Faculty Senate Meeting  
December 15th, 2011

Members Present:

Christine Beckman, Marie Brown, Delaine Gilcrease, Jim Giles, John Griffith, Keith Heffner, David John, Charles Lewis, Sally Kroelinger, Maria Martell, Jeff Messer, Paul Nunez, Janie Reilly, C.J. Robb, & Phil Waclawski

DCA Liaison:

Nora Reyes

GUESTS:

Steve Budge and Bonnie Black, e-Learning Update

Steve Budge introduced a summary of a Substantive Change Application: Distance Delivery document, a document that has been prepared for submission to the Higher Learning Commission in support of a request for accreditation specific to on-line course offerings and associated degree programs

Bonnie Black indicated that such accreditation will enhance learning opportunities for MCC students

Ms. Black noted that the Learning Center has continued to manifest improvements in support of on-line education

One senator asked if Senate can obtain a copy of the most recent draft of the full document and also asked if current data will be reflected in such a version

Jeff Darbut, MCC Budget Update

Mr. Darbut indicated an intent to address enrollment trends, an operating budget (Fund 1) outlook, course fees (Fund 2), capital budget, and FY 2013 preliminary funding

Mr. Darbut indicated that cost-efficiency is an MCC strategic priority

Mr. Darbut noted that a current enrollment projection indicates declining FTSE for FY 2011 / 2012 (225 relative to FY 2010 / 2011) and FY 2012 / 2013 (322 relative to FY 2011 / 2012)

One senator asked Mr. Darbut to share any existing hypotheses that might explain the apparent decline in FTSE
Mr. Darbut suggested that a declining “feeder” population in Mesa, AZ. provides one explanation for the projected declines

Mr. Darbut provided an overview of both funding and expenditures for the FY 2011 General Operating (Fund 1) Budget. The total fund for FY 2011 was $103,766,266

Mr. Darbut suggested that the operating budget reflected a culture of low cost, a general economic / fiscal environment characterized by uncertainty, an absence of salary increases, and an increasing reliance on temporary employees

One senator noted that approximately 80% of the operating budget is directed toward personnel costs; Mr. Darbut concurred with that assessment

Mr. Darbut shared information addressing course fees and indicated to Senators that the District Governing Board prioritizes the expeditious and complete use of student course fees to improve instruction and learning

Mr. Darbut subsequently provided an overview of Fund 7, the Capital Appropriation Budget. The overview specified preliminary capital allocations to the Harkins Performing Arts Center, the Art Gallery, The Outback Theater Renovation, two Student Portals, a Kirk Center renovation, renovation of multiple academic buildings, and an allocation to information technology

Mr. Darbut summarized an evolving technology plan initiated by the VPIT that will involve the specific information technology capital allocation

Mr. Darbut explained that the student portal project will include a new building dedicated to supporting functions such as student enrollment. He noted that the distinct yet complementary Kirk Center Renovation will be designed to “refresh” that center

Mr. Darbut proceeded to discuss the FY 2012 / 2013 preliminary (Fund 1) budget. He emphasized that the magnitude of any enrollment decline will impact the budget. Mr. Darbut suggested that there could be a permanent funding reduction on the order of $3.7-million

Eddie Genna, Faculty Association Update

Faculty Senate (FS) President Heffner indicated that his invitation to Faculty Association (FA) President Genna has been predicated on engendering discussion of a current residential faculty / adjunct faculty “White Paper”
FA President Genna reviewed the Chancellor’s desire to discuss budget optimization, enrollment management, and the improvement of faculty ratios.

He noted that the issue of faculty ratios is being considered in the current IBN process.

FA President Genna reminded Senate of the CEC membership.

FS President Heffner noted a concern that a recent FA leadership presentation to CEC was offered in the absence of collective faculty input.

FA President Genna noted that the final section of the aforementioned White Paper was designed to elucidate options in addressing faculty ratios, adjunct faculty hiring process, etc.

FA President Genna emphasized that the White Paper was not meant to impugn the excellent work and contributions of adjunct faculty but rather to propose potential mechanisms to improve residential faculty / adjunct faculty ratios.

FS President Heffner encouraged senators to communicate further questions to FA leadership via electronic mail.

I. General

A) Meeting called to order at 2:40 p.m.

