

Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Members Present:

Karen Albrecht	Bill Lockhart
Sue Allen	Cynthia Morris
Henry Apperson	Larry Salazar
Jennifer Black	Alexandria Shiu
Cheryl Bohde	Rhonda Siddens
Cindy Burns	Mary Sides
Kurt Chunn	Bernard Smith
Sondra Dubowsky	Emily Stottlemire
Stacy Fancher	Angie Tibbitt
Deborah Focarile	Lise Uhl
Donna George	Gail Woodward
Rush Hathi	

Kurt Chunn gave a welcome and started the meeting. The following committees gave updates:

HB 2504 Committee: This committee needs to meet with the folks in the Information Systems department to figure out the logistics of what faculty evaluation data will be accessible and available for posting on the Internet, should the college be required by the State to make such postings available. They need this information before being able to make recommendations/have a plan of what data should be posted.

Policy: This committee has met with Human Resources (HR) and decided that changing any policies will be difficult since it affects benefits and because faculty and staff have different policies. In addition, there have not been any major problems with the current policy. After consulting extensively with HR, and with HR's help and insight on this issue, the committee recommended adding one sentence to the current personal leave policy: (Administrative Guidelines for Personal Business Leave Policy – F-1-d, a)

“Additional time off due to extenuating circumstances beyond available personal leave may be approved by the appropriate Vice President (up to three additional days). Presidential approval would be needed for anything more than 5 days of personal leave during any academic year. All additional approved personal leave will be deducted from accrued sick leave.”

This proposed policy addition was approved, and the recommendation will be forwarded to the VPI.

HR did mention that if faculty members want to trade days with each other, it is ok as long as classes are covered. However, if for insurance purposes as in the case of a car accident, the paperwork needs to be filed with HR.

Compensation: This committee will be changing gears from last semester and is looking at questions for a faculty survey. They will meet next Tuesday. They want to have survey results in by the March FC meeting.

Elections Committee: This committee needs current FC members to ask their departments for representation for 2012-2013. Numbers of representatives needed from each department and a deadline will be provided soon. A probable time for next year's Faculty Council meetings will be Friday mornings at 10 –and that will be decided soon and forwarded onto the FC committee members. More work on the FC Vice-president and the professional development leave committee will be completed by the FC April meeting so that all positions will be filled by the April meeting, and ready for a good start in the Fall, 2012 semester.

FC members also submitted votes for Tenure Conversion Committee members to be forwarded to Dr. Balmos. (These names were of tenured faculty who had volunteered and expressed their interest to serve.)

Bookstore: Issues that FC members brought up today included miscommunication with the publisher/bookstore/professor, temporary bookstore staff giving mistaken advice about required course materials, and the importance of the interaction with students in the bookstore and bookstore staff. Emotional intelligence training might be beneficial for these interactions, since some students who are temporary workers in the bookstore may not know how to deal effectively with students and problems they encounter when trying to purchase materials for classes. The goal would be to have a more helpful, friendlier staff among the temporary workers.

Additional Items:

Smoke-Free Campus? From several faculty suggestions as well as administrative discussions, there has been the suggestion made about making MCC a smoke-free campus. In the discussion today, several options were discussed:

- Keeping things the same and not restricting people's right to smoke. A concern is that making MCC a smoke-free campus may alienate staff, faculty, and students who smoke.
- Possibly moving the smoking areas to more remote venues to ensure that they are not interfering with the rights of others to breathe clean air – especially when they have to go through smoke-filled air to enter buildings.
- Following the lead of smoke-free establishments and make a campus-wide ban on smoking on the campus (except in people's personal automobiles).

FC members were asked to discuss this with their constituents to hear their thoughts and see if smoking is an issue that should be considered by FC in March.

Recycling: The question was brought up about recycling in the classrooms. Others mentioned that their buildings do have recycle bins in the classrooms. Also discussed was the importance of having special lids so trash is not mixed in, and the fact that recycled can money being used for student organization's benefit. Kurt asked Bill Lockhart to check with Dr. Hills on the Sustainability Committee about this issue.

Announcements:

The next FC meeting will be on Mar. 20.
The meeting adjourned.