contact Hours for Full-Time Faculty Librarians and Counselors** – Full-time Faculty counselors and librarians will spend more than 50% of their assignment performing learning support activities not directly related to classroom instruction. Therefore, the maximum annual average classroom contact hour instructional load for such academic employees is less than 50% of the load of other full-time instructional academic employee (i.e., max of 7.5 contact hours per week). The maximum quarterly instructional load is nine (9) contact hours per week. Since Faculty Librarians and Counselors may have significantly more than 50% of their load as learning support activities, no target load is stated, and instructional loads significantly less than the maximums may be assigned.
 - (c) **Independent Study** – Individual assignments involving and/or independent study is based on three hundred seventy-five (375) student credit hours as equivalent to a full quarterly load.
 - (d) **Preparation** – Typically, a full-time academic employee is not assigned more than two different five (5) credit courses as reflected by course number, during any one (1) quarter.
 - (e) **New Preparation** – Typically, a tenured academic employee is not assigned more than four new preparations during any one academic year appointment. Exceptions may be granted at the request of the employee.
 - (f) **New Online Course Development** – An online class is defined as a class in which 100% of the instruction and interaction between faculty member and student is delivered online. A hybrid class is defined as a course that displaces some, but not all face-to-face class time with web-based tools. When a full-time academic employee accepts an assignment to develop a new hybrid or online class,

i.e., one which has not been taught online before, the employee may choose to receive reassigned time for one quarter equal to the instructional load of the new online class, or receive compensation in accordance with the part-time salary schedule, as described in 4.81 (f) A full-time academic employee shall not receive both reassigned time and compensation, regardless of funding source. Compensation may be available to academic employees who provide significant

enhancements or improvements to an existing online or hybrid course, contingent upon funding availability and approval by the employee's dean or management supervisor.

(g) Learning Management Systems – If changes to the learning management system occur a Union/Management Committee (UMC) will be called to discuss the impact and identify implementation options.

(h) Instructional Load for Part-Time Academic Employees

(1) Part-Time Instructional Contact Hours – The academic year instructional load of a part-time academic employee will not exceed a total of forty (40) credits or forty-two (42) contact hours per academic year.

(2) Non-Instructional Assignments and Activities – Non-instructional assignments and activities are not limited and do not count toward instructional load limits for a part-time academic employee. Non-instructional assignments and activities not required of part-time academic employees may be paid at the professional services hourly rate as shown in 4.81(b). Part-time academic employees may earn up to thirty-five (35) hours per academic year of paid time for eligible activities and may request additional hours. Additional hours are subject to the approval of the dean or management supervisor and availability of funds. Part-time faculty are encouraged to verify eligibility for compensation with the appropriate dean or management supervisor. The following are examples of activities that are considered non-instructional and eligible for part-time faculty compensation:

(aa) In-service Education/Activities - Participation in in-service education programs offered by the college including eligible PD day activities; seminars, workshops, College sponsored online training opportunities; compulsory training; affinity groups, TCC book clubs. Additional educational activities that align with the employee's professional goals and/or the College's strategic goals may be considered and require verification of eligibility.

(bb) Meetings - Department, Division, Academic Discipline, and College-wide meetings

(cc) Assessment activities beyond course level assessment and grading - Includes activities designed to assess learning at the program, specialization, and/or degree level.

(dd) Committee Activities - Includes participation in college-recognized committees, shared governance; task forces, workgroups, and screening committees.

(ee) Student Clubs - Includes serving as a designated advisor to active College approved student clubs.

(ff) Department or Program Chair Work

(gg) Observations of other Academic Employees - eligible observation activities as described in section 13.0.

(hh) Assignments Between Quarters – Additional appointment assignments may be made between summer, fall, winter, and spring quarters. Load limits for credit class instruction for these between quarter assignments apply to the between quarter period. Assignments related to credit class instruction will not be applied to the load limits for the academic quarter before or after the between quarter period to which the class is officially assigned. Assignments unrelated to credit class instruction will not be applied to the load limits for any quarter or any between quarter periods.

(i) Combined Instructional and Non-Instructional Load

A full-time academic employee may be assigned a load involving both instructional and non-instructional activities. In such cases, the total workload is prorated between instructional and non-instructional time. The proration is based on the load restrictions for each activity assigned.

(j) Course Assignments

Initial and continued part-time appointments will be assigned in an equitable and transparent manner. Part-time faculty not assigned courses in a particular quarter may request feedback as it relates to current and future course assignments as stated in section 13.00 outlining professional growth and development.

(k) Part-time faculty appointments, including moonlight appointments as defined in section 4.80(d), are prioritized based the following:

- (1)** Relevant experience
- (2)** Qualifications / knowledge of subject matter and current practices in field of study
- (3)** Related professional development and continuous growth relevant to the course and/or College values and priorities
- (4)** The faculty member's professional goals
- (5)** Meets obligations - The extent to which the faculty member meets obligations related to roles and responsibilities of primary appointment
- (6)** Good standing from observations and student feedback, when available

(l) Notification of assignments

To the extent possible, full-time faculty and part-time faculty with multiple quarter appointments are notified of their class assignments by the time registration starts or eight (8) weeks prior to the start of the quarter. All other part-time

faculty are notified of their class assignments no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of the quarter. Part-time faculty teaching in a given quarter are notified if they are not being assigned any classes in the subsequent quarter no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of that quarter if the section is open for enrollment. Exceptions may be made for sections not yet open for enrollment, late additions, and special population classes.

(m) Exempt staff limitations

The hiring authority must obtain Union approval prior to hiring exempt academic administrators who supervise academic units/programs for a part-time faculty appointment.

6.32 Discontinuance of Small Classes

The College will monitor enrollment in classes throughout registration in order to identify class sections, which may have to be canceled due to low enrollment. The justification for discontinuing any credit class which has an actual enrollment of less than fifteen (15) students one week or less prior to the start date of the quarter will be reviewed by the program administrator and the department or program chair, if available. The intent of the review includes budgetary considerations, impact to students if the section is canceled, as well as the program of studies and other factors. Whenever possible, the review will include the academic employee who has been assigned to the class. Credit classes are not discontinued without such a review.

- (a)** To the extent possible, low enrolled sections are cancelled by ten (10) business days prior to the start of the quarter. Sections cancelled later than ten (10) business days prior to the start of the quarter will be compensated at 1% of the contract per business day, including any course that was reassigned to a FT faculty to make load.

6.40 Class Size

Academic employees' class sizes will not be indiscriminately changed or amended; nor will class sizes be changed or amended without taking under advisement the opinion of the appropriate department or program faculty.

Some laboratory courses may occasionally be taught as combined sections. Faculty and Management both seek to minimize the use of these combined sections. Combined sections will only be scheduled by the mutual agreement of the department/program chair, in consultation with the departmental faculty, and the division dean. Combined sections have a maximum enrollment of 48 students. Online and hybrid courses will exclusively be taught as a single section.

The Union will be informed of any changes in established class sizes on a quarterly basis.

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7.00 CALENDAR

7.10 Calendar Development

- (a)** Management and the Union will work together to develop the annual academic calendar. During the month of October and two (2) years prior to the academic calendar under consideration, a task force convened by the Provost will be formed. It will be comprised of six (6) members, three (3) of whom are academic employees appointed by the TCCFT, and three (3) of whom are appointed by management. The task force will discuss issues related to academic calendar development and will prepare a calendar for review by the President. The academic calendar draft specifies the following dates for each quarter: (1) beginning and ending dates, (2) final examination dates, (3) advising dates, (4) non-instructional dates, and (5) holidays. The beginning and ending dates and the dates available for continuing student advising shall be consistent with the terms of Article 6.00 of this agreement concerning academic year and instructional load and, whenever possible, the expressed interest of the Union.
- (b)** The academic calendar draft will be submitted to the President for review and approval.
- (c)** The finalized academic calendar will be presented by the President to the Board of Trustees, who will take final action.

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8.00 ACADEMIC EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL PRACTICES

8.10 Academic Freedom

The Board recognizes the right and responsibility of the academic employee to insist that students be free to learn and academic employees free to teach broad areas of knowledge, including those that may be considered controversial. Academic freedom implies not only freedom of discussion in the classroom, but also the absence of unusual restriction upon the academic employee method of instruction and testing, provided that they are consistent with the academic employee's assignment. Every academic employee is presumed competent and responsible until specific evidence is brought forward to the contrary. No suspicion concerning either the judgment or the goodwill of the academic employee should find any place in our administrative regulations or customary procedures. The rights guaranteed to all citizens under the Constitution of the United States of America in regard to freedom of speech shall not otherwise be limited or diminished by reason of a person's employment by the College.

Whenever any group or individual brings charges against an academic employee concerning that employee's freedom to teach, the employee may request that the Board of Trustees grant, without charge to the academic employee, the necessary and sufficient leave, legal assistance, and other support for the protection of that individual's academic freedom. The Board of Trustees shall grant such a request if provided by State law ([RCW 4.92.060](#) and [RCW 4.92.070](#)).

8.20 Personnel Records (Content)

- (a)** The only information placed in the academic employee's file will be that which relates to rendering of professional services and the performance thereof. No anecdotal records or other non-official information is placed in the personnel file of an academic employee.
- (b)** In the case of new academic employees, all confidential or privileged material (i.e., reference checks) will be maintained in a separate file in accordance with record retention schedules once the academic employee has signed an employment agreement.
- (c)** All written charges or complaints of any type against an academic employee that are received by management will be investigated by the appropriate dean or management supervisor. When charges or complaints against an employee are found to have possible personnel significance, the affected employee is notified. Only substantiated complaints, signed by the person filing the complaints, may be placed in the employee's file and only as an attachment to an official

8.30 Personnel Records (Maintenance and Inspection)

- (a)** Master personnel records for all academic employees, including the record of accrued sick leave and Sick Leave Bank records, are maintained at one place

on campus, to be determined by the President of the College. Copies of pertinent factual materials (i.e., original application form, credits earned, etc.) may also be kept in the office of the President of the College or their designee. No other academic employee personnel files will be kept in any other location.

