

Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

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

Members Present:

Karen Albrecht
Sue Allen
Henry Apperson
Jennifer Black
Cindy Burns
Kurt Chunn
Derek Clapp
Sondra Dubowsky
Deborah Focarile
Donna George
Rush Hathi

Lisa Lindloff (for Deanna Robison-Breidel)
Bill Lockhart
Cynthia Morris
Brenda Henry (for Lesley Plemons)
Larry Salazar
Alexandria Shiu
Mary Sides
Emily Stottlemire
Angie Tibbitt
Lise Uhl
Gail Woodward

Guests:

Raul Pantoja
Sonia Platt
Dr. Johnette McKown

Kurt Chunn gave a welcome and started the meeting.

Raul Pantoja:

Campus Bookstore:

He mentioned that 90% of course information has been received for the spring and this has been helpful since this gives them time to deal with out of print or out of stock issues with publishers. He encouraged faculty to please check online or in person to verify that your textbook information is correct. In terms of textbook pricing, used books are the best way for students.

However, students don't buy books if they have the perception that they don't need it to do well or pass the pass. The biggest complaint from them is that it is not used in class. They also perceive that there is no value in the packets and CD's that the bookstore cannot buy back. Course packs really need to be bound to facilitate buy backs instead of loose leaf copies that cannot be bought back by the bookstore.

Every sale from the campus bookstore benefits the college so he encouraged faculty to direct students to the MCC bookstore instead of other places to buy books. There were questions about electronic verification for students to make sure they have the correct course materials. Raul said not technology is not available yet, but students do have that information on Webadvisor and can click the box under their schedule that says "click here to order books".

There was another question about e-books. Students can use Café Scribe to access e-books and they don't need a nook or a particular device. Three-day free trials are available at cafescribe.com. MCC does

get credit for sales of e-books, also. Faculty/staff appreciation day will be on November 29 from 9-4pm. Faculty are invited to come and take this time to check their spring textbooks. Kurt mentioned if there are any other issues to let the bookstore committee know.

Dr. McKown:

Faculty Salaries: Although enrollment has increased, state funding has decreased. The board has been proactive by raising tuition \$16/hour but it will be even more challenging next year. The state has decided to pull funding from ORP, but MCC has picked that up. This is the first time that MCC is funded 50% by tuition dollars. Eventually the state will probably totally withdraw as a revenue source for us. Right now is not a popular time to raise taxes and MCC has set aside a reserve fund, but this is low for an institution of our size. We are expecting a \$3-4 million shortfall and taking a look at the budget.

The largest part of the budget is the faculty salary. At the end of this school year the recommendation might be that the college should stay with the current faculty salary schedule, but we don't know until we take a look. SACS was so impressed with our faculty and the college wants to reward faculty but we need to have conversations regarding the budget. Right now we are #2 in the state with faculty salaries. Some other institutions have cut faculty and we don't want to have to do that. The administration didn't make a decision about the faculty schedule over the last summer, but now the college needs to look at all areas and try to make smart decisions.

Kurt will send out the e-mail he received from Dr. McKown to the faculty along with the minutes. There was a question about the goal of taking a look at the faculty schedule. Kurt said it was mainly to look at the sustainability of the current schedule. The Faculty Council Compensation Committee will look at the current Faculty Schedule in addition to other things as they tackle the issue of making a recommendation in the spring regarding faculty salaries.

Voting

HB 2504:

FC voted to pass the proposal of how to post student evaluations of faculty online. *(details from last month's minutes: 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.)*

Policy Committee – review of Professional Development Policy:

FC voted to pass the proposal on changes to PD for faculty. This policy would not apply to temporary full-time faculty, and this clarification will be added. There was discussion about the feedback from the faculty when the committee asked for comments. Most (26 out of 40 responses) were in favor of the change and these faculty members were from many different departments on campus. There were 6 concerns that it might be too much work for the directors, and 2 people were against it. *(details: 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. This has no relation to step-credit and that these are separate items.)

Committee Work:

FC Webpage:

Jon Fox is working on a new FC web site which will feature current events, TCCTA affiliation, links to minutes, names of those on FC, a list of committees, and he is not quite finished with the contact form. The new site (still in progress) is at <http://www.mclennan.edu/faculty-council/>.

Quality Matters:

This was presented at the last Faculty Council meeting in October, and a request has been made for Faculty Council to consider endorsing the plan to have MCC become affiliated with *Quality Matters* (<http://www.qmprogram.org/>). The purpose would be to improving our online courses, on a voluntary basis for faculty, to meet a national standard of excellence. The committee is working on the proposal for the Faculty Council to review and vote on – potentially voting online.

Announcements:

The next FC meeting will be on Jan. 24.

The meeting adjourned.