

Minutes- Faculty Senate March 4th, 2009
Room 6-130 at 3:30 pm – Bradenton Campus

Attending:

C. Ruffner, J. Grieneisen, A. Weaver, J. Mousseau, C. Clark, B. Santiago, L. Frith, A. Medvesky, S. Anthony, M. Sykes, J. Duke, F. Winters, B. Donovan, K. McManigle, A. Carr, D. Conaway, G. Green, M. Buonanno, J. Laborda, M. Robertson, C. Hazzi, J. Bodenweiser, D. Pierre, D. Nezelek, N. Johnson, E. Salter, G. Russell, and J. Crocker.

The following topics were discussed:

* Dr. Crocker received the four recommendations from Faculty Senate re:
1-first day attendance for students;

* reduction in faculty office hours;

* due to on-line evaluations and the low return rate eliminating the 85% student success requirement; and 4- revisiting the tenure, promotion and sabbatical process given administrative reorganization. Dr. Crocker indicated he would take the request under consideration.

* Pay schedule changes are still under review according to Dr. Crocker, VP Academic Quality and Success.

* Faculty will have a meeting March 30th at 3:00pm at Lakewood Ranch to discuss the reorganization of the administrative structure. Faculty Senate asked for job descriptions for the Provosts and Nursing Department chair positions. We also asked for a listing of pre-existing administrative parameters beyond the 12 month coverage for departmental chair positions.

* 360 evaluations will be reinstated next year

* The proctoring process for Distance Learning courses was discussed. There was concern expressed about the limitations in space and personnel. Dr. Crocker suggested that we can charge student's DL fees to address this issue.

* The cost of books at the bookstore was discussed. Concern was expressed regarding the high costs at MCC's bookstore. Dr. Crocker offered that the two approaches he has seen are outsourcing and on-site service. At Dr. Crocker's suggestion Luci Frith asked Dr. Probstfeld for details. The bookstore is required to cover its expense. The profits are placed in title III funds which are used for food for college events, student athletics, and to supplement camps services that don't cover their expenses. There is currently about 3 million dollars in the fund.

* Susan Findlay's Civility Final Report is available on the Faculty Senate web page.

* It was suggested that Faculty Senate defer addressing the initiatives regarding sustainability until the administration clarified its level of commitment (E.g. the continued use of Styrofoam in the cafeteria, the need for more recycling bins etc.)

* Jeff Grieneisen reported that the ITAC committee discussed faculty use of email. Faculty Senate has received the statistics re: faculty; adjunct; and administrative accounts. Discussed the need for information to be made available to faculty wanting to know how to reduce the memory load of emails and about how faculty might be encouraged to regularly maintain their email accounts.

* Luci Frith offered a summary of MCC's current budget projections. Basically, our expenses over revenue are projected to be \$3,977,513. After base salaries, According to Dr. Probstfeld, the current approach is that everything beyond annual contracts is on the table for discussion. Those personnel costs include:

SPD-	282,200
Step-	85,000
Promotions	60,000
Adjunct training	38,033
Benefits	6,502,581

There is currently a committee chaired by Peg Beck reviewing the proposals from several health insurance providers to determine if there are other companies that can offer benefits at a better rate. The results will be available by the end of March.

Faculty Meeting adjourned 5:20 pm
Minutes Respectfully submitted Luci Frith

Date: March 6th, 2009.

From: Felix Rizk, Venice Campus Senate Rep.

To: Courtney Ruffner, MCC Senate President.

Re: Minutes of the General Faculty Senate Meeting; Venice Campus.

Attendees:

Sheri Chejlyk, Susan Findlay, Maria Spelleri, Cyndi Reynolds, Doug Ford, Jane Jones, Allen Culpepper, John Waters, Diane Taylor, Bonnie Rasmussen, Felix Rizk, Dawn Garafalo, Lorraine Livingston, Michael Rogers, Sharon Wetzler, Louis Okonkwo, Araceli Cumbo, Beth Smith, Kendra Barber, Mary Ellen Schaertl, Corliss Bretz, Cathy Panik, Courtney Ruffner, Dr Crocker, and John McCree.