- (b) During regular working hours and by appointment, an academic employee has the right to review the entire contents of their personnel file(s). A conference with the President of the College may be arranged at the discretion of the academic employee. In the processing of a grievance, an academic employee may authorize in writing the inspection of their personnel file by a representative of their choice.
- (c) Confidentiality of academic employee personnel records is maintained at all times. Information contained in any academic employee's personnel record is not released to other persons, except as authorized in writing by that academic employee or as required by law. Confidentiality of academic employee records do not prohibit administrators' use of employee records for the purpose of exercising management's rights and responsibilities.

8.40 Selection of Academic Employees

It is the intention of the Board of Trustees that academic employees be selected on the basis of their qualifications, through a process which assures accountability to the College for services rendered and which conforms to adopted equal opportunity employment and affirmative action policies.

Hiring committees for all faculty positions will consider cultural capital throughout the process to prioritize highly qualified and systemically non-dominant faculty (e.g., faculty of color) whose cultural capital is needed or sought after by the College, by including components in the application process such as:

- (a) Request a teaching philosophy that shows how the candidate will reflect on their own positionality, use their cultural capital to enrich the student experience, value and encourage student application of cultural capital, and move towards the College's strategic goal of equity.
- (b) Inquire how the candidate will incorporate antiracism into their teaching practices.

Academic employees have the opportunity to be involved in the selection process of new full-time or part-time academic employees in their appropriate departments or programs, as described below. The following provisions apply to the selection of new academic employees or to the reassignment of any present academic employee.

8.41 Full-Time Academic Employees

The following provisions apply to the selection of new full-time academic employees or to the reassignment of any present full-time academic employee. Although not required, these provisions may also be applied to the selection of a temporary or specially funded academic employee hired for less than one academic year period.

- (a) Whenever a position is to be filled, a job description and employee qualifications are developed by the appropriate department, program, or advisory group, in conjunction with the dean or management supervisor for recommendation to the Provost. For those involved in writing the job descriptions and qualifications, the College provides anti-bias training of an appropriate length.
- (b) Except under unusual circumstances, a new position is formally announced or advertised at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date on which the position is to be filled.
- (c) The dean or management supervisor appoints a screening committee from the appropriate department, program, or advisory group, and supervises the screening and recommendation process. For all those involved in the screening process, the College provides anti-bias training of an appropriate length. The screening committee reviews all applications, conducts interviews, and recommends to the Provost in terms of qualifications those candidates who the selection committee determines are best qualified for the position. The screening committee submits to the Provost a written recommendation that lists the strengths and weaknesses of those candidates who the screening committee determines are best qualified for and are acceptable to fill the position. The Provost reviews the qualifications of the candidates recommended by the committee and forward the committee's recommendation along with their recommendation to the President of the College for final selection.
- (d) In the event that the President does not select from among the recommended candidates, the process is repeated.
- (e) The job description under which the employee is hired will be referred to their tenure committee for its consideration in developing review procedures.

8.42 Part-Time Academic Employees

- (a) All part-time academic employees will be hired by the management supervisor granted hiring authority by the College. When such positions are advertised or publicly listed, a job description will be developed in consultation with the department or program chair (if an appropriate chair exists). For all those involved in the screening process, the College provides anti-bias training of an appropriate length
- (b) The management supervisor or chair will review appropriate applications. Interviews will be conducted. The interview team will consist of a minimum of two people, including the dean, chair or designee, and/or another faculty member who teaches the same course or serves in the department. For the hiring manager and all those involved in the interview process, the College provides anti-bias training of an appropriate length. Part of the interview will include a teaching demonstration or instructional activity. The dean or management supervisor will consult with the faculty department or program chair when such chair is available prior to making final hiring decisions.

- (c) Only in unforeseen circumstances when there is an urgent and unmet need where time doesn't allow for the full process, a part-time faculty may be hired for one quarter without going through this full process. In this situation, the faculty will be observed twice during the quarter by the dean, department chair or other faculty in the department in lieu of the full process.
- (d) When hired, part-time faculty will be given a document that outlines the continuous growth process for part-time faculty (see 13.0)

8.43 Multiple Quarter Appointments (MQA)

Multiple quarter appointments (MQA) may be offered to part-time academic employees, including Basic Skills, Library, and Counseling faculty, in those departments where part-time academic employees are hired on a regular basis and where the dean or management supervisor determines there is reasonable assurance that classes will be offered in designated quarters. A part-time academic employee qualified to teach in those areas may be offered an appointment for up to three (3) quarters, excluding summer, each academic year.

Management will make a good faith effort to issue MQA to the greatest extent possible. Eligibility for MQA may be linked to the continued engagement in the professional growth process. MQA will be reviewed annually in March at a Union-Management Committee meeting. The annual review will include but not limited to the percentage of MQA issued and actual courses taught by each academic employee.

8.44 Substitute for Academic Employees

When qualified substitutes are available, a substitute for an academic employee will be hired when deemed necessary by management, but always, when possible, when the academic employee will be absent for a period of time exceeding one (1) calendar week. Substitutes will be paid at an appropriate rate dependent upon load.

8.45 Recruitment and Retention of BIPOC Faculty

The College is committed to prioritizing the recruitment and retention of BIPOC faculty by providing resources to support their professional development and growth and to create a sense of community at the national, state, and local level.

8.50 Selection of Chairs

8.51 8.50 does not apply to Professional/Technical Programs.

During the month of February, the appropriate Dean will organize a process to elect chairs for the upcoming academic year, if necessary (per 0.20 (3)).

All tenured academic employees may be nominated for or express their interest in the position. If no tenured faculty is willing or able to serve, then any full-time faculty may be nominated for or express their interest in the position. If no full-time faculty is willing or able to serve, then part-time faculty on multi-quarter appointments may be nominated for or express their interest in the position.

The academic employees who are nominated or express interest in the position will be submitted for election by a majority vote of the tenured academic employees within the organizational unit. If no candidate has a majority in the initial election, the candidate with the lowest votes will be dropped from the ballot and a new election will be held. This process may be repeated until a majority candidate is elected. The dean or management supervisor may cast a tie-breaking vote, if necessary.

Results of the election will be reported to the Union and College President no later than March 1st. If no chair has been communicated to the President by May 15, the President may appoint a chair from among the tenured academic employees of the affected organizational unit in the interest of reaching agreement regarding a chair. The appointment will be communicated to the Union. No academic employee will be compelled to serve as chair.

8.60 Intellectual Property

- (a)** In order to foster free and creative expression and exchange of ideas, the College recognizes the right of faculty members to exercise individual initiative in creating materials that are protected under federal copyright statutes. This Section works to balance the faculty members' interests and ownership rights in intellectual property and copyrightable materials while recognizing the College's role in supporting faculty in the creation of materials and also complying with the Ethics in Public Service Act. For purposes of this section, intellectual property is defined as any material, process, or invention created by an academic employee.
- (b)** An employee who creates intellectual property, including instructional materials, has primary claim to ownership of that property and has the right to use and license that property.
- (c)** In those instances, in which intellectual property is created by an employee with College or state support beyond that allowed by state law, the ownership of the intellectual property and provision for any residuals shall vest in both the College and individual(s) who created that property who may modify or utilize it at will, unless designated by written agreement between the parties entered into prior to the production.
- (d)** Intellectual property owned solely by the employee while employed at TCC may be published through College resources in the same form and attributed to the owner as long as the content has not become outdated or inaccurate.
- (e)** Third parties may license or purchase intellectual properties created by an employee only from the owner(s) of that property, namely the employee, the College, or the employee and the College jointly.
- (f)** If two or more employees collaborate in creating intellectual property at the direction or provision of the College, intellectual property shall vest between all employees and the College, absent a written agreement.

- (g) A written agreement to clarify or modify ownership of intellectual property may be initiated, on a case-by-case basis, at the request of either party, individual faculty member(s) or the College.

8.70 Professional Development Program Content

Management and the Union agree that individual professional development is extremely important to the continued professional growth of academic employees, the quality of educational programs and services, and the future of the College. To this end, academic employees are encouraged to participate in activities that will promote professional growth, maintain the quality of educational offerings, enhance the individual's contribution to the general welfare of the College, and to support and advance the College's values and strategic goals. In keeping with high professional standing, each academic employee is required to engage in the Continuous Growth process described in section 13.00, which includes a timeline for observations, self-reflection, and participation in College-sponsored EDI training.

Goals for professional growth will be included in an academic employee's self-reflection. Individual goals (1) relate to their present or future instructional assignment, maintenance of any required certifications, and professional interests, (2) support the College's values strategic goals.

8.71 No Article 8.71 – 8.72

8.73 Addressing Invisible Labor for BIPOC Faculty

The college acknowledges the following engagement activities as invisible labor that often falls to our BIPOC faculty. Thus, the following are examples of invisible labor that may be considered as engagement activities as described in the current list of committees and engagement activities listed on the HR Hub.

- (a) Engagement in activities or PD that focuses on self-care and healing from identity-based trauma and/or navigating the politics of dominant culture institutions.
- (b) Participation on part-time and full-time hiring committees
- (c) Mentoring and supporting BIPOC students
- (d) Development and delivery of PD and other in-service activities (courageous conversations, film discussions, focus groups)
- (e) Mentoring BIPOC faculty
- (f) Serving as an EDI consultant
- (g) Participating in Federal, State, and local initiatives (ex. Grant writing that are culturally taxing for BIPOC faculty)
- (h) Facilitating student inquiry/research groups

9.00 TENURED ACADEMIC EMPLOYEE SENIORITY

9.10 Seniority

Seniority is recognized as an important factor to be considered in matters relating to tenured employee relations practices.

9.20 Determination of Seniority

- (a)** Seniority is based on the Board (or delegated administrative) approved date of hire as a full-time academic employee with the College or its predecessor school, excluding temporary academic and specially funded academic appointments.
- (b)** Seniority for individuals having the same dates of hire is determined by applying the following criteria, in descending order:
 - (1)** First date of full-time employment.
 - (2)** First date of signature on a contract/employment agreement.
 - (3)** First date of signature on a letter of intent to accept full-time employment with the College or its predecessor school.
- (c)** When an occasion arises for determining seniority, the academic employee's personnel records of the College will be used for documentation.

9.30 Seniority List

The College's assigned location for personnel records maintains an annually updated seniority list of all full-time academic employees and all exempt employees who hold status as tenured academic employees. Such list will be published and circulated to all tenured academic employees by November 1st of each year and will include the layoff unit to which a tenured academic employee is assigned in accordance with Article 15.11.

