

Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 18

The Faculty Council (FC) meeting started at approximately 2:30pm.

Members Present:

Karen Albrecht	Bill Lockhart
Bob Ammon	Alisa Petree
Henry Apperson	Lesley Plemons
Jennifer Black	Larry Salazar
Cheryl Bohde	Alexandria Shiu
Cindy Burns	Mary Sides
Kurt Chunn	Emily Stottlemire
Derek Clapp	Lise Uhl
Sondra Dubowsky	Rush Hathi
Deborah Focarile	Gail Woodward
Jon Fox	
Donna George	
Sue Graham	

Guests: Dr. Donnie Balmos

Dr. Fred Hills
Kelly White
C.J. Watson
Nancy Ray-Mitchell

Kurt Chunn gave a welcome and started the meeting.

Donnie Balmos:

Commencement: mentioned that there is no policy about requiring faculty to participate at commencement, but encourages faculty to celebrate our students' accomplishments.

Professional Development: In terms of professional development, every faculty member should have a 1-page professional development plan, works with their division chair, and have it approved by the dean so we have an approval process. There were many questions from FC members about Fourth Fridays and other professional development that was to be counted without prior approval under the previous administration and Donnie encouraged a written proposal for those items to be turned into the deans. He said that from this semester forward, prior approval will be needed. Kurt will send the previous administration's professional development policy to help anyone who needs to make a case for prior professional development completed before the fall of 2011.

Fred Hills:

Discussion of Degree Plans: He proposed possible degree plan paths for the AA and AS. These are for discussion only. The core curriculum has been cut to 42 hours. With 18 additional hours of electives, that is a total of 60 hours. There is a proposed pre-core of reading, college success, and computer literacy courses. Fred proposed more of the core up front in the pathway, and then students could take electives later on. The difference between the AS and the AA are that 12 hours of electives need to be in

math or the natural sciences. These are not meant to be a field of study but a sequence or pathway to students to follow. Fred is hoping to partner with the University Center to help students successfully transfer.

Questions were asked about the pre-core being required (with LEAP, yes for the college success course), about internal standards (yes, we can have our own standards), and if we used to have a proposed sequence (yes, but there were too many choices in the AA degree plan). Fred asked FC members to take these proposed degree plan paths back to our areas and ask for faculty feedback about what is the right sequence of courses in our respective areas. He will send the documents to faculty in the arts and sciences. Jennifer Black pointed out that sometimes it depends on the 4-year school that students want to transfer to.

Quality Matters:

Nancy Ray-Mitchell, Sondra Dubowsky, C.J. Watson, and Kelly White attended a Quality Matters (QM) meeting in Oregon and shared their findings. It is a voluntary peer-reviewed certification process for online courses. It is a nationally recognized certification that is centered on best practices for online learning. MCC has only 1 course that has been certified. The focus is not on course content, but on helping students maneuver through the class. This will not be used in faculty evaluation and is encouraged by not required.

A short video was shown giving community college instructor testimonials about the collegial process and how it improved their online courses. There is time to make changes to the course after receiving feedback from the 3 reviewers (1 in your content area) before the final decision. It is possible to be certified while meeting 80% of the reviewers' criteria. The cost of the certification course is \$750 per internet class. There is funding now for about 3-6 classes. The cost will go down if our MCC faculty become certifiers (must teach at least 1 online course a year). Reviewers do not have to have a QM certified class themselves, but there is a cost to become a reviewer. If any faculty are interested, please contact one of the four or Staci Taylor.

Committee Work:

FC Webpage:

Kurt mentioned Jon Fox is heading the FC Webpage committee and we will find out later when those documents will be posted for us.

HB 2504:

Donna George presented the findings of the HB 2504 committee. Their charge was to come up with a plan for how to post HB 2504 requirements, not discuss what information should be posted. (Kurt said we just need a plan for sharing the information to be in compliance right now. If and when it is decided to follow through, we will need another committee to decide what information should be posted).

The committee reviewed data from 54 Texas 2-year colleges and propose that a straightforward approach should be taken that would allow individuals to easily access evaluation information for faculty. They recommended that an additional quick link adjacent to the curriculum vitae link should be created to provide ready access to faculty evaluations from the MCC web page, additional information related to the faculty evaluation reporting requirements should be included on the HB 2504 compliance information page, consideration should be given for not posting faculty evaluations for courses with fewer than 10 students or with an evaluation response rate of less than 10%, and student evaluation of faculty should be posted every other year. Kurt would like to send these recommendations out and vote

on approval at next month's FC meeting and he can take it on to Donnie Balmos. Jennifer Black pointed out that the charge of the committee needs to be made very clear (plan to post, not what to post) and Donna said she will work on a clear and concise statement and forward it to Kurt.

Policy Committee – review of Professional Development Policy:

Jennifer Black reported from the Policy committee regarding professional development. Their plan is to make a shift from the current requirement of 3 credit hours or 48 face-to-face hours every 4 years to instead faculty keeping up with professional development as a part of the annual portfolio evaluation. As professionals, professional development is something that faculty should want to do. Faculty would come up with a professional development plan with their program director. She pointed out that this has no relation to step-credit and that these were separate items. FC voted to approve the committee's plan to revise the current policy. The committee will craft a new policy statement for faculty to review and consider.

Attendance Policy:

The MCC ad hoc committee is working to formulate a revised attendance plan and should have some recommendations by the next FC meeting. Kurt mentioned that MCC can make our own attendance policy as long as we work with what financial aid needs.

Bookstore Committee:

Rush reported no problems with the Bookstore have been reported as of yet. FC was asked if they had heard of any problems – none reported currently.

Extra Item:

Henry Apperson mentioned that a former student of his will be on campus during the week of 11/1 speaking 4 times about his 2200 miles of hiking through the Appalachian Mountains.

The meeting adjourned.