Faculty Senate Meeting
October 3rd, 2013

Members Present:

Jeff Andelora, Christine Beckman, Marie Brown, Debra Campbell, Elliot Cherner, Kevin Healy, Pam Harrison, Lufti Hussein, Loretta Kissell, Jeff Messer, Paul Nunez, Janice Pierson, Denise Quintrall, Robert Soza, Phil Waclawski, & Eddie Webb

DCA Liaison:

Steve Budge

GUEST: Dr. Brian Dille

GUEST: Dean Matt Ashcraft

GUEST: Beth Alsen

GUEST: Helice Agria

Dr. Dille and Dean Ashcraft reminded Faculty Senate that Mesa Community College (MCC) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and that there are six (6) such accrediting organizations in the United States.

Dr. Dille and Dean Ashcraft noted that accreditation brings increased access to financial aid and transfer of credits to colleges / universities.

Dr. Dille and Dean Ashcraft indicated that the most recent MCC accreditation occurred in 2005 and that the previous accreditation model involved a college self-study report.

It was also noted that the HLC subsequently assessed a college’s self-study through a formal visit / evaluation.

Dr. Dille and Dean Ashcraft emphasized that the HLC has elected to modify the accreditation process. The new accreditation model is termed “Pathways.” The new model incorporates and integrates the concepts of assurance and improvement. A defining focus of the current model is improvement.

A corresponding concept within the emphasis on improvement is the concept of “Quality Initiative.”

Dr. Dille and Dean Ashcraft reminded Faculty Senate that MCC’s Quality Initiative is Informed Improvement.
Dr. Dille and Dean Ashcraft proceeded to indicate that the college is currently transitioning to an emphasis on assurance.

Dr. Dille and Dean Ashcraft directed the Senate to the following url: http://tinyurl.com/mcchlc.

Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria subsequently shared their advocacy for and initiation of an Internet-based approach that provides access to all potential or actual stakeholders. The aforementioned Internet resource includes an overview of the HLC process, a statement of Guiding Values, a set of Criteria, a list of Assumed Practices, information concerning Obligations, and a Glossary.

Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria focused on specific criteria including, for instance, 1) Mission 2) Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct 3) Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support and 4) Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement.

With regard to Criterion I: Mission, Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria discussed stakeholders and strategic priorities.

Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria proceeded to discuss Criterion III - Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support and correspondingly indicated that quality in teaching and learning includes a shared commitment from faculty and staff.

Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria also discussed a fifth criterion that addresses ability to support a central mission of teaching and learning. Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria shared, for example, a question concerning whether adequate resources exist to support the aforementioned mission.

Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria noted a meeting with the President’s Cabinet in which related issues were discussed. Such issues included, for instance, publicizing the College’s mission and emphasizing that the mission is indeed publicized via the college’s Internet site.

Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria noted that the Student Outcomes Committee (SOC) is a committee that addresses integrity in fostering student outcomes.

Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria additionally noted that MCC emphasizes credentialed faculty.

Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria emphasized that the “Teach from Day 1” initiative is yet another example of a specific initiative designed to support student success.

Furthermore, Ms. Alsen and Ms. Agria indicated that the evolving Academic Master Plan is an initiative designed to support the college’s defining mission of teaching and learning.

I. General
A) Meeting called to order at 3:38 p.m.

B) Approval of the Agenda -

Motion to approve was advanced

Motion was unanimously approved

C) Approval of Minutes -

A motion to approve the September 5th, 2013 Meeting Minutes and the September 19th, 2013 Meeting Minutes was advanced

It was noted that the September 19th, 2013 Meeting Minutes should be amended to correctly reflect Mr. Pourreetzadi’s title

September 5th, 2013 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved

September 19th, 2013 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved as amended with two (2) abstentions

II. Reports

A) Department Chair Association Liaison Report - Steve Budge

DCA Liaison Budge noted ongoing conversations regarding eLearning standards and the Academic Master Plan

DCA Liaison Budge indicated that he had recently requested two sets of data from the MCC Office of Research and Planning (ORP). DCA Liaison Budge specified, for example, that he requested “apples and apples” data for MCC and Rio Salado concerning on-line course retention and completion.

Additionally, DCA Liaison Budge noted that department chairs are interested in “last-to-register / first-out” data.

DCA Liaison Budge proceeded to share specific information concerning fall 2012 semester completion rates.

DCA Liaison Budge indicated, for example, that those students who registered before the 1st week of the fall 2012 semester achieved a seventy-one (71) percent success rate.

Similarly, DCA Liaison Budge added that those students who registered on the first day of the fall 2012 semester achieved a sixty-three (63) percent success rate.
Moreover, DCA Liaison Budge indicated that those students who registered during the remainder (Tuesday through Friday) of the first week of the fall 2012 semester achieved a fifty-six (56) percent success rate.

B) President’s Report - Paul Nunez

President Nunez addressed the process for accessing Faculty Association (FA) legal counsel.