9.40 Other Factors

In the event other factors are accorded precedence over seniority in connection with reduction-in-force, management will, upon request, state its reason(s) in writing.

- (a)** Seniority applies only to lay-off and recall from a lay-off list.
- (b)** Seniority may be applied only in accordance with institutional priorities and individual qualifications that meet the qualification requirements for the position.

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10.00 ACADEMIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

10.10 Retirement Incentive Options

In accordance with state law, an employee who is interested in retiring may consider one of the options offered by the College: **(a)** Phased Retirement, **(b)** Retirement Transition, and **(c)** Early Retirement, and **(d)** other plan mutually agreed to by the academic employee, Union, and the college. Each option shall be mutually exclusive of all other options.

First consideration will be given to retirement incentive applications that are submitted in writing to the College President no later than the fifteenth (15) day of October, each academic year. Applications received later than the fifteenth day of October are considered after processing those received by the fifteenth of October. Applications for retirement incentive programs must be for retirements occurring on June 30 of the academic year for which the application is filed. An eligible tenured academic employee who submits a request for a retirement incentive option by the due date is notified prior to winter quarter of the decision regarding their request.

Tenured academic employee application requests will be considered and approved on the basis of seniority and consistent with the terms of the agreement. In the case of exceptional circumstances, management, in consultation with the Union President, may consider other factors. In instances where tenured academic employees who have applied for the retirement incentive option have the same seniority date, and availability of retirement incentive options is limited, management in consultation with the Union President may consider other factors.

Retirement incentive requests will be approved up to two per academic year, with the exception of (a) phased retirement, which has no limit. Any unused early retirement allocations during a year will be accumulated for future use and will not expire. The maximum retirement incentives that may be awarded in one year are two (2) for the current year and four (4) accumulated early retirement for a total of six (6).

By September 15 of each academic year, management provides the Union with an accounting of prior year retirement(s) approved and the number of slots available for the year.

Any retirement option entered into must be established in writing and agreed to by the employee and the College. Conditions of the agreement will be that the employee exercises an intentional, voluntary, and intelligent waiver of their rights as a tenured academic employee in exchange for participation in a retirement program option and that the Board of Trustees give written assurances for fulfillment of the retirement contract.

(a) Phased Retirement

This option provides for reduced levels of employment following official retirement. It is available to tenured academic employees ages fifty-five (55) to

seventy (70) or to those under age fifty-five (55) who have accumulated at least fifteen (15) years of full-time academic employee service at Tacoma Community College. The duration may continue up to a maximum five (5) years upon the start of phased retirement. The workload during the phased retirement period may not exceed (2/3) per quarter of the employee's normal full-time workload per quarter. During the phased retirement period, the employees are responsible for proportional non-instructional job responsibilities. Phased retirement employees will have the same assurance of work assignment they would have as a full-time employee provided that annual workload is confirmed by June 1 of the prior academic year.

The level of compensation will be a proportion of the normal full-time salary for the position to which the employee is assigned during the phased retirement period.

(b) Retirement Transition Option

This option provides that a tenured academic employee with fifteen (15) or more years of full-time academic employee service at TCC who retires after reaching age sixty-two (62) but prior to reaching age seventy (70) may choose either to receive income equal to full pay for a period of six months following retirement or income equal to ½ pay for twelve (12) months following retirement. The employee's base salary at the time of retirement will be used to determine the amount of income to be received.

(c) Early Retirement Option

This option provides that a tenured academic employee with fifteen (15) or more years of full-time academic employee service at TCC who retires at age fifty-five (55), but prior to reaching age sixty-two (62), or to those under age fifty-five (55) with thirty (30) years of service, will receive an amount equal to 126% of the employee's base salary at the time of retirement to be paid in equal installments over the three (3) budget years following retirement. An employee who retires after reaching age sixty-two (62), but prior to reaching age sixty-seven (67), who has fifteen (15) or more years of full-time academic employee service at TCC will receive an amount equal to 118% of the employee's base salary at the time of retirement, to be paid in proportional installments over the three (3) budget years following retirement. For example, a full-time tenured academic employee who retires effective the end of fall quarter of the academic year is paid two-thirds of a year's payment with the remaining one-third distributed evenly over the payments for the remaining two budget years.

(d) Other Retirement Options

This option provides that an academic employee, Union, and management may agree to another retirement plan if the academic employee does not qualify for any of the three other options in this section.

(e) Death of Retiree

Upon the death of an employee participating in either **(b)** the retirement transition option or **(c)** the early retirement option, the employee's estate is entitled to receive death benefits based upon the same schedule as the one to have been received by the deceased participant.

(f) Benefits

Academic employees exercising any of the options offered in this section whose teaching loads fall below half-time will not be subject to the benefits otherwise accruing to full-time academic employees.

(g) Payment Schedule

Payment schedules under the retirement transition option or the early retirement option must be consistent with regular payroll cycles. Employees may choose one of the following schedules:

- (1)** One payment per year on the January 25th payroll
- (2)** One payment per quarter on the January 25th, April 25th, July 25th and October 25th payrolls
- (3)** One payment per month on the 25th payroll
- (4)** Two payments per month on the 10th and 25th payroll

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11.00 GRIEVANCE

11.10 Grievance Definitions

- (a) Grievance** – is any complaint, controversy, or dispute arising out of (1) an alleged breach of the provisions of this agreement or from the application of this agreement and/or an allegedly unjust management action affecting academic employees. A grievance arising from (2) may be pursued through step 4 in the grievance process.
- (b) Grievant** – an individual academic employee, a group of employees having the same grievance, or the Union.
- (c) Response Day** – all instructional days. This excludes non-instructional days, weekends, and legal holidays.

11.20 Procedure

- (a)** An individual academic employee may file a grievance directly or be represented in such action by the Union. If the academic employee files a written grievance directly with management, management provides the Union with a copy of the grievance and the Union may be present during each step of the procedure. The decision to initiate and/or continue a grievance rests with the Union. Any group of academic employees who believe they have grounds for the same grievance must file the grievance through the Union and be represented by the Union in the grievance action. In the presentation of a grievance, the grievant is safe from restraint, interference, discrimination, and/or reprisal.
- (b)** When a grievant has a grievance, they communicate directly with the appropriate dean or management supervisor toward the end that most such problems can and should be resolved informally at the division or program level. If, within two (2) days, resolution of the grievance is not forthcoming, the following grievance procedure is available to the aggrieved.

11.21 Step One – Dean or Management Supervisor

- (a)** Within twenty (20) response days of the time the grievant has communicated directly with the appropriate dean or management supervisor, they submit a statement in writing to their dean or management supervisor. The statement must be signed by the grievant.
- (b)** The Statement of Grievance names any other employees involved, states the facts giving rise to the grievance, identifies by appropriate reference all the provisions alleged to be violated, states the contention of the aggrieved employee with respect to these provisions, and indicates the specific relief requested.

- (c) Within six (6) response days after receiving the grievance, the dean or management supervisor communicates their answer in writing to the grievant and to the President of the College or their designee.
- (d) If the Step One supervisor does not have the authority to act on the filed grievance, the Statement of Grievance, by direction of management and within six (6) response days, is advanced directly to the level of supervision (level Two or Three) which does have the authority to act on the grievance.

11.22 Step 2 – Provost

- (a) If the grievance is not resolved in Step One, the grievant may, within five (5) response days of the receipt of the dean or management supervisor's answer, submit to the Provost a written Statement of Grievance signed by the grievant. A copy is given to the dean or management supervisor and to the President of the College or their designee.
- (b) The Provost gives the grievant a written response no later than six (6) response days after receipt of the written grievance. If further investigation is needed, additional time may be allowed by mutual agreement of the Provost and the grievant.

11.23 Step Three – President

- (a) Within seven (7) response days after receiving the decision (written response) from the Provost, the grievant may appeal to the President of the College or the designee. The appeal is in writing and accompanied by a copy of the decision at step two.
- (b) No later than fourteen (14) response days after receiving this appeal, the President of the College or their designee holds a hearing on the grievance. Those individuals who have participated in step two (2) of the grievance has the right to participate in this step.
- (c) Within seven (7) response days after the hearing, the President of the College or their designee communicates their decision in writing and state their reasons to the grievant.
- (d) The grievant may not introduce into this hearing significant new material, allegation, or remedy that was not represented in step two. The grievant may submit additional written matter, which further clarifies facts introduced at level two.

11.24 Step Four – Mediation

Within twenty (20) days after receiving the decision (written response) from the College President or designee, either party may appeal to the Washington Public Employment Relations Commission for mediation. The purpose of the mediation is to seek a settlement of the dispute in good faith and to the satisfaction of all parties.

11.25 Function and Powers of the Mediator

It shall be the function of the mediator, after listening to the facts and circumstances presented by both sides, to do everything within their power, including meeting with the parties together and/or individually, to bring the parties to a resolution of the matter. The mediator has no power or authority to interpret the negotiated agreement or rule on any claim or complaint.

- (a) They may make recommendations but have no power to add to, subtract from, disregard, alter, or modify any of the terms of the negotiated policies.
- (b) They may make recommendations but have no power to establish salary structures or change any salary.
- (c) They may make recommendations but have no power to rule on any claim or complaint for which there is another remedial procedure or course established by law or regulation having the force of law, including any matter subject to the procedures specified in the Teacher's Tenure Law ([RCW 28B.50.850](#)) or any negotiated tenure article.
- (d) They may make recommendations but have no power to change any practice, policy, or rule of the Board, nor to substitute their judgment for that of the Board, as to the necessity of any such practice, policy, or rule.
- (e) They may make recommendations but have no power to decide any question, which, under the negotiated agreement, is within the responsibility of management to decide. In providing recommendations, the mediator gives due regard to the responsibility of management and shall so construe such responsibilities except as they may be specifically conditioned by negotiated agreement.
- (f) If a settlement is reached, the agreement must be in writing and is binding upon all parties to that agreement. The settlement shall include an agreement by the Union to withdraw the appeal.

11.26 Arbitration

If no settlement is reached in step four, the grievant may request in writing that the Union submit the grievance to arbitration. It is the responsibility of the Union, not the Individual academic employee, whether or not to submit the grievance to final and binding arbitration.

