Faculty Senate Meeting
October 16, 2014

Members Present:
Marie Brown, Linda Collins, Pam Harrison, Kevin Healy, Loretta Kissell, Megan McGuire, Jeff Messer, Patrice Nango, Mark Neeley, Paul Nuñez, Janice Pierson, Robert Soza, Chris Sullivan, Phil Waclawski, Eddie Webb

DCA Liaison:
Nora Reyes

Guests:
Dr. Shouan Pan

Dr. Shouan Pan, MCC President, Update on the College

Dr. Pan reported on a 3% drop in FTSE this semester, mostly at Red Mountain campus.

Dr. Pan reported on current budget planning and how that impacts faculty and the long-term sustainability of the College.

Dr. Pan reported on the progress on Maricopa Priorities recommendations. Maricopa Priorities was not initiated as a budget process, but budget savings may occur. The budget and Maricopa Priorities processes are being kept separate.

Accreditation visit occurs on March 2-3, 2015, a 1.5 day visit. MCC’s previous visit was strong enough that the current accreditation is an ongoing process. Informed Improvement program has gone far enough to be cited as a significant improvement in self-assessment.

Student emails will be solicited by HLC for feedback on their experience at MCC.

Assurance arguments must document work on 5 primary focuses.

Shared Governance progress: task force met during the summer and earlier this fall, feedback received and incorporated.

Oct 24, Performing Arts Center grand opening. Student performances, donor ceremonies.

District fundraising campaign

April 2015, 50th Anniversary celebration

Dr. Pan discussed the level of communication between faculty and administration needed
to keep the College functioning and to address issues facing MCC.

A Senator raised concern about cuts at District Office. He also raised concerns with the IT problems at District.

Dr. Pan reported that District Office was cut by a proportional amount as each College. MCC also received money from the tuition increase for faculty positions and for COLA increase.

Dr. Pan reported on the slow progress of the financial aid system. Dr. Pan reported that the Chancellor is aware of these issues and District Office is working hard to address these issues.

Dr. Pan suggested that a District Office representative could address Maricopa budget to DCA and Senate.

A Senator reported on the Arizona Constitution and how it relates to the funding of the Colleges.

Dr. Pan reported that he felt that a presentation by a representative from District Office would be very helpful to explain the budget process.

Past President Nuñez raised the concern that about the “as free as possible” provision in the State Constitution. He asked about the outlook for State funding to the Maricopa District.

Dr. Pan reported that there is likely no additional funding coming. State budget shortfall is more than $1 billion for next year.

Dr. Pan reported on lawsuit over educational funding. The lawsuit might impact our funding.

Dr. Pan reported that $1 spent on Arizona community colleges returns $3 to the state economy and 70-80% of community college graduates stay in Arizona rather than move elsewhere.

Dr. Pan reported on Board member Gutierrez’s efforts to be more outspoken about the health of the community colleges and their benefit to the community.

A Senator asked about the projection basis of the budget. Payback is based on real numbers vs. the previous year’s projection. Dr. Pan answered that is the case.

A Senator asked about efforts to promote MCC to the community.

Dr. Pan reported on District efforts to improve the communication with the community. Dr. Pan reported that the financial aid upgrade/update is a serious load on budget.
Dr. Pan reported on East Valley demographic changes that project a slow drop in student population until 2017 or so. Online enrollment is down for the past year, due to competition from local university presence.

Dr. Pan reported on measures to compare MCC to other Maricopa colleges: transfer rates, retention, developmental success, are all below Maricopa average.

A Senator asked about faculty staffing timeline. Dr. Pan reported that meetings are being scheduled. Dr. Pan reported that it is his hope to ensure some guaranteed number of positions to advertise early and then discuss the remaining positions in the following months. Dr. Pan reported that the first meetings will be used to prioritize hires. These early positions should be decided by late November or early December.

A Senator raised the issue of the recent lawsuit about the ADA and whether faculty are holding off making their online materials ADA-compatible. DRS has a small staff that may not be sufficient to support faculty that need to adapt their materials. Dr. Pan reported on a meeting with Sonia Pearson and Cindy Jepsen. He reported specific software purchased that can streamline this process.

I. General

A) Meeting called to order at 3:05 PM

B) Approval of the Agenda -
   Motion to approve (as amended) was advanced
   Unanimously approved

C) Approval of Minutes -
   Motion to approve minutes (as amended) was advanced
   Unanimously approved, 2 abstentions

II. Report

A) President’s Report - Robert Soza

President Soza reported on a new “grade change” form. He reported on changes to the form that align with withdrawal policy and deadline of 60 days for change change.

President Soza reported on a meeting with Barbara Boros and Steve Gerlock. He reported that some faculty have been asked by students to change grades several years after the course completion date for a number of
possible reasons. Barbara Boros and Steve Gerlock raised the concern that this impacts the integrity of College records.

A Senator voiced support for an option for grade changes during the 60 day period.

President Soza reported that he was not aware of the changes to the “grade change” form until 6 days before the form was put in place. President Soza voiced concern to Barbara Boros and Sonia Pearson that faculty should be aware of changes that impact faculty roles in a timely fashion.

B) Vice President’s Report - Linda Collins

Vice President Collins reported on the planning for the MCC 50th Anniversary. She reported on a pamphlet advertisement presented by Jared Langkilde for a Gala Dinner (April 9) where fundraising would support student scholarships.