After faculty members signed in, the meeting started at 2:08 pm. The Senate President, Courtney Ruffner (CR) was the facilitator for the meeting. CR opened the meeting by noting that Dr Crocker, the VPAQS, was slightly delayed, but he will join us during the meeting. The VPAQS arrived at around 2:15 pm.

CR reviewed a set of questions and their corresponding responses that were asked at the Wednesday's Faculty Senate meeting in Bradenton:

1. Update on the status of change in the MCC payroll schedule for 2009/2010 academic year: The number of annual paychecks will change from 24 bimonthly to 26 biweekly. The UNOFFICIAL word is that MCC will continue the present policy of remitting sub-monthly payroll checks over the summer to those on 12 month pay schedules; however, this is NOT law yet.
2. Departmental Chair Position Restructuring? It has been verified that changes to the Chair's position have been implemented without faculty input, as was promised. However, this is not the case, as confirmed by the VPAQS email inviting all faculty members to a March 30th meeting to discuss the proposed change to the departmental Chair's position. The VPAQS stated that he will use the recommendations from this meeting to complete the new MCC structure.
3. The "360 degrees" Supervisor Evaluations was suspended this academic year by President Hafner (PH). When will it resume? It was suspended temporarily because of the college's structural organization being implemented by PH. It will be available to faculty members for the 2009/2010 academic year.
4. What is the status of the Faculty Senate recommendations/proposals presented to Dr Crocker last Tuesday? The VPAQS was available for this question, and he responded that he was still considering all the recommendations but has not yet made any decisions. He will notify the Faculty Senate when each decision is reached in the near future.
5. There are rumors that the MCC administration will not fund faculty stipends next year. Is this true? Felix noted that he was at the last budget and Planning Committee meeting held last week, but could not recall any statement to that effect. Based on the current budget proposed, there will be a \$4.0 million deficit at current funding/revenue sources, but faculty stipends or other specific benefits have not yet been officially targeted for cuts.

6. Some faculty members would like to know if MCC should have a policy for obtaining proctors for e-learning tests. CR indicated that the practice of using proctors for e-learning examinations is available, but the policy has not yet been documented administratively.
7. Has the MCC administration looked at MCC bookstore mark-ups lately? Some observers have noted a marked increase from the 26% ceiling under Dr Pappas, to approximately 35% markup recently. Observers are questioning the merit of such a huge incremental leap under the prevailing grim economic conditions. There were no responses to this question.
8. A faculty member enquired about the status of paper recycling at MCC as Sarasota County is engaged in paper recycling. Felix responded that paper is not yet one of the recyclable items at MCC, and hopefully through the Sustainability Committee, we might begin to include paper in our recyclables soon. CR commented that there are departments on campus that have a recycling bin for paper. Susan Finlay agreed.

Civility Policy Update –Susan Findlay: Susan began by reviewing the origins of this program which was a students’ class project supported by the Gulf Coast Foundation of Venice. From the students’ surveys came a set of recommendations about “civility” values. MCC decide to adopt them as part of college policy under PH tenure. PH would implore faculty members to adopt the recommendations. In the ensuing discussions, Culpepper raised a very pertinent question about cell phone use in classrooms, and its relationship with the emergency broadcast system MCC has implemented recently. He pointed out that each classroom used to have a wall phone, but that is no longer the case. So how will MCC reach all classrooms during a real “emergency”? He added that MCC assumes that everyone carries a cell phone, and should the instructors cell phone be on during class? How will that mesh with the new “civility” policy?

Budget Update – Felix: Felix noted that college revenues and expenses will create a \$4.0 million shortfall for next academic year. All interested parties should know more details about detailed budgetary status after the next budget and planning Committee meeting on March, 26th.

New ITAC Policy Update –CR: Courtney pointed out that ITAC has developed some new preliminary policies that might affect faculty emails. All MCC email users will now be expected to empty their “delete” folders weekly to create cyber space and improve email speed. MCC email inbox folders will also be “emptied” once every 6 months until ITAC institutes a process by which this will happen automatically, an auto-purge.

General Questions/comments:

A faculty member asked about how the 2 new faculty positions in nursing will be funded. The VPAQS replied that no new monetary resources will be involved in this hiring due to retirements and/or resignations.

The meeting ended at 3:35 pm.