- (a) The Union President may, by written notice to the College President within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the step four decision, inform the President that the grievance is being submitted to arbitration.
- (b) The parties to the arbitration agree to accept the arbitrator's word as final and binding upon them.
- (c) Upon rendering a decision, the arbitrator may retain jurisdiction until such time as the award is completed. The arbitrator shall not have any power to modify or disregard any terms and conditions of the Negotiated Agreement.

- (d) Matters subject to arbitration are referred to the American Arbitration Association through a joint request for a list from which an arbitrator will be selected using a striking process. Hearings and other procedural matters are in accordance with voluntary rules of the American Arbitration Association.
- (e) The costs for the services of the arbitrator, including per diem expenses and their travel and subsistence expenses, and the cost of any hearing room, will be borne equally by the College and the Union.
- (f) All matters pertaining to specific grievances are confidential and shall not be unnecessarily or indiscriminately related, disclosed, or divulged by any participant in the grievance process or by any employee or official of the College. All documents, communications, and records dealing with grievances and their adjustment are filed separately from the grievant and the administrator's personnel file, and upon expiration of records retention requirements and the statute of limitations for the initiation of any further action, are destroyed with the exception of the recorded formal grievance and final adjustment thereof.
- (g) Freedom from reprisal within the law is guaranteed to all individuals involved in the grievance procedure, whether as a grievant, responsible administrator, witness, representative of the Union, or otherwise. No one shall suffer any restraint, interference, discrimination, coercion, or reprisal as a result of any legal participation in the grievance procedure.

11.30 Claims for Back Pay or Settlements

- (a) All claims for back wages or other settlements shall be in accordance with terms set by the judgment.
- (b) Except in identical circumstances, each claim for back pay will be decided upon its own merits without recourse to precedents.

11.40 Grievance Unresolved Prior to Contract Termination

Any grievance begun, but not finally resolved, before the termination of this agreement shall be processed according to the procedures under which it was filed.

11.50 Grievances Occurring Between Contract Agreements

Provided that there is an agreement to extend the contract during negotiations, any grievance arising during the period between the termination date of this Negotiated Agreement and the effective date of any new negotiated agreement shall be processed according to the terms and procedures of this Negotiated Agreement.

11.60 Appearance and Representation

- (a) Hearings held under this procedure are conducted at a time and place which will afford a fair and reasonable opportunity for all persons, including witnesses, entitled to be present to attend. Such hearings are scheduled so as not to interfere with the programs and services of the College, unless there is mutual agreement for other arrangements.

- (b) Management and the grievant each assume financial responsibility for services provided by their own representatives, witnesses, or other individuals involved in any part of any grievance consideration.
- (c) The grievant may withdraw the grievance at any level. Upon such withdrawal of the grievance by the grievant, no other individual or organization may pursue further the filed grievance as specified in the Statement of Grievance.

11.70 Time Limits

- (a) Time limits provided in these procedures may be extended by mutual agreement when signed by both parties.
- (b) If no answer has been received by the grievant within twenty (20) response days, the grievant may request and will receive a hearing with the President of the College within three (3) response days of such request and a decision within two (2) response days thereafter.
- (c) Any grievance not advanced by the grievant from one step to the next within the time limits of that step are deemed resolved.

11.80 Academic Employee Rights and Limitations

- (a) The grievance procedure shall not apply to any matter on which management is without authority to act.
- (b) All data, records, and information necessary to the processing of a grievance will be made available to the principal grievant or their agent in a timely and expeditious manner.
- (c) Academic employee(s) shall not use the grievance procedure to dispute or appeal management's decision(s) to employ or not to employ any academic personnel for any services.
- (d) Any grievance pending resolution will not be affected by the termination of employment of the grievant(s), and the Board or any of its agents agree not to use the fact that a former academic employee is no longer an employee to influence its decision in the grievance procedure.

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12.00 TENURE

12.10 Procedure Relating to the Establishment of Tenure for Tenure Candidate/s

The Board of Trustees of the College hereby establishes the following rules on full-time academic employee tenure. This procedure applies to probationary academic employees and temporary and specially funded academic employees.

12.11 Purpose of Tenure

The purpose of tenure is two-fold:

- (a) To protect tenured academic employee appointment rights and tenured academic employee involvement in the establishment and protection of those rights at the College and all subsequent community Colleges hereafter established within Community College District No. 22; and
- (b) To assure that tenure is granted to tenure candidate(s) of such character and scholarly ability that the College, so far as its resources permit, can justifiably undertake to employ them for the rest of their academic careers.

12.12 Compositions of Tenure Review Committees

- (a) A separate standing tenure review committee is established for each full-time tenure candidate.
- (b) Each tenure review committees composed of five (5) persons: three are tenured academic employee appointees selected by a majority of the tenured academic employees prior to October 15 of the tenure candidate's first full regular academic year of employment; one is the tenure candidate's division administrator/dean (or their if they is not supervised by a dean); one is a student representative who is a full-time student and who is chosen by the student association of the College in such a manner as the members thereof determine. Each tenure review committee selects its Chair. If the elected Chair fails to perform their required duties in the time period specified, management appoints a Chair from among the other committee members to fulfill the responsibilities. Each review committee meets at the call of the Chair when, in their discretion, the need for such a meeting arises, provided that the committee meets with the tenure candidate at least twice during each academic year prior to February 15. Additionally, the committee meets within ten (10) days after the Chair receives the tenure candidate's written request, which states the purpose of the meeting.
- (c) If a vacancy occurs upon any tenure review committee prior to the expiration of the tenure candidate's appointment as such, an administrative, academic or student member, as appropriate, is appointed to fill the vacancy pursuant to paragraph 12.12 of this rule to serve for the duration of the committee's obligation.

12.13 Duties and Responsibilities of Tenure Review Committees

- (a)** The general duty and responsibility of the tenure review committee is to assess and advise the tenure candidate of their professional strengths and potential areas for development, and to make reasonable efforts to encourage and aid them in their professional growth. The tenure review committee also serves as a resource to support the candidate in navigating the institutions' structures, practices, and policies. The tenure review committee is a place for collaboration where committee members and the tenure candidate learn from each other.

Tenure review committee members have a responsibility to create an inclusive, honest space that fosters trust and promotes equity. Tenure committee training will include review of literature about cultural taxation, invisible labor, stereotype threat, and micro aggressions. Tenure committees are required to include dossier reports on how committee members were mindful of these issues during the observation process.

- (b)** The first order of business for each tenure review committee is to establish the procedure it will follow in evaluating the performance and professional competence of the full-time tenure candidate assigned thereto.

The committee's evaluation of the tenure candidate are directed toward and result in the determination of whether or not the tenure candidate possesses the necessary personal characteristics and professional competence to perform effectively in their appointment. In determining professional competence, the committee gives due consideration to the criteria under which the employee was hired, as established by the tenure candidate's department, program, or advisory group. A review committee's evaluation procedures should include, as it deems necessary, the following:

- (1)** Classroom observations by members of the tenure review committee.
- (2)** Student evaluations.
- (3)** Assessment of the tenure candidate's contributions to the department, program, division, and the institution by the department or program, division heads, and other full-time academic employees.
- (4)** Self-evaluation.

- (c)** Each tenure review committee is required to conduct an on-going evaluation of the full-time tenure candidate assigned thereto and render the following written reports to the President, to the tenure candidate, and to the appointing authority on or before the designated times during each regular academic year that such appointee is on a probationary status, or as is also required, within fifteen (15) days of the President's written request.

- (1)** A written evaluation of each full-time probationary academic employee's performance including the degree to which the tenure candidate has overcome stated deficiencies, on or before February 15. The review

committee obtains the appointee's written acknowledgment of receipt of the written evaluation.

- (2) A written recommendation regarding the employment or non-employment of the tenure candidate for the ensuing regular academic year on or before February 15.
- (3) A written recommendation that the appointing tenure granting authority award or not award tenure, such written recommendations to be submitted during the regular academic year at times deemed appropriate by each review committee, provided that during such tenure candidate's third regular academic year of appointment the review committee shall, prior to February 15 of such regular academic year, make a written recommendation as to the award or non-award of tenure. The failure of any review committee to make such written recommendation by February 15 of a tenure candidate's third consecutive regular academic year I requires that the tenure candidate's supervising dean make a written recommendation as to the award or non-award of tenure by the following February 25.
- (d) The appointing authority and/or tenure granting authority, as appropriate, is required to give reasonable consideration to any recommendation of a review committee and is not bound thereby.
- (e) All written evaluations and recommendations prepared and submitted by a review committee pursuant to these rules include the committee's findings, supportive data, and analysis.
- (f) If the tenure candidate disagrees with the review committee's recommendation as to the award or non-award of tenure, the tenure candidate is provided an opportunity to challenge the review committee's recommendations before a committee of the appointing tenure granting authority.

12.14 Rights and Responsibilities of Tenure Candidate(s)

- (a) The candidate coordinates with tenure committee members for observations, meetings, and other requirements
- (b) The candidate meets the criteria and timelines outlined in the tenure guidelines and procedures
- (c) Duties of tenure candidate will not exceed expectations of tenured faculty; excessive duties exceeding expectations may be considered but declining additional duties will in no way influence the process.
- (d) Tenure review committee members must be sensitive to and recognize the invisible labor and cultural taxation experienced by systemically non-dominant faculty. Historically underrepresented faculty will be supported in participating in professional development opportunities that offer self-care practices and that focus on healing from identity-based trauma and/or navigating the politics of dominant culture institutions.

- (e) Candidates will have an opportunity for a mentor outside of the tenure committee
- (f) All forms of discrimination during the tenure process are unacceptable. If a candidate experiences discrimination, the candidate has the right to access a confidential process established by the College for reporting and addressing issues of implicit/explicit bias and discrimination. In the event of a tenure candidate experiencing discrimination, the candidate has the right to request a change in committee membership.