B) Approval of the Agenda -

Unanimously Approved w/ Amendment under New Business, Item C, entitled “Student Financial Aid Issuing Grades” and w/ Amendment under New Business, Item D, entitled “Student Grievance Process”

C) Approval of Minutes -

December 1st, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes Unanimously Approved
II. Old Business

A) Eddie Genna: Context and Explanation of Faculty Ratio Issue Question-&-Answer (Q-&-A) -

Previously discussed during FA President Genna’s guest presentation and associated interaction

B) Late Enrollment Update: Feedback, Concerns, Suggestions -

President Heffner indicated an interest in securing feedback regarding the most recent draft of a revised Late Enrollment policy

C) Open Discussion Regarding Adjunct Overload Policy -

Deferred for future discussion

III. New Business

A) Distance Learning Application to the Higher Learning Commission - Consensus for Support? -

President Heffner asked if Senators would support the e-Learning proposal to the HLC

Motion was advanced, seconded, and supported unanimously by Senate

B) Request for Assistance w/ College Fiscal Planning -

President Heffner asked for assistance in enhancing his understanding of the college fiscal planning process

Two senators indicated a willingness to work with President Heffner in order to enhance his understanding of this process

C) Student Financial Aid Issuing Grades -

One senator noted a department chair’s recent assertion that Student Financial Aid utilizes a system that can remove a student from a course as a consequence of a financial aid-related issue

The senator noted verification of the accuracy of the assertion through interaction with an appropriate administrator
One senator characterized the issue as an issue of a financial aid-related situation (such as non-payment of tuition) in which a course grade would be assigned through an entity/individual other than the instructor-of-record.

Another senator expressed concern regarding the existence of a system under administrative control that enables assignment of a grade by an individual other than the faculty-of-record.

D) Student Grievance Process -

One senator reviewed a recent experience with a student grievance regarding a grade.

The senator noted a corresponding realization that the aforementioned student grievance process violates the RFP because the process allows a student to extend the grading process beyond the student-faculty relationship.

The senator additionally noted that the existing grievance process does not involve any consequence for violation of the timelines associated with the process.

Multiple senators agreed that students should have access to a process that allows formal grievance while simultaneously restricting such a grievance process to interactions involving strictly faculty and student.

It was agreed that President Heffner would present this issue to FEC.

IV. Information/Discussion

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

President Heffner indicated a desire to schedule a retreat with the DCA during the upcoming semester.

V. Reports

A) Department Chair Association Liaison Report - Nora Reyes

DCA Liaison Reyes noted that DCA Chair Stine may periodically represent DCA at future Faculty Senate meetings.
DCA Liaison Reyes indicated that DCA seeks Senate participation in both Late Registration and Department Business Plan committees in addition to seeking and valuing senate representation in future committee meetings.

DCA Liaison Reyes noted DCA disappointment that DCA would not be represented on the President’s Cabinet. In particular, DCA Liaison Reyes indicated DCA’s belief that DCA could offer valuable perspectives that advance and support Cabinet discussions.

President Heffner clarified that his previously-articulated concern is with respect to DCA voting privileges. DCA Liaison Reyes emphasized DCA’s strong belief that their perspective should be represented on the President’s Cabinet.

B) President’s Report - Keith Heffner

1) Meeting w/ Dr. Pan and Dr. Mabry

President Heffner noted that the most recent meeting involved discussion of issues including faculty evaluation and, more generally, an opportunity to maintain consistent dialogue between faculty leadership and college administration.

2) Informed Improvement Project

President Heffner noted that this project will be discussed in detail at an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting.

3) Guns on Campus Legislation

President Heffner indicated his belief that legislation allowing guns on campus will likely be passed in early-2012.

President Heffner asked if faculty should consider a statement specifying a formal faculty position on this issue.

4) Academic Misconduct Policy

Addressed earlier in the meeting.
C) President-Elect’s Report - Sally Kroelinger

President-Elect Kroelinger noted that the Distinguished Faculty Award (DFA) process is progressing.

D) Recording Secretary’s Report - Jeff Messer

Recording Secretary Messer expressed his thanks and appreciation to Senator Reilly for preparing December 1st, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes and noted that the aforementioned, approved Minutes will be disseminated for posting to the MCC Faculty Senate Internet site prior to the next Faculty Senate Meeting.

E) Business Secretary’s Report - Marie Brown

No report.

F) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski

No report.

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 noted that there will be a bowling event on April 27th, 2012.

She noted that the Foundation has recently sold approximately $700.00 in books and that the Foundation received approximately $350.00 from a recent Rio Salado event.

Senator Reilly emphasized that the Foundation funds are strictly and specifically to be allocated for emergency situations.
J) Zone and At-Large Reports and Significant Happenings / Issues -

One senator expressed concern regarding membership on the Building Committee; in particular, the senator expressed concern that at least one member has a potential conflict-of-interest.

A senator noted an increasing recognition that numerous students taking honors natural science classes are not very impressive students.

Multiple senators shared a similar recognition and related similar, prior experiences.

One senator noted that there is an opportunity to interact with honors program coordinators during January 2012.

One senator noted that a faculty constituent not only supports guns-on-campus but also shared a study supporting guns-on-campus.

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

It was noted that the faculty staffing process has been refined and a revised process will be initiated in January 2012.

It was noted that there is a need to find a faculty member to lead and coordinate the Faculty Professional Growth (FPG) function.

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

President Heffner noted that the next Faculty Senate is scheduled for Thursday, January 19th, 2012.

VII. Announcements / Good Of The Order / Adjournment -

Adjournment at 4:40 p.m.