

McLennan Community College Faculty Council Minutes November 16, 2012

The McLennan Community College Faculty Council met Friday, November 16, 2012, in MAC 335. The meeting was called to order by President Lise Uhl at 10:04 a.m.

The following Council members were in attendance: Brenda Atchison, Derek Clapp, Donna Ewing, Elaine Fagner, Donna George, Deborah Hewitt, Kent Hoeffner, Paul Holder, Bill Howard, Gail Woodward for Sharon Kenan, Whitney Luce, Lesley Weber Plemons, Miley Pulliam, Mary Sides, Stephen Swanson, Lise Uhl, and Gail Wade.

The President of Faculty Council emailed the minutes of the October 19, 2012, meeting to Faculty Council members October 24, 2012. No corrections were noted.

Guests

Dr. Balmos, Vice President of Instruction, was present to answer questions concerning the Advisory Committee. According to Dr. Balmos, there are three committees under the Academic Freedom provision.

- 1) The tenure Conversion Committee – an appointed, standing committee which considers the applications of those wishing to convert to tenure eligible positions.
- 2) The Advisory Committee – an informal standing committee, elected by peers, preferably tenured faculty, whose purpose is to listen and give advice to tenured, tenure track and tenure eligible faculty in the following situations: faculty dismissal, the faculty member is unable to perform their duties or the college is downsizing.
- 3) The Hearing Advisory Committee – a three member, ad hoc committee selected by the president from the Advisory Committee.

Discussion involved the clarification of committee titles and the selection process. Joy Eveans has sent out an email for nominations.

Dr. Balmos also fielded questions about the upward evaluation process. Dr. Balmos favoured an open, constructive, face to face dialogue, which the VPs and President routinely use. He noted that the administration was not opposed to an evaluation process. The type of evaluation and who evaluates whom was discussed as well as the “personality thing”. No decisions were made. Dr. Balmos mentioned that Student Evaluations could be going electronic, which would mean that faculty could have immediate feedback. Evaluations might also occur earlier in the semester.

Other New Business

McLennan

The committee discussed dropping “Community College” from our name and going simply by “McLennan”. Discussion involved the expense of the change, would it improve our funding or hinder it, what would the community response be, and what would the perception of students be. It was noted that the majority of two year schools have already made the change which reflects

the offering of more than an associates degree. The committee was invited to send ideas and comments to Lise.

Penn State "FREEH" Report

The Board discussed the possibility of instituting an additional training class for those faculty who have contact with minors, which could be the majority of the faculty. The Board wants to be proactive in protecting both faculty and students but the details are unclear. Will there be more workshops and training and how will that differ from the current training? What is the added value?

The Bookstore Committee

Met on 10/26/12, provided the Faculty Council with a report which is attached.

Old Business

Starfish Early Alert System

Starfish Committee reported on their Nov. 9 meeting. It was decided to stay with the same five flags and notes rather than add levels. Starfish will go live for all faculty F '13.

Pictorial Directory was discussed. It was mentioned that several faculty do NOT want their picture on emails. A business card was shown that could be used for those faculty who want it.

Policy Items

Adjunct Issues were not discussed in detail other than space allocation in the MAC. Dr. Balmos wanted to be sure that we "celebrate the value" of our adjuncts. No action was taken on an adjunct absence policy. The subject of class and section assignments was brought up. No discussion ensued other than the statement that it was complex and involved many layers!

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Gail Wade substituting for Faculty Council Secretary Sharon Kenan.