12.15 Appointing Authority Renewal and Tenure Decisions and Notice

- (a) As soon as possible during the academic year, but not later than one complete quarter, except summer quarter, before the expiration of the probationary academic employee's appointment, the appointing authority notifies the tenure candidate of the decision regarding employment or non-employment of the tenure candidate for the ensuing academic year; except that as soon as possible, but not later than one complete quarter, except summer quarter, before the expiration of a tenure candidate's third consecutive academic year of appointment, the appointing tenure granting authority notifies the tenure candidate of the decision to either grant the tenure candidate tenure or not renew the tenure candidate's appointment for the ensuing year.
- (b) Upon formal recommendation of the review committee and with the written consent of the tenure candidate, the appointing authority may extend the tenure candidate's probationary period for one, two, or three quarters, excluding summer quarter, beyond the maximum probationary period, in accordance with [RCW 28B.50.850](#). Notice of such extension is made in accordance with the time limits established in (a) above.
- (c) Notice may be delivered to the tenure candidate either personally, or by registered or certified mail, or by electronic facsimile transmission. Service of notice is considered complete when personal delivery has been accomplished; or if by mail, upon deposit in the United States mail, properly stamped and addressed to the last known address on file with the Human Resources office. Service by electronic facsimile transmission is regarded as complete upon confirmation of transmission by the facsimile device.
- (d) The decision of the appointing authority to not rehire a probationary academic employee for a second or third year of the probationary period or to not grant tenure is final, and the employee affected by this decision shall not have access to the Hearing Procedure Relating to Dismissal for Cause and Reduction-in-Force as provided by Article 14 and Article 15 of this Negotiated Agreement, but the employee may submit written appeal and appear, in person, at the next Board meeting following such non- renewal.

12.16 Non-Tenure of Specially Funded Full-Time Academic Positions

As per Chapter 112, Laws of 1975, 1st Extraordinary Session, those full-time academic employees funded more than fifty-one (51%) percent of their annual salaries

by other than State funds are non-tenurable, per WAC 131-16-400; provided that a tenured academic employee subsequently transferred to a position financed from special funds retains tenure and who thereafter loses that position upon reduction or elimination of those special funds is entitled to retain tenure and return to their previous status.

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13.00 CONTINUOUS GROWTH PROCESS FOR ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES

13.10 Continuous Growth Process

- (a) **Rationale** - The Faculty Continuous Growth Process for Academic employees is co-developed and reviewed by Faculty and Administration. Continuous growth and self-reflection are vital aspects of a professor's professional journey, fostering growth, innovation, and promoting equity in education as it relates to student success and the values, priorities, and strategic goals of the College. These processes empower educators to critically assess personal and institutional practices, challenge social and systemic inequities, and collaborate with peers, students, and members of the academic community. Through reflection and feedback, teachers enhance self-awareness allowing them to reflect and act on areas of strength as well as opportunities for growth. Research underscores that successful educators consistently reflect on their experiences, practices, relationships, and societal contexts. A strong and intentional continuous growth process cultivates an educational environment conducive to life-long learning and student success.
- (b) **Components** - Continuous growth for all faculty groups includes three main components: 1) observation by supervisors and/or peers; 2) self-reflection; and 3) annual participation in college approved EDI education and development.
- (1) **Observations**
- (aa) Non-tenure track full-time faculty and part-time faculty will be observed within the first 2 quarters of teaching by their dean, chair, or a full-time faculty member mutually agreed upon by the faculty member and department chair or dean. Those performing observations must have completed the College's anti-bias training.
- (bb) **After the initial observation**, non-tenure track full-time faculty and part-time faculty will be observed every three years by their dean, chair, or a full-time faculty member mutually agreed upon by the faculty member and department chair or dean. After receiving tenure, faculty will be observed every three years. Those performing observations need to have anti-bias training.
- (cc) All faculty will be observed within the first two quarters when teaching a new course for the first time.
- (2) **Observation Procedure** - Observations should include one or more of the following:
- (aa) Instructional observation
- (bb) Review of online materials in canvas or other platforms

- (cc) Review of syllabus and/or instructional materials
 - (dd) Informational interview or conversation for faculty who may not have traditional instructional loads
 - (ee) Other activities may be included as mutually agreed upon by the faculty and the dean or management supervisor.
- (3) **Self-Reflection** - The faculty self-reflection should address the faculty member's contributions and development in the following areas:
- (aa) Teaching effectiveness, including course preparation, implementation, classroom management, and evaluation
 - (bb) Growth and development in the adoption and integration of culturally affirming instructional practices
 - (cc) Impact on students, including but not limited to, a reflection on student feedback and success rates of students served. Faculty should consider and reflect on data related to equity gaps across sections taught.
 - (dd) Accomplishment of professional development goals from the previous growth period, including growth and development in the area of EDI

Additionally, faculty may choose to include reflection on the following:

- (ee) Participation as a member of, and contributions to the department, program, division, and College. This includes activities such as mentoring, collaboration and work with colleagues
 - (ff) Participation in advising activities
 - (gg) Performance in carrying out other special assignments or projects
 - (hh) Participation on college committees and engagement activities
 - (ii) Participation in other College, professional, and/or community activities that are related to the priorities, values, and strategic goals of the College
 - (jj) Participation in professional development activities related to teaching and learning and/or field of study.
- (4) **Self-Reflection Procedures**
- (aa) Non-tenure track full-time faculty and part-time faculty will complete the self-reflection at the end of their first full year of teaching. After the initial self-reflection, non-tenure track full-time faculty and part-time faculty are required to complete a self-reflection every three years.

- (bb) Faculty in the tenure process will follow self-reflection guidelines outlined in section 12.13 and 12.14 and in the tenure guidelines and procedures documents.
- (cc) In accordance with RCW28B.50.872., Periodic Post tenure Evaluation, tenured faculty are required to complete a self-reflection every three years.
- (c) **Management Feedback on Continuous Growth Process** - Follow-up discussion and written summary including feedback will be provided by the Dean or management supervisor.
- (d) **Records** – Observation feedback, self-reflections, supplemental materials, and other evidence of continuous growth will be stored in the faculty member’s SharePoint portfolio. These records support transparency in staffing decisions, including Multi-Quarter Assignments.
- (e) **Guidelines** - Faculty in the tenure process will follow guidelines outlined in section 12.13 and 12.14 and in the tenure guidelines and procedures documents for record keeping via their dossier.

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14.00 DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL FOR CAUSE

14.10 Discipline

The discipline process may be applied to any academic employee. At no time will this section interfere with an academic employee's Academic Freedom as defined in Section 8.10.

Decisions regarding renewal or non-renewal of probationary faculty, the rehire of part-time, temporary, and special program faculty are not disciplinary in nature and not covered by this section. The outcome of a disciplinary process may be shared with a tenure candidate's tenure committee by the dean or management supervisor on the committee.

The College will not dismiss or reduce the compensation of any academic employee without just cause. The College agrees to follow a formal policy of progressive discipline that includes Notice of Expectation, Written Warning, Reduction in Pay, and Dismissal for Cause. The College may bypass steps if the nature of the misconduct is severe, has been the subject of prior discipline, or is significantly disruptive to the educational process. The College is required to justify and document the decision to bypass steps. The College will not be required to apply the progressive discipline process where the nature of the misconduct is of an extreme nature as discussed in section 14.20.

14.11 Informal Resolution

It is the Union and Management's intent to resolve issues at an informal level. The dean or management supervisor should make every attempt to resolve the issues informally before advancing the issue to the formal process.

14.12 Formal Disciplinary Process

An academic employee has the right to a Union representative at any point in the formal disciplinary process. When a request for such representation is made, no action will be taken with respect to the academic employee until such representation is present. If no Union representation is requested the academic employee will sign a waiver to that effect. The role of the Union representative in regard to the College initiated investigations is to provide assistance and counsel to the academic employee and not to interfere with the College's right to conduct the investigation. The academic employee will be given the opportunity to participate in the investigation but must not interfere with the investigation.

(a) Notice of Expectation

During the issuance of a Notice of Expectation, the dean or management supervisor must clearly indicate that this is the first step in the discipline procedure. A written Notice of Expectation will be provided to the Academic Employee. A copy of the Notice of Expectations will be maintained by the dean

or management supervisor and will not be placed in the Academic Employee's personnel file unless further steps in the discipline process require proof that such a notice was appropriately delivered.

(b) Written Warning

If the behavior addressed through Notice of Expectation persists, the dean or management supervisor will provide written evidence documenting the continued behavior. This is the second step in the discipline process. The written warning along with proof that a Notice of Expectation was appropriately delivered will be placed in the employee's personnel file.

Any written warning that has been placed in the academic employee's official file will be removed from the file at the request of the academic employee at the end of 36 months during which no other discipline has been issued for the same or related infraction, except for instances of sexual harassment.

(c) Temporary Reduction in Pay

Prior to imposing a temporary reduction in pay, the Academic Employee has the following rights:

- (1) To be informed in writing of the reason for the contemplated discipline and an explanation of the evidence
- (2) To be provided with copies of any written documents relied upon to take the action
- (3) To have the opportunity to view other evidence, if any, and
- (4) To be provided an opportunity to respond at a meeting scheduled by the College consisting of the employee, a Union representative (if desired by the employee), and management. Alternatively, the academic employee may submit a written response, if they prefer.

When a reduction in pay is determined to be the appropriate action, the college will provide an academic employee with fifteen minimum (15) calendar days' written notice prior to the effective date of reduction in pay. The temporary reduction in pay is not greater than five (5) days of the academic employee's per diem salary. The temporary reduction in pay is taken from the next paycheck.

Reporting of reduction in pay in official employee's file (pre-disciplinary letter, final disciplinary notice) will become part of the academic official employee file. Reporting of reduction in pay in the official employee's file (pre-disciplinary letter, final disciplinary notice) will be removed from the file at the request of the academic employee at the end of 60 months during which no other discipline has been issued for the same or related infraction, except for instances of sexual harassment.

14.20 Dismissal for Cause

When disciplining an employee, the College will make a reasonable effort to protect the privacy of the employee.

The College has the authority to conduct investigations.

The College has the authority to impose discipline, which is then subject to the grievance procedure set forth in Article 11. Notices of Expectation and Written Warnings may be processed only through Step 3 of the grievance procedure and cannot be arbitrated.

14.21 No Article

14.22 Basis for Dismissal for Cause

A tenured academic employee is not dismissed by the College except for sufficient cause, nor is a full-time academic employee dismissed prior to the written terms of their appointment except for sufficient cause. Sufficient cause may include, but is not limited to:

- (a) Demonstrated incompetence in their professional assignment.
- (b) Proven neglect of recognized duties.
- (c) Proven insubordination.
- (d) Inability to perform assigned duties.
- (e) Conviction of any unlawful act of violence.
- (f) Proven unlawful act resulting in destruction of College property.
- (g) Proven unlawful interference with the orderly conduct of the educational process.
- (h) Repeat infraction(s) which previously resulted in temporary reduction in pay per 14.12.