Vice President Collins reported on VIPs from Intel, several state Senators that will attend.

President Soza reported that Dr. Pan was interested in several employee groups to participate.

Vice President Collins reported that sponsoring a table could be paid for by installments.

Vice President Collins reported that some tables have already been purchased.

President Soza reported that Mr. Langkilde stated that outside donors have asked about employee participation.

Vice President Collins reported that she has been invited to Disney World to be involved in Strategic Planning of student internships.

C) Recording Secretary’s Report - Kevin Healy

Recording Secretary Healy reported that the September 18 minutes have been posted. Now that the October 2 minutes have been approved, they will be posted to the Faculty Senate website.

D) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski

Treasurer Waclawski reported that he is waiting on the membership numbers for 2014-2015.
E)  Past-President’s Report - Paul Nuñez

Past President Nuñez reported that he has been meeting with Dean Ashcraft on the Strategic Priorities planning. Past President Nuñez reported that the planning process has begun.

Past President Nuñez reported that he will be meeting with Sonia Filan.

President Soza reported on discussions with Dean Ashcraft concerning the “signature career pathways” and how they align with MCC as a traditionally transfer college.

A Senator stated that CTE programs do not end with 2-year degrees.

Vice President Collins stated that there are a number of issues of transferability to other programs.

F)  Department Chair Assoc. Liaison Report – Nora Reyes

DCA Liaison Reyes reported on the discussions about the SVU partnership.

DCA Liaison Reyes reported on concerns regarding the legal issues raised by the partnership idea. DCA Liaison Reyes also voice concern about the issue of the possible clash between the religious culture of SVU versus the public culture at MCC.

RDM community needs to guide this discussion.

District Legal looked into the legality, but partnership has not been finalized so legal decision might be premature.

MPS is moving away from AP toward dual-enrollment courses.

President Soza reported that MPS has viewed MCC as not as flexible as it could be.

DCA Liaison Reyes reported on templates for follow-up studies to those programs in Maricopa Priorities.

DCA Liaison Reyes reported that Maricopa Priorities recommendations should be incorporated into Department strategic plans.

DCA Liaison Reyes reported on a evaluation kit that has been piloted by local Title III. It cannot be used for residential faculty, but they may choose to participate.
G) Faculty Senate Committees -

1. Faculty Staffing

A Senator reported that FPG budget has dropped from $2.5 million to $1.9 million due to the salary inversion fix. This lower number still exceeds all FPG spending in the past 10 years.

2. Constitution / Bylaws / Best Practices

3. Faculty Travel

4. Honors Program Advisory Committee

5. Student Outcomes

6. CTL Advisory

7. Professional Right and Responsibilities

8. Committees Committee

No reports

III. Old Business -

A) Academic Master Plan (standing agenda item - Robert Soza)

PS reported that Departments are still discussing the Academic Master Plan.

B) Maricopa Priorities (standing agenda item – Janice Pierson)

Senator Pierson reported on her reaction to the overall view of the Maricopa Priorities results District-wide.

C) Key Campus Committees: Report

No report

D) Senate Budget: Finalize changes

President Soza reported on plan to email the Senate budget to Senators for electronic vote of approval.
E) Senate Scholarship

President Soza reported on changes to the Faculty Foundation that has slowed the process of establishing a new student scholarship.

F) Fire Science: Follow-up

No report

G) Membership

No report

H) FEC Report: Issues Selected by Admin and Faculty M&C Team

President Soza reported on the issues that will be studied by M&C this year.

I) eLearning Standards

A Senator presented the most recent version of the eLearning guidelines. Concern was raised that they impose post-hiring qualifications on faculty. This would be a violation of the RFP.

A Senator raised a concern that the proposed guidelines do not restrict academic freedom or violate the RFP.

President Soza agreed to seek the input of the Faculty Association lawyers to determine whether the eLearning Standards were in need of revision or appropriate.

IV. New Business -

A) Executive Session

SENATE ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to President Soza to take Sense of the Senate Resolution (Oct 16, 2014) to Dr. Pan. Motion approved unanimously.

B) Faculty Advising: RFP Implications and Alignment

No report

C) Native Student Success Pilot Program

A Senator reported on the pilot program started by several faculty. He asked
for endorsement by Faculty Senate. Program will be piloted in English Department first with plans to expand to other Departments.

Faculty Senate endorses the pilot program.

V. Information / Discussion

A) PAR Report

Senator Pierson reported on the progress in the first year of PAR. She also reported on a few PAR issues that will affect the College Plan.

Senator Pierson also reported the adjunct representative is stepping down. Senators are asked to forward adjunct candidates to President Soza.

B) Zone Reports: Consistency and Distribution

No report

VI. Zone and At-Large Reports and Significant Happenings / Issues

Solar eclipse on Thursday, October 23.

AMATYC Math Competition, October 30. $90, $45 prizes for any student who currently holds no degree.

“I Teach at MCC” newsletter is being resurrected. If you have Zone members with interesting teaching stories.

A Senator reported on the medical recovery of a faculty member.

VII. Zone Issues for Reporting Out from Today’s Meeting

Individual Senators will report out.

VIII. Announcements / Good Of The Order / Adjournment -

Motion to Adjourn

Unanimously Approved

Adjournment at 5:38 PM