Faculty Senate Meeting
January 19th, 2012

Members Present:

Christine Beckman, Marie Brown, Delaine Gilcrease, Keith Heffner, David John, Loretta Kissel, Charles Lewis, Sally Kroelinger, Maria Martell, Jeff Messer, Paul Nunez, Janice Reilly, Robert Soza, & Phil Waclawski

DCA Liaison:

Nora Reyes

GUESTS:

Betty Parisek, Student Outcomes Committee (SOC) Update

Ms. Parisek distributed resources addressing current student learning outcomes for information literacy and cultural literacy and distinct, proposed learning outcomes for both information literacy and cultural literacy.

Ms. Parisek emphasized that the proposed outcomes are learning outcomes that SOC hopes will be manifest by students specifically through their MCC education.

It was noted that the requested refinement of student outcomes would be proposed independent of the various goals and foci characteristic of the Informed Improvement Project.

It was similarly noted that the proposed learning outcomes are entirely consistent with the current Association of College and Research Libraries learning outcomes.

President Heffner thanked Ms. Parisek and her colleagues for addressing Faculty Senate.

Brian Dille, Informed Improvement Project Update

Mr. Dille distributed a report that he had recently prepared for the Higher Learning Commission.

He noted that Informed Improvement pilot projects are progressing well and indicated that the projects involve structured reflection regarding student success.

Mr. Dille emphasized the following, defining question: “How does what you do impact students?”
Mr. Dille also described a learning analytics model which will hopefully lead to early identification of at-risk students. He correspondingly noted recent President’s Cabinet approval of a software resource that will contribute to the requisite data infrastructure necessary for formalization of the learning analytics approach.

Mr. Dille noted that learning analytics provides an increasingly utilized approach to monitoring student progress and success.

I. General

A) Call-To-Order –

Meeting called-to-order at 3:03 p.m.

B) Approval of the Agenda -

Unanimously Approved w/ Amendment under New Business, Item C, entitled “Vote on the SOC Proposal,” Amendment under Old Business, Item B, entitled “Student Grievance Process,” and Amendment under Old Business, Item C, entitled “Non-Faculty Entering Grades”

C) Approval of Minutes -

December 15th, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Unanimously Approved w/ One Abstention

II. Old Business

A) White Paper Update: Disclaimer Addition -

President Heffner noted that Page 22 of the White Paper will include a disclaimer and that an updated draft of the document will be disseminated as soon as the document is consequently finalized

One senator expressed disappointment that the White Paper has not been previously disseminated for faculty review and consideration

A senator asked if the White Paper could be presently released to MCC faculty; it was agreed that the White Paper could be and would be released

B) Student Grievance Process -

A senator noted that faculty rights are not reflected in the Common Pages that address the student grievance process
The senator emphasized that the current version of the Common Pages could create an impression that faculty might be inappropriately influenced to amend student grades and thus is in conflict with the RFP.

Another senator noted that amendment of the Common Pages is centralized through MCCCD administration and thus would necessarily involve district administration.

C) Non-Faculty Entering Grades -

A senator reviewed a situation in which a financial aid employee had recently issued a “W” designation to a student and shared a corresponding belief that the practice is not uncommon among MCC financial aid personnel.

The senator suggested that an “administrative withdrawal” mechanism might provide a compromise in which non-faculty are thus not engaged in assigning grades.

Senators discussed whether “W” constitutes a grade or is strictly an indicator of course enrollment status.

It was agreed that there should be a formal determination of whether or not a “W” is indeed a grade; it was thus suggested that legal counsel should be consulted with respect to this issue.

Another senator proposed that this issue should similarly be considered within the Informed Improvement Project.

President Heffner proposed three associated, potential questions for consideration by legal counsel.

III. New Business

A) Approve Keith Anderson as FEC Representative -

Motion advanced and unanimously approved.