14.23 Procedure for the Dismissal for Cause of a Tenured, Specially Funded, or Temporary Academic Employee

When reason arises to question the fitness of a tenured, specially funded, or temporary academic employee, the initial step is for the appropriate dean or management supervisor to discuss the matter with their in a personal conference. Notification of the conference includes a notice that the individual has a right to have a Union representative present. The matter may be terminated by mutual consent at this point, but if a resolution does not result, the case is referred to the President of the College. If the President of the College deems that the case should proceed, the dismissal process is governed by the following procedure:

- (a) At least seventy (70) calendar days prior to the proposed date of termination of employment, the Union and employee who is recommended for dismissal by the appointing authority is furnished with written notice which includes grounds for

dismissal, a statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction of the President's notice, and information of the employee's right of appeal. The notification is furnished directly to the employee during working hours or, if this is not possible because of the absence of the employee, it is mailed by certified mail to the employee's last known address.

- (b) A dismissal for cause review committee will be established. The dismissal review committee is comprised of the following:
 - (1) One (1) Academic Employee with subject area expertise. This Member is selected by a majority of the votes cast by the tenured academic employees of the appropriate division
 - (2) Two (2) Tenured Academic Employees. These Members are selected by a majority of the votes cast by tenured academic employees. Appointments will be for two (2) years. The election will be held every other year in October.
 - (3) Two (2) Administrators appointed by the President.

In no case shall a member of the committee sit in judgment of their own case or the case of their spouse, legal domestic partner, or family member. The review committee elects its Chair.

- (c) The President delivers to the review committee the statement of charges provided to the employee.
- (d) Remaining steps in the procedure for dismissal for cause of a tenured academic employee are as specified in Section 14.25, Hearing Procedure Relating to Dismissal for Cause of a tenured, specially funded, temporary employee, or probationary academic employee

14.24 Procedure for the Dismissal for Cause of a Probationary Academic Employee

When reason arises to question the fitness of a probationary academic employee, the initial step is for the appropriate dean or management supervisor to discuss the matter with them in a personal conference. Notification of the conference includes a notice that the individual has a right to have a Union representative present. The matter may be terminated by mutual consent at this point, but if a resolution does not result, the case is referred to the President of the College. If the President of the College deems that the case should proceed, the dismissal process is governed by the following procedure:

- (a) At least seventy (70) calendar days prior to the proposed date of termination of employment, the Union and the employee who is recommended for dismissal by the appointing authority is furnished with written notice which includes grounds for dismissal, a statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction of the President's notice, and information of the employee's right of appeal. The notification is furnished directly to the employee during working hours or, if this is not possible

because of the absence of the employee, it is mailed by certified mail to the employee's last known address.

- (b) A dismissal for cause review committee will be established. The dismissal review committee is comprised of the following:
 - (1) Three (3) Academic Employees from the tenure review committee
 - (2) One (1) Division Administrator/Dean from the tenure candidate's division (or their dean or management supervisor if they are not supervised by a dean. One (1) Administrator appointed by the President.
 - (3) In no case shall a member of the committee sit in judgment of their own case or the case of their spouse, legal domestic partner, or family member. The review committee selects its Chair.
- (c) The President delivers to the review committee the statement of charges provided to the employee.
- (d) Remaining steps in the procedure for dismissal for cause of a probationary academic employee are as specified in Section 14.25, Hearing Procedure Relating to Dismissal for Cause of a Tenured or Probationary Academic Employee.

14.25 Hearing Procedure Relating to Dismissal for Cause of a Tenured or Probationary Academic Employee

- (a) The required notice of dismissal for cause to the affected employee includes notice of the right of a hearing before a review committee prior to the date of termination. The affected employee has ten (10) days from the date of the notice of dismissal to request a hearing. If the affected employee does not request such a hearing from the President of the College within ten (10) days, management will request a written determination from the employee as to whether they wish to avail themselves of the right to a hearing. If after five (5) additional days the employee fails to respond, this failure to request a hearing constitutes acceptance of dismissal and waiver of any right to a hearing under the provision of this negotiated agreement.
- (b) In the event the President receives a request for a hearing, all parties are afforded an opportunity for a hearing after not less than twenty (20) days' notice. The notice includes:
 - (1) A statement of the time, place, and nature of the proceeding.
 - (2) A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held.
 - (3) A reference to the particular rules of the College that are involved.
 - (4) A short and plain statement of the matters asserted.

- (c) Prior to the time of the hearing, the Board and the Union request an impartial hearing officer from the Public Employment Relations Commission to sit as non-voting member of the committee. It is their responsibility to:

 - (1) Make all rulings regarding the evidentiary and procedural issues presented during the course of the dismissal review committee hearings.
 - (2) Meet and confer with members of the dismissal review committee and advise them in regard to procedural and evidentiary issues considered during the course of the committee's deliberations.
 - (3) Appoint a court reporter, who operates at the direction of the presiding officer and records all testimony, receive all documents and other evidence introduced during the course of hearings, and record other matters related to the hearings as directed by the presiding officer.
 - (4) Prepare the record if requested under Section (e).
- (d) Opportunity is afforded all parties to be represented by counsel, to respond and present evidence and argument on all issues involved, and to examine and cross-examine witnesses.
- (e) Oral proceedings are transcribed, if necessary, for the purpose of rehearing or court reviews. A copy of the record or any part thereof is transcribed and furnished to any party to the hearing upon request thereof and payment of the costs thereof.
- (f) The College presents its case first and has the burden of proceeding with the presentation of evidence in support of its recommendations for dismissal for cause.
- (g) The record in a contested case includes:
 - (1) All documents, motions, and intermediate rulings.
 - (2) Evidence received or considered.
 - (3) A statement of matters officially noticed.
 - (4) Questions and offers of proof, objections, and rulings thereon.
 - (5) Proposed findings and exceptions.
 - (6) Any decision, opinion, or report by the officer or committee Chair presiding at the hearing.
- (h) Finding of fact is based exclusively on the evidence and on matters officially noticed.
- (i) The authorized hearing officer may
 - (1) Administer oaths and affirmations, examine witnesses, and receive evidence. No person is compelled to divulge information, which they would not be compelled to divulge in a court of common law.

- (2) Issue subpoenas
- (3) Take or cause depositions to be taken consistent with Superior Court Rules with timelines as modified herein below. No person is compelled to divulge information, which they would not be compelled to divulge by deposition in connection with a court proceeding.
- (4) Regulate the course of the hearing.
- (5) Hold conferences for the settlement or simplification of the issues by consent of the parties
- (j) Within twenty (20) days following the review hearing, the review committee prepares recommendations on the action they propose be taken and submits such recommendations to the appointing authority. A copy of the recommendations is given to the employee involved and the President.
- (k) The Board meets within thirty (30) days after receipt of the review committee recommendations to consider those recommendations. The employee affected by the review committee recommendations may request a hearing before the Board within ten (10) days after receipt of the said recommendations.

The employee may be represented at the hearing with the Board by any legal counsel or other spokesperson of their choice and by a representative of the Union. If the Board considers evidence or facts other than those submitted by the Review Committee, and if such evidence may result in the dismissal of the employee, the Board will disclose such evidence to the employee, and afford them a reasonable amount of time (as determined by the Board) to evaluate the evidence and to respond in person, if desired, to the newly raised evidence

Within thirty (30) days after the hearing before the Board, the appointing authority informs the affected employee and the Union concurrently of their decision by letter

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15.00 REDUCTION-IN-FORCE FOR TENURED ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES

15.10 Definition

A reduction-in-force is the separation of a tenured academic employee without prejudice for reasons that may include lack of funds and necessary curtailment of work. It may necessarily include separation due to declarations of financial emergency by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

15.11 Lay-Off Units and Procedure for Assignment

- (a)** A tenured academic employee's assignment to a lay-off unit will be that unit within which their job responsibility is classified.
- (b)** For the duration of this agreement, the lay-off units and assignments thereto, as agreed to by the Union and management, and published on the TCC portal, or the most recent updated of those lay-off units and assignments thereto, shall be used as the basis for reduction-in-force. An employee may be assigned to only one lay-off unit even though they are teaching in more than one unit.
- (c)** The institutional seniority list, which is to be published annually by November 1st of each year under Article 9 of the Negotiated Agreement, will also include the lay-off unit to which an academic employee is currently assigned.

15.12 Alternatives to Reduction-In-Force

Alternatives to reduction-in-force are implemented by management prior to the initiation of reduction-in-force procedures (15.20). The application of these alternatives will be handled through the appropriate division and department. A tenured academic employee will be given sections normally staffed by part-time academic employees before being offered other alternatives to reduction-in-force. Such alternatives may include, but not be limited to, those in Article 6.14. A tenured academic employee's agreement to one or any combination of the above-referenced alternatives, or any other alternative agreed to, will be submitted in writing to the College President.

15.13 Basis for Reduction

If the number of full-time academic employees is to be reduced, the College President, with advice from the appropriate supervising administrators and Chair, determines in the case of each affected department or program what courses and services are most necessary to maintain quality education and services at Tacoma Community College. In making the determination on reductions, the College President considers the following factors:

- (a)** Budget limitations, lack of funds, changes in instructional or service programs, or lack of students participating in particular programs or services.
- (b)** The enrollment, the trends in enrollment, and their effect upon the department or program.

- (c) The present and anticipated service needs of the College and its students and prospective students.
- (d) Information concerning full-time academic and administrative vacancies occurring through retirement, resignation, and professional and other leave.

Before arriving at proposed reduction-in-force decisions, the President will confer with representatives of the Union and the student government regarding proposed reduction plans and will consider their opinions in the matter. In the case of reductions-in-force initiated by a declaration of financial emergency by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the President will meet with representatives of the Union and the student government to exchange information with them regarding the situation.

15.14 Order of Reduction

If a reduction is determined to be necessary within a lay-off unit, the employment needs of the department or program are the primary basis for identifying the order of reduction-in-force.

First consideration will also be given to seniority as defined in Article 9, provided that such consideration results in the retention of qualified academic employees to replace and perform the necessary duties of the personnel reduced. In determining what duties an academic employee is qualified to perform, the President will consider, but not be limited to, **(a)** general professional experience, **(b)** actual work experience in the area under consideration, and **(c)** educational background.

