Faculty Senate Meeting
August 16th, 2012

Members Present:

Marie Brown, Delaine Gilcrease, Kevin Healy, Keith Heffner, Charles Lewis, Jeff Messer, Paul Nunez, Denise Quintrall, Janice Reilly, C.J. Robb, Frederick Schineller, Robert Soza, Ann-Marie Spence, & Phil Waclawski

DCA Liaison:

Steve Budge

I. General

A) Meeting Called to Order at 2:58 p.m.

B) Approval of the Agenda -

Motion to approve was advanced

Motion was unanimously approved

C) Approval of Minutes –

It was agreed that May 2012 meeting minutes would be reviewed and considered for approval at the September 6th, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting

II. Old Business

A) Student Grievance Process - Update

A senator briefly reviewed the issue as previously-discussed during April and May 2012 Faculty Senate meetings

B) “W” Entered by Non-Faculty - Update

President Heffner reminded the Senate that there are certain circumstances in which college administration can assign a grade of “W”

One senator emphasized and reiterated that assignment of grades is the exclusive province of faculty and that “W” is a grade
Another senator suggested that appropriate amendments to the existing language in the College’s Common Pages could seamlessly achieve consistency with the Residential Faculty Policies (RFP)

C) Retreats: DCA, Senate, Other -

President Heffner noted that he has not discussed a joint retreat with DCA leadership

President Heffner indicated that he has invited Jeff Darbut to offer a presentation specific to a new MCC budgeting format

President Heffner noted that he will be participating in a Budget Oversight Committee during the 2012 - 2013 academic year

President Heffner proposed a Senate retreat and asked Senators to consider topics / issues that might be among the foci of a potential retreat

D) Senator Responsibilities from Best Practices -

President Heffner reviewed a document entitled “Senator Duties and Responsibilities” that he originally circulated during the 2011 - 2012 academic year

III. New Business

A) Constitution / Best Practices - Urgent Items

1) Filling Vacancies - Appoint-at-Large

2) FA Membership Required to Serve on Selected Senate Committees (Staffing?)

3) President and President-Elect Extend to Two-Year Term with Options for a Vice President?

4) Elections / Voting Process for Zone Representatives - Electronic?

President Heffner indicated a desire to form a committee that will focus on and codify language specific to each of the aforementioned items

President Heffner briefly overviewed each of the aforementioned items in order to communicate a rationale for addressing each item
President Heffner indicated, for example, that the role of Faculty Senate President might be more effectively fulfilled through an extended term consequent to not only evolving familiarity with the position but also the development of relationships that are manifest during the traditional one-year presidential term.

President Heffner solicited volunteers to serve on the corresponding, proposed committee. Two senators volunteered to serve on the committee with President Heffner.

B) Approve by Consent Kevin Dressler to Represent Zone 6 -

President Heffner requested approval by consent for Kevin Dressler to serve as the Zone 6 Faculty Senator.

Consent was unanimous.

C) Approve by Consent Janice Reilly to Serve as Past-President -

President Heffner requested approval by consent for Janice Reilly to serve as Past-President.

Consent was unanimous.

D) Faculty Social - Zone Socials? -

President Heffner asked for a potential date for a Faculty Social and proposed the concept of a Zone Social.

President Heffner proposed a September Faculty Social.

One senator noted the dates of September 21st, 2012 and September 28th, 2012 as possible dates for the proposed social.

One senator suggested that multiple zones could conduct a Faculty Social.

Another senator indicated a preference for attending department meetings for departments represented within a zone.

Four senators committed to participating in a committee charged with identifying potential options to complement existing Faculty Socials.
E) Update the Senate and DFA Name Plaques - Motion to Allocate Funds in order to Complete an Update

President Heffner asked for a motion to authorize necessary expenditures to update the DFA plaque and Senate Recognition plaque

Motion was advanced

Motion was unanimously approved

F) Senate Initiatives for 2012 - 2013

1) Zone Representative Outreach Plan

2) Senator Communication Best Practices - Create Guide to Get Information to / from Faculty

3) Other?

President Heffner proposed that Senate should collaborate in order to formalize an approach to providing consistent information to every zone

President Heffner re-emphasized that the primary goal of such an approach would be to indeed ensure consistent communication of information

President Heffner similarly emphasized his hope that one positive consequence of such an approach would be an improved environment for collaboration between faculty and their respective zone representatives

President Heffner asked if the Senate could articulate specific potential dates for a Senate Retreat

It was subsequently suggested that the proposed retreat could be scheduled from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

It was also suggested that the proposed social could be scheduled from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Multiple senators suggested that the retreat be conducted on September 21st, 2012 and the faculty social take place on September 28th, 2012.

A senator asked for a current list of Faculty Association (FA) membership in order to allow the Senator to engage Zone non-members and encourage Zone non-members to share concerns and address potential FA membership.

It was proposed that a list of “talking points” be developed in order to assist Senators in addressing questions and concerns that FA non-members may have.

It was correspondingly proposed that a Google Group be created in order to support the discussion and development of the aforementioned “talking points.”

