Faculty Senate Meeting
November 7th, 2013

Members Present:

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

Department Chair Association (DCA) Liaison:

Debra Bitter

I. General

A) Meeting called to order at 3:06 p.m.

B) Approval of the Agenda -

   Motion to approve the agenda was advanced
   
The agenda was unanimously approved

C) Approval of Minutes -

   Motion to approve the October 17th, 2013 minutes was advanced
   
The October 17th, 2013 minutes were unanimously approved

II. Reports

A) President’s Report - Paul Nunez

   President Nunez reviewed his participation in recent meetings directed toward a discussion of potential campus workforce reductions
   
   President Nunez reviewed the procedural steps involved in such workforce reductions
   
   President Nunez noted that district human resources plays an integral role in the process of workforce reduction
   
   President Nunez noted that the current, envisioned workforce reductions involve Management, Administration, and Technology (MAT) employees and Professional Staff Association (PSA) employees
President Nunez further noted that this process will continue during the Spring 2014 semester.

One senator reviewed the current RFP language regarding criteria / requirements for One-Year-Only (OYO) hires.

A senator conjectured that multiple, existing OYO and One-Semester-Only (OSO) lines will be eliminated at the conclusion of the current academic year.

Another senator asked about the nature of similar reductions that might be undertaken by the district office.

Several senators noted that MCC enrollment tends to increase and decrease cyclically and thus could be expected to eventually trend toward an enrollment increase.

B) Vice President’s Report - Robert Soza

No report.

C) Recording Secretary’s Report - Jeff Messer

Recording Secretary Messer indicated that he will submit approved October 17th, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for posting to the MCC Faculty Senate Internet site and will prepare a draft of November 7th, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for consideration at the November 21st, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting.

D) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski

Treasurer Waclawski noted that he will close one Faculty Senate account on Friday, November 8th, 2013.

President Nunez noted that he has begun to draft rebate checks and emphasized that the overall task is an exceptionally laborious task.

He indicated that both he and Treasurer Waclawski are collaborating in order to expedite the process.

E) Past-President’s Report - Jeff Andelora

No report.
DCA Liaison Bitter noted that department chairs and advisors are scheduled to meet on November 14th, 2013 in order to collaborate on improvement of the current enrollment process.

DCA Liaison Bitter characterized the decision-making process related to reductions-in-force as unsettling.

DCA Liaison Bitter noted that faculty leadership subsequently met with the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) in order to discuss the issue of trust consequent to concerns regarding the aforementioned process.

DCA Liaison Bitter reviewed the most recent DCA meeting in which discussion of a joint resolution specifying concerns regarding the process was undertaken by department chairs.

DCA Liaison Bitter indicated her position that such a joint resolution is not currently necessary.

DCA Liaison Bitter noted DCA questions regarding the impact of this evolving process on faculty staffing decisions.

DCA Liaison Bitter suggested that face-to-face discussions are more productive than electronic mail exchanges.

DCA Liaison Bitter shared her perception that considerable “energy” is being expended to increase collaboration between faculty leadership and college administration.

DCA Liaison Bitter noted a perception that focus on teaching and learning is being diminished consequent to discussions of, for example, reductions-in-force.

A senator noted that administration leadership skills and corresponding governance may need to be formally addressed by faculty.

Another senator proposed that the concept of shared governance needs to be revisited with Dr. Pan.

DCA Liaison Bitter noted that the threshold course enrollment number is fifteen (15) and that a Dean has the discretion to allow a chair to sustain a course with an enrollment below fifteen.
Several senators noted that it is difficult to trust MCC administration due to a recurrent tendency for relative absence of communication

DCA Liaison Bitter indicated her intent to report Faculty Senate concerns regarding trust between faculty and administration

G) 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 asked a senator to review recent work by the Student Outcomes Committee (SOC)

The senator noted that significant progress has been made with respect to specifying, refining, and improving codified student outcome goals

President Nunez addressed the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Advisory Committee and secured additional committee participants

III. Old Business -

A) Academic Master Plan (Standing Agenda Item - Robert Soza) -

Vice President Soza noted that the core team has been meeting in order to advance development of the plan through an ongoing focus on learning priorities and noted a related meeting designed to address “initiative fatigue”

A senator agreed that there are too many initiatives and associated committee work that detracts from teaching and learning

Another senator suggested that the emphasis on such a significant number of initiatives is affecting faculty emotional and physical health

A senator noted that faculty leadership benefited from considerable availability of data more than a decade ago yet that current faculty leadership does not have similar access to such data
B) Distinguished Faculty Award (DFA) -

Vice President Soza indicated that recent progress has been significant and that the most recent meeting, for example, was oriented toward formalizing qualifications.

A senator shared a constituent suggestion that MCC collaborate with the Mesa Chamber of Commerce in order to coordinate MCC’s DFA with the Chamber of Commerce’s similar award.

C) Maricopa Priorities: Status -

A senator reviewed a recent Maricopa Priorities training session in which it was noted that self-assessment reports may include up to 2,800 words.

The senator indicated a perception that specific logistical decisions are being left to individual colleges.

It was noted that the MCC Steering Team will share recommendations subsequent to evaluation of self-assessments on September 5th, 2014.

D) Reorganization of the Office for Scheduling and Curriculum: Linda Collins -

President Nunez noted that Linda Collins is working with stakeholders in order to improve the scheduling process.

IV. New Business -

A) Composition of the Faculty Executive Council (FEC) -

President Nunez noted that the FEC Constitution Committee recently revisited the Faculty Association (FA) Constitution and noted that current FEC representation does not reflect the process specified in the Constitution.
A motion was advanced to amend the Constitution in order to reflect the existing process.

The motion was unanimously approved.

B) Joint DCA / Faculty Senate Resolution -

A senator suggested that some form of dialogue should be initiated in order to improve communication between faculty leadership and college administration.

Another senator proposed that the President’s Cabinet should include a decidedly more substantial faculty representation in order to promote faculty involvement in college-wide strategic / policy decision making.

Another senator suggested that faculty leadership should not assume an adversarial stance in order to evolve a dialogue with college administration that leads to an improved teaching and learning environment.

V. Information / Discussion

A) Senator Duties -

No discussion.

B) Robert’s Rules of Order -

No discussion.

C) RFP Information Session -

President Nunez specified that the session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13th, 2013 at 3:00 p.m., Room NU 101.

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

A senator noted that the campus’ wireless capability appears to be progressively degenerating.

One senator asked about a potential threat to the college’s on-line course offerings.

President Nunez noted that the recent concerns regarding the aforementioned offerings reflects a historical concern.
Another senator noted Dr. Pan’s enthusiasm for the scope of faculty community engagement initiatives

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

A) Send out the Template

B) DL Lists

VIII. Announcements / Good Of The Order / Adjournment -

President Nunez noted that the next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for November 21st, 2013 and will be conducted at the Southern and Dobson campus

A motion to adjourn was advanced

The motion was unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.