Per Article 9.40, in the event other factors are accorded precedence over seniority in connection with reduction-in-force, management will, upon request, state its reason(s) in writing.

15.15 Right to Recall

A tenured academic employee whose appointment is not renewed as a result of this reduction-in-force procedure has the right to recall to any academic position, either a newly created position or a vacancy, provided that the individual is determined to be qualified for such position by the President of the College following recommendations by Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, the supervising dean, and department\program Chair. Upon recall to a position within the original layoff unit, the employee retains the seniority position they held prior to separation. The right of recall extends three (3) years from date of separation. A tenured academic employee whose appointment is not renewed due to the reduction-in-force procedure keeps the College Human Resources office informed of any change in address by the employee.

15.20 Procedure for Reduction-In-Force

When reason arises to separate a tenured academic employee as a result of reduction-in-force, the initial step is for the appropriate dean or management supervisor to discuss the matter with the employee in a personal conference.

Notification of the conference includes a notice that the employee has a right to have a Union representative present. The matter may be resolved by mutual consent at this point; but if a resolution does not result, the case is referred to the President of the College. If the President of the College still deems a separation to be necessary, the reduction-in-force process is governed by the following procedure:

(a) Reduction-In-Force Not Pursuant to Declaration of Financial Emergency.

- (1)** Reduction-in-Force as discussed in this section does not occur during the duration of the affected employee's current academic year appointment.
- (2)** At least seventy (70) calendar days prior to effective date of separation of employment, the Union and the employee who is identified for separation by the appointing authority is furnished concurrently with written notice which includes grounds for separation, a statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction of the President's notice, and information of the employee's right of appeal. The notification is furnished directly to the employee during working hours and a copy to the Union President's mailbox. If this is not possible because of the absence of the employee, it is mailed by certified mail to the employee's last known address.
- (3)** The President specifies and serves written notice to the affected employee and provides copies to the Reduction-in-Force Review Committee. The notice includes:
 - (aa)** A statement that separation is not due to the job performance of the employee and is thus without prejudice to such employee.
 - (bb)** The effective date of separation from service is the last day of the affected employee's current academic year appointment.
 - (cc)** Notice of the right of a hearing before a Review Committee.
 - (dd)** A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held.
 - (ee)** A short and plain statement of the matters asserted, including a statement of the reasons for the reduction.
- (4)** The affected employee has ten (10) days from the date of the notice of separation to request a hearing. If the affected employee does not request such a hearing from the President of the College within ten (10) days, management will request a written determination from the employee as to whether they wish to avail themselves of the right to a hearing. If after five (5) additional days the employee fails to respond, this failure to request a hearing constitutes acceptance of separation and waiver of any right to a hearing under the provision of this negotiated agreement.

- (5) Hearings for all employees requesting formal hearings are consolidated and only one such hearing for the affected employees is held and such consolidated hearing are concluded within the time frame set forth herein.
- (6) In the event the President receives a request for a hearing, all parties are afforded an opportunity for a hearing after not less than twenty (20) days' notice. In the case of reduction-in-force, the hearing is not scheduled more than forty (40) days prior to the stated ending date expressed in the employee's individual appointment (subject to hearing officer availability). The notice includes:
 - (aa) A statement of the time, place, and nature of the proceeding.
 - (bb) A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held.
 - (cc) A reference to the particular rules of the College that are involved
 - (dd) A short and plain statement of the matters asserted
- (7) A Reduction-in-Force Review Committee will be established as follows:
 - (aa) Three (3) Tenured Academic Employees. These Members are selected by a majority of the votes cast by tenured academic employees. Two alternates will also be selected. Appointments will be for two (2) years. The election will be held every other year in October.
 - (bb) Two (2) Administrators appointed by the President.

In no case shall a member of the committee sit in judgment of their own case or the case of their spouse, legal domestic partner, or family member. The review committee elects its Chair.

(b) Hearing Procedure Related to Reduction-in-Force not Pursuant to a Financial Emergency

- (1) Prior to the time of the hearing, the Board and the Union requests an impartial hearing officer from the Public Employment Relations Commission to sit as non-voting member of the committee. It is their responsibility to:
 - (aa) Make all rulings regarding the evidentiary and procedural issues presented during the course of the separation hearing.
 - (bb) Meet and confer with members of the Reduction-in-Force review committee and advise them in regard to procedural and evidentiary issues considered during the course of the committee's deliberations
 - (cc) Appoint a court reporter, who operates at the direction of the presiding officer and I records all testimony, receive all documents and other evidence introduced during the course of hearings, and

record other matters related to the hearings as directed by the presiding officer.

- (2)** Opportunity is afforded all parties to be represented by counsel, to respond and present evidence and argument on all issues involved, and to examine and cross-examine witnesses
- (3)** Oral proceedings are transcribed for the purpose of rehearing or court reviews. A copy of the record or any part thereof is transcribed and furnished to any party to the hearing upon request thereof and payment of the costs thereof
- (4)** The College presents its case first and has the burden of proceeding with the presentation of evidence in support of its recommendations for reduction- in-force.
- (5)** The record in a contested case includes:
 - (aa)** All documents, motions, and intermediate rulings
 - (bb)** Evidence received or considered.
 - (cc)** A statement of matters officially noticed.
 - (dd)** Questions and offers of proof, objections, and rulings thereon.
 - (ee)** Proposed findings and exceptions.
 - (ff)** Any decision, opinion, or report by the officer or committee Chair presiding at the hearing.
- (6)** Finding of fact is based exclusively on the evidence and on matters officially noticed.
- (7)** The authorized hearing officer may:
 - (aa)** Administer oaths and affirmations, examine witnesses, and receive evidence. No person shall be compelled to divulge information which they would not be compelled to divulge in a court of common law.
 - (bb)** Issue subpoenas.
 - (cc)** Take or cause depositions to be taken consistent with Superior Court Rules with timelines as modified herein below. No person is compelled to divulge information, which they would not be compelled to divulge by deposition in connection with a court proceeding.
 - (dd)** Regulate the course of the hearing.
 - (ee)** Hold conferences for the settlement or simplification of the issues by consent of the parties.

- (8) Within twenty (20) days following the review hearing, the review committee prepares recommendations on the action they propose be taken and submit such recommendations to the appointing authority. A copy of the recommendations is also given to the employee
- (9) The Board meets within thirty (30) days after receipt of the review committee recommendations to consider those recommendations. The employee affected by the review committee recommendations may request a hearing before the Board within ten (10) days after receipt of the said recommendations.

The employee may be represented at the hearing with the Board by any legal counsel or other spokesperson of their choice and by a representative of the Union. If the Board considers evidence or facts other than those submitted by the Review Committee, and if such evidence may result in the separation of the employee, the Board will disclose such evidence to the employee, and afford them a reasonable amount of time (as determined by the Board) to evaluate the evidence and to respond in person, if desired, to the newly raised evidence.

Within thirty (30) days after the hearing before the Board, the appointing authority informs the affected employee and the Union concurrently of their decision by letter.

(c) Reduction-In-Force Initiated by a Declaration of Financial Emergency by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

- (1) The President specifies and serves written notice to the affected employee and provides copies to the Reduction-in-Force Review Committee. The notice includes:
 - (aa) A statement that separation is not due to the job performance of the employee and is thus without prejudice to such employee
 - (bb) The effective date of separation from service, which shall not take place less than forty-five (45) calendar days from initial notice of lay-off.
 - (cc) Notice of the right of a hearing before a Review Committee.
 - (dd) A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held.
 - (ee) A short and plain statement of the matters asserted,
- (2) The affected employee has ten (10) calendar days from the date of the notice of separation to request a hearing. If the affected employee does not request such a hearing from the President of the College within seven (7) calendar days, management will request a written determination from the employee as to whether they wish to avail themselves of the right of a

hearing. If after the ten including a statement of the reasons for the reduction. (10) calendar days provided herein the employee fails to respond, this failure to request a hearing constitutes acceptance of separation and waiver of any right to a hearing under the provision of this negotiated agreement. The effective date of separation from service is the date indicated in the notice of reduction-in-force regardless of the duration of any individual appointment letter.

- (3) A Reduction-in-Force Review Committee will be established. The Review Committee is composed of five (5) persons. Three (3) are tenured academic employee appointees selected by a majority of the votes cast by tenured academic employees and academic department heads acting in a body. One is an administrator selected by the College President. One is a student representative who is a full-time student chosen by the student association in such a manner as the members thereof determine.

(d) Hearing Procedure Related to Reduction-In-Force Pursuant to a Financial Emergency.

- (1) The Board of Trustees will appoint a hearing officer. The employee(s) affected may request participation in the selection of a hearing officer in the manner provided in RCW 28A.405.310 (4). Where there is more than one employee affected by the Board of Trustees reduction-in-force, such employees requesting a hearing must act collectively in making such a request. The cost incurred for the services and expenses of such hearing officer are shared equally by the College and the academic employee or academic employees requesting a hearing.
- (2) The President will give ten (10) days written notice of the hearing to the employee(s) who has requested such a hearing. The President will also provide notice to the Review Committee and hearing officer.
- (3) Said hearing is a formal hearing pursuant to RCW 28B.50.873 and is concluded by the hearing officer within sixty (60) days after written notice of the reduction-in-force has been issued. It is conducted in accordance with procedures specified in Section 15.20 (b) except that the issues are limited to whether the particular employee selected is the proper one to be separated under the provisions of this agreement.
- (4) Hearings for all employees requesting formal hearings are consolidated and only one such hearing for the affected employees is held and such consolidated hearing is concluded within the time frame set forth herein.
- (5) At the formal hearing, the Review Committee may observe the formal hearing procedure and after the conclusion of the hearing offer its recommended decision for consideration by the hearing officer.
- (6) Within ten (10) days after conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer prepares findings, conclusions, and a recommended decision, which are

forwarded to the Board for final action thereon. Any such determination by the hearing officer under this section is not subject to further Review Committee action.

- (7) The Board meets within a reasonable time after receipt of the hearing officer's recommendations to consider those recommendations. The Board concurrently informs the affected employee and the Union of its decision by letter. Separation from service without prejudice after a formal hearing under the provisions of this section becomes effective upon final action by the Board of Trustees.

