Faculty Senate Meeting  
November 17th, 2011

Members Present -
Christine Beckman, Marie Brown, Delaine Gilcrease, Jim Giles, John Griffith, Keith Heffner, David John, Charles Lewis, Loretta Kissell, Sally Kroelinger, Jeff Messer, Paul Nunez, Janie Reilly, C.J. Robb, Robert Soza, & Phil Waclawski

I. General

A) Meeting called to order at 2:33 p.m.

B) Approval of the Agenda -
   Unanimously Approved

C) Approval of Minutes -
   November 3rd, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Unanimously Approved As Amended

II. Old Business

No Old Business

III. New Business

No New Business

IV. Information / Discussion

A) DCA Sub-Committee w/ Ann Stine and Nora Reyes

A meeting was held in which Faculty Senate officers were informed that DCA is initiating a review/analysis process in which department needs can be formally assessed and articulated in order to promote a more informed staffing process

One senator noted that the current staffing process does address such considerations and therefore questioned the need for and contribution of the aforementioned sub-committee

Another senator conjectured that a fundamental rationale for the process would be to provide a systematic, quantitative framework for justifying improved residential faculty/adjunct faculty ratios
Yet another senator indicated that such ratios are addressed in the RFP and suggested that a corresponding committee should include Faculty Senate representation.

It was agreed that President Heffner would interact with DCA leadership in order to enhance understanding of the fundamental purposes and goals of the committee.

It was noted that the MCC ratio is currently on the order of 35/65.

B) DCA Recommendations for Late Enrollment -

President Heffner indicated that the DCA continues to evolve a series of recommendations for terminating late registration.

It was thus noted that implementation of a modified registration process would likely occur in Spring 2013.

One senator suggested that it might be preferable to initiate implementation in a fall semester.

C) Scheduling a Spring 2012 Retreat in order to Discuss Student Withdrawal Process -

President Heffner indicated that the proposed retreat will be focused on improving understanding of faculty perspectives specific to entities such as Student Services, International Education, Financial Aid, etc.

One senator suggested that the proposed retreat should include discussion of the withdrawal process, adjunct faculty load, late registration, and residential faculty/adjunct faculty ratio.

Two senators indicated that it might be difficult to conduct a full-day retreat during the academic semester.

D) Concerns in Life Science that Students Have to Wait Two-to-Three Years for Entrance into Programs such as the Nursing Program and the Dental Hygiene Program -

A senator related that the exceptionally modest program sizes characteristic of programs such as the dental hygiene program are causing students to have to wait several years prior to securing admission into a desired program.
Another senator noted that one positive aspect of such extensive waiting periods is that students can complete certificates and degrees during the period prior to securing program admission.

A senator noted that students are not likely to recall much of the prior course content and experiences three years subsequent to completion of such courses and thus would be less-than-optimally prepared to pursue advanced degrees.

A senator suggested that applying students should receive very timely notification with respect to non-admittance irrespective of program size, program facilities, etc.

President Heffner indicated that such timely notification would be both appropriate for and beneficial to students.

It was proposed that this issue be considered for further discussion during the next Faculty Senate meeting and/or discussed at FEC.

E) Adjunct Faculty Loads Being Limited to Nine Hours -

One senator asked if there are any new developments and/or new issues that relate to the ongoing discussion of adjunct faculty loads.

A senator asked about an existing CTE resource/document formally addressing the issue of adjunct faculty loading.

It was noted that the aforementioned CTE resource has been forwarded to Dr. Mabry for his review and consideration.

One senator read the CTE resource to the Faculty Senate.

A senator reiterated a perceived value in discussing this issue extensively at an envisioned spring semester retreat.

President Heffner emphasized that the current issue is directly related to the previously-discussed issue of residential faculty/adjunct faculty ratio.

It was agreed that the resource will be disseminated to all Faculty Senators.
F) DFA Re-Awarded during Holiday Brunch -

The award will be conferred during the January Week-of-Accountability

One senator proposed that the DFA should be awarded at the conclusion of the spring semester

It was agreed that senators would contemplate this issue and revisit the associated conversation in a subsequent Senate meeting

G) Lunch w/ Senators / Scheduled during NFE, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 18th, 2011 -

President Heffner noted the senators who will be attending the lunch

H) December 1st, 2011 - Faculty Senate Meets at FA Building -

Senators were reminded of the location of the December 1st, 2011 meeting

I) Senate Sub-Committee / Constitution and Best Practices Update -

President Heffner indicated that there is not a current update

J) Erin Rawson’s Legislative Report -

President Heffner solicited comments regarding Erin Rawson’s November 3rd, 2011 legislative report

No comments

V. Reports

A) Department Chair Association Liaison Report - Nora Reyes

No report

B) President’s Report - Keith Heffner

No report
C) President-Elect’s Report - Sally Kroelinger

One senator noted continuing faculty concerns regarding a definition of student success

D) Recording Secretary’s Report - Jeff Messer

Recording Secretary Messer indicated that October 17th, 2011 meeting minutes have been posted to the Faculty Senate Internet site and that approved, amended November 3rd, 2011 meeting minutes will be submitted for posting next week

E) Business Secretary’s Report - Marie Brown

Business Secretary Brown indicated that she is working on securing plaques for retiring faculty

Business Secretary Brown asked to be made aware of any potential albeit currently non-formalized faculty retirements

Business Secretary Brown proposed that a sympathy card should be sent to a recently retired faculty member who recently lost a mother

F) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski

Treasurer Waclawski indicated that he continues to seek a fully updated FA membership list

One senator noted that a recent review of a supposedly current membership list includes multiple inaccuracies and thus reiterated the need to secure both an updated and accurate membership list

G) Past-President’s Report - John Griffith

No report

H) MCCFA Legislative Committee Report - Erin Rawson

No report
I) MCCFF Report - Janice Reilly

Senator Reilly indicated that she has pamphlets addressing the issue of identifying / managing disruptive and / or aggressive student behavior, attitudes, and emotions

Senator Reilly distributed pamphlets to all Southern and Dobson senators

It was agreed that pamphlets would be provided to Red Mountain campus senators on Friday, November 18th, 2011

J) Zone and At-Large Reports and Significant Happenings / Issues -

A senator noted a constituent comment that many faculty may not be aware of the opportunity to engage in evening supervision

Another senator noted that an electronic mail message has been sent with a request for an updated FA membership list

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

It was noted that travel funding is available and that faculty are encouraged to apply for travel funding

President Heffner asked if the Faculty Social Committee plans to conduct a semester-concluding social function

A senator noted that the Honors Program Advisory Committee has met very recently and that the committee is attempting to improve the honors culture at MCC

The senator invited fellow senators to encourage constituents to consider offering a course or courses under the Honors Only designation
VI. Review of Items to Report-Out to Zones / Issues Bin -

President Heffner noted his intent to gather more information regarding the aforementioned DCA sub-committee.

President Heffner indicated an intent to ask for a substitute senate meeting liaison from the DCA.

President Heffner noted a recent electronic mail communication to senators and correspondingly requested recommendations for specific hiring committees.

VII. Announcements / Good Of The Order / Adjournment -

Adjournment at 4:10 p.m.