B) RM MOU: Update -

President Heffner noted that the MOU sub-committee continues to meet regularly and will share a specific, detailed update with Faculty Senate in the near future.
C) Vote on the SOC Proposal -

Motion was advanced and seconded to approve the SOC proposal

One senator noted that the proposed cultural literacy outcomes do not incorporate higher-order thinking skills

Additional motion was proposed to consider the information and cultural literacy outcome proposals separately

Information Literacy Outcomes were unanimously endorsed w/ one abstention

Cultural Literacy Outcomes was rejected w/ 2 “nays” and 8 abstentions

IV. Information / Discussion

A) Scheduling a Retreat w/ DCA during Spring 2012 -

President Heffner indicated his intent to meet w/ DCA leadership and schedule a subsequent retreat

He asked Senators to consider and share potential topics for discussion during the proposed retreat

B) Transferring Money from Operations to Capital -

President Heffner reviewed Mr. Jeff Darbut’s December 15th, 2011 presentation to Faculty Senate and noted a significant funds transfer from the Operating Budget to the Capital Budget that may have been mandated by District Administration

President Heffner emphasized his intent to explore this issue in order to better understand the fundamental rationale for and corresponding justification for the aforementioned fund transfer

C) Gateway’s So-Called RIF -

President Heffner reviewed Gateway Community College’s recent layoff of various PSA and MAT employees

President Heffner noted a corresponding Reduction-In-Force involving three Gateway residential faculty
President Heffner indicated that the Faculty Association is attempting to intervene on behalf of the displaced faculty

D) Pursuing Conflicts between the RFP and External Occupational Program Regulations and Practices -

President Heffner noted that he is attempting to identify inconsistencies between the RFP and such regulations / practices

E) Guns-On-Campus: Letter-Writing Campaign -

One senator noted that discussion of the current guns-on-campus issue is an example of issue advocacy and not electioneering

One senator proposed that MCC Public Safety Director Corich be invited to an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting in order to address the issue; it was agreed that a formal invitation would be extended to Mr. Corich

V. Reports

A) Department Chair Association Liaison Report - Nora Reyes

No report

B) President’s Report - Keith Heffner

1) Building Committee -

President Heffner noted that the committee has identified specific buildings that should be prioritized for remodeling / renovation

2) President’s Forum -

President Heffner shared various concerns regarding the recent Spring 2012 President’s Forum. In particular, he noted that the scheduled All-Faculty meeting was significantly delayed and abbreviated due to the unscheduled, extended duration of Dr. Pan’s President’s Forum presentation
C) President-Elect’s Report - Sally Kroelinger

President-Elect Kroelinger reported that all DFA award nominees have accepted their respective nominations and noted that nominee submissions are due immediately subsequent to conclusion of the Spring 2012 mid-semester recess.

D) Recording Secretary’s Report - Jeff Messer

Recording Secretary Messer indicated that he will submit approved December 15th, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for posting to the MCC Faculty Senate Internet site prior to the next Faculty Senate meeting.

E) Business Secretary’s Report - Marie Brown

Business Secretary Brown asked for clarification of Best Practices guidelines for providing sympathy cards.

F) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski

Treasurer Waclawski presented an updated budget and noted that current FA membership enables MCC to maintain five (5) FEC seats.

G) Past-President’s Report - Keith Anderson

No report.

H) MCCFA Legislative Committee Report - Erin Rawson

No report.

I) MCCFF Report - Janice Reilly

Senator Reilly noted the upcoming April 27th, 2012 Bowlathon.

Senator Reilly also noted that she has picked-up numerous textbooks that can and will be used to support student financial needs through emergency loans.
J) Zone and At-Large Reports and Significant Happenings / Issues -

One senator shared a concern regarding significant delays in the college hiring process that may contribute to a loss of potentially qualified, skilled applicants.

Another senator expressed concern with respect to ongoing lack of faculty control over late enrollment.

President Heffner noted a related Monday, January 30th, 2012 meeting that will address late enrollment.

A senator noted that several adjunct faculty have articulated concerns regarding the scheduling of upcoming Canvas training. In that regard, the adjunct faculty emphasized a need for evening / night scheduling of Canvas training.

K) Faculty Senate Committees: Faculty Staffing, Faculty Travel, Honors Program, Advisory Committee, Student Outcomes, CTL Advisory, Distance Education, Faculty Social,

President Heffner noted that he will meet with a Faculty Travel committee member in the near future.

President Heffner similarly noted an upcoming meeting with a member of the Honors Program.

VI. Review of Items to Report-Out to Zones / Issues Bin –

No specific items were discussed for report-out.

VII. Announcements / Good Of The Order / Adjournment -

Adjournment at 4:44 p.m.