President Heffner reiterated that he will provide a list of FA members as expeditiously as possible.

IV. Information / Discussion

A) Google Mail DL-Residential Faculty Options: Electronic Resource Task Force -

President Heffner noted that the referenced task force is investigating limiting the DL for MCC Res Faculty to one-way communication for business use and providing an exclusive opt in-out Google Group Forum for MCC Res. Faculty to discuss issues. The rationale for this is to eliminate the use of the DL as a discussion board that Faculty have no way to opt in or out of. Numerous complaints of the consistent abuse of the MCC Res Fac DL have prompted these discussions. Should this proposal be practically feasible, then the ability to reserve our DL solely as a messaging tool and providing a forum space for discussion may be a viable solution.

B) English Language Institute (ELI) Proposal -

President Heffner noted the referenced proposal and the corresponding intent to assist students.

C) MCC Budget Oversight Committee -

President Heffner reiterated his enthusiasm for participation on this committee.
D) Distinguished Faculty Award (DFA) Committee - Time to Review Process?

President Heffner shared his belief that the DFA application process should be simplified and that the presentation of the award should be refined and improved in order to duly recognize the annual recipient.

E) District “Freeze” on Reorganizations, Reassignments, and Reclassifications - September 1st

President Heffner noted evolving concern that Assistant Chairs are not being duly recognized for the overall scope of their responsibilities.

One senator asked if faculty will have input with respect to the upcoming “freeze” and the associated issue of district office compensation relative to non-district office employee compensation.

F) Corporate College -

President Heffner noted recent “brainstorming” focused on development of a so-called Corporate College.

One senator emphasized that any such development must include faculty participation.

President Heffner noted that he is participating in the corresponding, evolving discussion and that he has emphasized to participants that faculty can contribute significantly to those conversations.

One senator noted a concern with potential college-specific curriculum development that might circumvent the IC process.

Another Senator noted that such a college could provide an exceptionally lucrative fourth revenue stream.

A senator indicated a desire to participate in the proposed college.

G) Prioritization -

President Heffner introduced the district’s prioritization initiative. He noted that prioritization can be defined as research and analysis designed to assess the effectiveness of both district and college programs. He did not have any more specifics but will keep Senate informed.
H) NFE and Connecting with New Faculty -

President Heffner indicated a desire to schedule a September 2012 lunch with new faculty

V. Reports

A) Department Chair Association Liaison Report - Steve Budge

DCA Liaison Budge noted that Jeff Darbut met with Department Chairs approximately one week earlier and that the chairs expressed their concerns regarding a lack of appropriate communication

DCA Liaison Budge also noted an evolving dialogue addressing a potential Diversity Campaign that would contribute, for example, to improved hiring practices

President Heffner asked DCA Liaison Budge to engage DCA President Reyes in a discussion focused on a possible Senate-DCA retreat

B) President’s Report - Keith Heffner

President Heffner reiterated his intent to invite Jeff Darbut to a future Faculty Senate meeting

He similarly noted that Brian Dille would like to attend a Faculty Senate meeting in order to update the Senate regarding the Informed Improvement Committee

President Heffner noted that he continues to communicate very consistently, effectively, and transparently with committee leadership

C) President-Elect’s Report - Paul Nunez

No report

D) Recording Secretary’s Report - Jeff Messer

Recording Secretary Messer indicated that he will follow-up with President Heffner regarding May 2012 meeting minutes
E) Business Secretary’s Report - Marie Brown

Business Secretary Brown indicated that she will provide agendas and related meeting resources for all senators

F) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski

Treasurer Waclawski indicated that he continues to distribute and record FA membership rebates

Treasurer Waclawski articulated a need to update the college faculty mailing list

G) Past-President’s Report - Janice Reilly

Past-President Reilly noted that a new college faculty member has joined the FA

H) MCCFF Report - Janice Reilly

Senator Reilly indicated that the MCCFF has already distributed three emergency loans in the 2012 – 2013 academic year and continues to collect textbooks for resale. She noted that multiple faculty have donated their textbook rebates to the Foundation

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

One senator shared a constituent’s concern that administration may be able to access / utilize CANVAS in order to assess faculty use of the LMS

Another senator shared a constituent’s question regarding faculty access to student records. In particular, the constituent wondered if faculty have access to the code that attends to a grade of “W” such that the faculty could subsequently serve as a more effective advisor to a student

One senator asked about the deadline for receiving a rebate subsequent to formalizing FA membership. President Heffner indicated that he is willing to extend the period for securing a rebate for the foreseeable future

Senators were reminded that faculty have the latitude to issue a grade of “W” or a grade of “Y” to a student subsequent to the 45th day
It was noted that Bob Samsen is the Travel and FPG representative. It was indicated that Mr. Samsen would like to address the Senate at a future meeting.

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

No reports

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

President Heffner encouraged Senators to provide a very general report consistent with the very general, semester-initiating discussions characteristic of the current meeting

VII. Announcements / Good Of The Order / Adjournment -

Motion to adjourn was advanced

Motion was unanimously approved at 4:46 p.m.