16.00 CONDITIONS AND DURATION OF AGREEMENT

16.10 Duration

This agreement and each of its articles is binding and effective July 1, 2024, and shall continue in force and effect until June 30, 2027, with a sixty (60) day extension if agreement has not been reached on a new contract by June 30, 2027. Any change to this agreement during the life of this agreement shall be made by mutual consent of both parties.

16.20 Opening of Negotiations

It is provided that on or before March 1, 2027, management and the Union agree to meet and discuss any changes to these articles that might be proposed. The parties agree to reopen the salary provisions of this agreement at any time that a salary adjustment appropriation from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is made available to the College.

16.30 Past Practice changes

Any changes in past practices not covered by this agreement shall require mutual acceptance by the Union and management.

16.40 College Policy

It is agreed that all matters contained in this negotiated agreement shall also be adopted by the Board of Trustees as College policy with no termination date. Any new agreement would bring about corresponding changes in College policy.

For the College:  Date: 7/22/2024

Dr. Ivan Harrell II, Ph.D.
President, Tacoma Community College

For the Union:  Date: 7-23-24

Staci Snyder.
President, TCCFT

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Index

A

Absence 7, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42, 61, 92, 93, 99
Absent 38, 64, 65
Academic employee
Counselors.....3, 49, 51, 54
Faculty ...1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 17, 23, 27, 29, 39, 40, 41, 49,
50, 51, 52, 54, 57, 64, 66, 85, 86, 87
Full-Time2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32,
36, 37, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50,
53, 54, 56, 62, 64, 66, 67, 70, 71, 79, 80, 82, 85,
86, 91, 97, 98, 103
Librarians.....49, 54
Part-Time...2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 16, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34,
37, 43, 44, 54, 55, 56, 57, 62, 63, 64, 66, 85, 86,
97
Professor2, 29, 85
Academic Employee2, 3, 16, 21, 27, 45, 49, 77, 89, 90,
91, 92, 93
Academic Year 2, 3, 45, 46
Accreditation 3, 24, 52
Accredited..... 3, 20, 21, 22, 44
Accrue 31, 32, 35, 42
Accrual.....32, 33
Accrued 32, 34, 37, 42, 61
Activities6, 7, 11, 15, 24, 28, 29, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 52,
54, 55, 56, 66, 86
Administration*See Administrator*
Administrative*See Administrator*
Administrator.....4, 93
Administration.....40
Administrative 4, 15, 61, 67, 79, 98
Administrators.....7, 57, 62, 97
Administrators*See Administrator*
Advanced Degree.....21
Advanced Degrees.....21
Doctorate21
Masters21
Advising 13, 28, 45, 50, 59, 86
Advisor55
Agreements.....9, 17, 40, 76
Alternate.....14, 46, 47

Alternatives.....46, 97
Annual 13, 16, 21
Appointing Authority4, 82
Appointment2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13, 17, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27,
31, 33, 37, 45, 46, 47, 54, 56, 57, 62, 64, 65, 79, 80,
81, 82, 91, 98, 99, 100, 103
Appointments..... 8, 17, 27, 31, 46, 53, 56, 64, 67
Assignments.....15, 55, 56, 87
Assignment..4, 7, 17, 22, 26, 29, 32, 38, 41, 46, 47,
48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 61, 66, 70, 91, 97
Attendance Incentive Program.....31, 32

B

Benefits.....40, 43, 44, 71
Bereavement*See Leave*

C

Calendar 1, 4, 45, 59
Campus 1, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 44, 51, 62
Chair3, 7, 19, 22, 23, 24, 42, 51, 52, 53, 56, 79, 92, 93,
94, 97, 98, 100, 101
Chairs.....7, 64
Chairs*See Chair*
Committee
Committee's 63, 79, 80, 81, 94, 100
Committees79
Committee.8, 12, 14, 17, 19, 29, 40, 49, 50, 51, 55,
64, 95, 99, 100, 102, 103, 104
Committee's *See Committee*
Compensation21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 33, 40, 43, 54
Payment 11, 13, 29, 70, 71, 94, 101
Payments..... 22, 26, 33, 35, 70, 71
Confidentiality62
Confidential 11, 44, 61, 76, 82
Contact Hour48
Counselors*See Academic employee*
Credits..... 28, 29, 46, 47, 50, 53, 55, 62
Credit.....8, 22, 27, 28, 29, 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57

D

Dean...8, 13, 25, 28, 29, 34, 37, 38, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 55, 57, 61, 63, 64, 65, 73, 74, 79, 81, 85, 86, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 98

Decisions.....82, 89
 Decision...19, 42, 48, 69, 73, 74, 75, 77, 82, 89, 94, 95, 101, 102, 103, 104

Definitions 1, 45, 48, 73
 Definition.....5, 45, 97

Department2, 7, 23, 24, 39, 48, 50, 57, 63, 64, 80, 85, 86, 97, 98, 103
 Departmental50, 57

Development ...1, 3, 28, 29, 40, 44, 45, 48, 50, 51, 52, 56, 59, 64, 66, 80, 81, 85, 86, *See also* Professional Development

Disciplinary *See* Discipline and Dismissal
 discipline..... *See* Discipline and Dismissal

Discipline and Dismissal.....89
 Disciplinary 44, 50, 51, 52, 89, 90
 Discipline 4, 50, 51, 52, 89, 90, 91
 Dismissal..... 4, 82, 89, 91, 92, 93
 Termination..... 4, 76, 77, 91, 92, 93, 105

Discrimination 4, 5, 16

Dismissal *See* Discipline and Dismissal

Doctorate..... *See* Advanced Degree

Domestic Violence *See* Leave

Double28, 53

Dues12

Duties.3, 13, 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 38, 52, 53, 79, 81, 91, 98

E

Early Retirement..... *See* Retirement

F

Faculty *See* Academic employee

Faculty Full-Time..... *See* Full-Time

Faculty Part-Time..... *See* Part-Time

[Family and Medical Leave](#) *See* Leave

Full-Time.....2, 7, 21, 23, 25, 31, 33, 45, 53, 54, 62, 82

G

Graduation Regalia44

H

Hiring 15, 28, 62

Hours13, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 33, 36, 37, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 62, 92, 99, *See also* Contact Hours

I

Instructional Load53, 55, 56
 Load.....2, 13, 26, 27, 47, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 64

J

Jury Duty *See* Leave

L

Leave13, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 61, 98
 Bereavement.....31, 34
 Domestic Violence..... 5, 31, 38
 Family and Medical Leave 31, 37, 41, 42
 Jury Duty38
 Leave Without Pay41, 42
 Military 22, 31, 35, 37, 39, 42
 Personal Leave36
 Sabbatical39
 Shared Leave35, 36, 39
 Sick 31, 32, 33, 36, 61
 Leave Without Pay..... *See* Leave
 Librarian..... *See* Academic employee
 Load *See* Instructional Load

M

Management .1, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 26, 29, 35, 41, 43, 44, 48, 50, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 64, 66, 73, 77, 87, 89
 Management's8, 46, 62, 77

Masters..... *See* Advanced Degree

Military *See* Leave

Mission 1, 15, 50

Moonlight 13, 23, 27, 54, 56
 Moonlighting.....13, 23

N

Notice..... 17, 82, 89, 90, 99, 102
 Notification.....56, 91, 92, 99
 Notified 27, 38, 53, 56, 57, 61, 69
 Notification *See* Notice
 Notified *See* Notice

P

Part-Time..... 3, 26, 27, 32, 33, 55, 63
 Payment.....*See Compensation*
 Payments*See Compensation, See Compensation*
Payroll..... 12, *See also Compensation*
 Payrolls26, 71
 Personal Leave.....*See Leave*
 Personnel61
 Phased Retirement*See Retirement*
 President 2, 4, 7, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 26, 36, 40, 41, 42, 48, 59, 62, 63, 65, 69, 74, 75, 77, 80, 91, 92, 93, 95, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 103, 105
 President's 7, 42, 80, 92, 99
 Probationary 4, 21, 38, 79, 80, 82, 89, 92, 93
 Procedures...11, 26, 61, 63, 75, 76, 77, 80, 81, 87, 97, 103
 Procedural76, 94, 100
 Procedure 19, 73, 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 89, 91, 92, 93, 98, 99, 103
 Process 16, 17, 19, 36, 49, 50, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 73, 76, 80, 81, 82, 85, 87, 89, 90, 91, 92, 99
 Processed76, 91
 Processes.....15, 16, 85
 Process.....*See Procedures*
 Professional Development.....1, 40, 66
 Professional Growth 44, 56, 64, 66, 80
 Professor.....*See Academic employee*
 Provost.....59, 63, 74, 98

Q

Quarter 1, 13, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 39, 40, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59, 64, 69, 70, 71, 82
 Quarterly 3, 44, 50, 53, 54, 57
 Quarters 3, 14, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 34, 37, 39, 45, 46, 47, 56, 64, 82, 85

R

reasonable14
Reassigned 13, 23, 24

Reassignment62
 Reduction..... 82, 89, 90, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 103
 Renewal82
 Responsibilities 4, 15, 22, 23, 25, 43, 45, 48, 49, 56, 62, 70, 75, 79
 Retired3
 Retirement..... 33, 43, 69, 70
 Early Retirement69
 Phased Retirement.....69
 Retirement Incentive.....69
 Retirement Incentive*See Retirement*

S

Sabbatical*See Leave*
 Shared Leave*See Leave*
 Sick.....*See Leave*
Specialty Funded 2, 31, 49, 82, 91
 Stipends24
 Stipend22
 Strategic..... 1, 15, 50, 55, 62, 66, 85, 86

T

Temporary 2, 31, 42, 49, 90, 91
 Tenure..... 2, 8, 21, 49, 75, 79, 80, 81, 82
 Tenure Track..... 2, 85, 86
 Tenure Track.....*See Tenure*
 Tenured*See Tenure*
 Termination*See Discipline and Dismissal*
Training.....8, 28, 50, 53

U

Union 2, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 29, 40, 41, 44, 46, 48, 50, 51, 55, 57, 59, 64, 65, 66, 69, 70, 73, 75, 76, 89, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 104, 105

V

Values 5, 56, 66, 85, 86
 Vote65
 Votes 65, 92, 100, 103