President Nunez noted that the process includes the Senate President if an intended interaction with legal counsel would address any college-related issues and that the attendant process initiates with the Senate President.

President Nunez subsequently addressed the evolving eLearning Standards document. President Nunez indicated that Faculty Senate will likely revisit the document in the future.

President Nunez noted considerable conversation regarding MCC on-line programs being potentially eliminated from MCC. President Nunez indicated his belief that such conversations are not occurring at the level of the Chancellor’s Executive Council (CEC).

Several senators expressed concern regarding the possible consolidation of MCC’s on-line program within Rio Salado.

President Nunez noted that he and Vice President Soza will be meeting with Dr. Mabry on Friday, October 4th, 2013 and will address the aforementioned concern.

Several senators emphasized the need for data that provides insight into retention and success rates.

One senator noted that importance of a focus on continuous improvement at MCC rather than a suboptimal focus on the rumored consolidation of MCC’s on-line programs.

C) Vice President's Report - Robert Soza

Vice President Soza offered applications for individuals to complete in order to formalize FA membership.

Vice President Soza encouraged Senators to interact with constituents in order to discuss and encourage membership.
Vice President Soza reiterated his admonition to react carefully and calmly to rumors and to correspondingly share concerns with Senate leadership.

D) Recording Secretary’s Report - Jeff Messer

Recording Secretary Messer indicated that he will submit approved September 5th, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes and approved, amended September 19th, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for posting to the MCC Faculty Senate Internet site.

E) Business Secretary’s Report - Marie Brown

No report.

F) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski

Treasurer Waclawski noted that he has almost completed a statement of the Senate’s current financial position.

Treasurer Waclawski indicated that the current consolidated account balance is approximately $53,000.

G) Past-President’s Report - Jeff Andelora

No report.

H) Faculty Senate Committees -

1) Faculty Staffing
2) Committee’s Committee
3) Faculty Travel
4) Honors Program Advisory Committee
5) Student Outcomes
6) CTL Advisory
7) Professional Right and Responsibilities
8) Faculty Social

President Nunez indicated that he will initiate a meeting of the Committee’s Committee.

III. Old Business

A. Learning Master Plan - Read it and comment, please.
B. Distinguished Faculty Award - if we decide to keep this committee, then we need to streamline the process for choosing.

C. Maricopa Priorities - Teams are being formed. Janice Pierson reported on how to sign up on HRMS for training if you are part of the team. Please contact Janice Pierson if you have questions.

D. Membership Drive - Paul has envelopes for all members who have not joined. He will try to hand carry any membership envelopes to the FA office.

IV. New Business

Faculty will be asked to participate in filling out a "community engagement" form soliciting information on courses that have students involved in any project that involves students becoming engaged in the local, national, or global community. Please ask for faculty input and support as the form comes out via email.

Linda Collins presented the status of the ongoing review/proposed reorganization of the Scheduling Office. They are working on standardizing some forms like the Change of Master form. The team is reviewing processes and creating a strategic plan for the scheduling office. Next step will be meeting with department chairs to gather data on what the chairs need or would like from the scheduling office.

V. Information/Discussion

A. Senator duties - please encourage people to join the FA before October 8, 2013.
B. Robert's Rules of Order - Robert Soza explained "call the question."
C. Meeting at Red Mountain - Thursday, October 17th, at Desert Willow 131 at 3:30
D. Faculty Social - Friday, October 18th, at the Nello's in Tempe on the NE corner of Southern and McClintock. Please encourage faculty to attend!

ON THE HORIZON:

More to come on eLearning Standards and more on line teaching data!

For more information, please follow this link to the official Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes:
www.mesacc.edu/employees/faculty-senate/committee-minutes

Link to MCCCD Faculty Association webpage: www.maricopa.edu/org/faculty/index.html
MCC Faculty Senate Officers:

President - Paul Nunez, Vice-President - Robert Soza, Past-President - Jeff Andelora

Zone Reps:

Zone 1: English & Humanities - Eddie Webb

Zone 2: Business & CIS - Phil Waclawski

Zone 3: Psychology, Philosophy & Religious Studies - Debra Campbell

Zone 4: Reading, Music, and World Languages - Elliot Cherner

Zone 5: Applied Sciences and Technology - Janice Pierson

Zone 6: Art, Speech, Communication, and Theatre - Christine Beckman

Zone 7: Social & Cultural Science and Administration of Justice Studies - Lufti Hussein

Zone 8: Physical Science - Kevin Healy

Zone 9: Life Science - Pam Harrison

Zone 10: Mathematics & CSC - Freddie Schineller

Zone 11: Exercise Science, Education Studies & Nursing - Jeff Messer

Zone 12: Library, Counseling, CTL and Service Learning - Denise Quintrall

Zone 13: Red Mountain - All Disciplines - Marie Brown

At-Large, Southern & Dobson - Loretta Kissell

At-Large, Southern & Dobson - Linda Collins

At-Large: Red Mountain - Bruce Peterson