Faculty Senate Meeting  
November 21st, 2013

Members Present:

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

Guests:

Dr. Patty Finkenstadt, Faculty Association (FA) President  
Keith Heffner, Faculty Association President-Elect

Dr. Finkenstadt indicated that she and FA President-Elect Heffner did not have an official presentation or agenda and looked forward to addressing questions from Faculty Senators

FA President-Elect Heffner noted January 2014 training sessions for the evolving Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) process

Dr. Finkenstadt noted that various summary resources are being finalized and will subsequently be available to faculty with respect to the recent Residential Faculty Policies (RFP) Informational Session

Dr. Finkenstadt noted that District Information Technology (IT) is currently facing multiple, significant challenges

One senator asked about the hiring process and corresponding committee composition specific to District Information Technology restaffing

Another senator asked about the changing nature of tenure and asked Dr. Finkenstadt to specifically address that issue

Dr. Finkenstadt noted that numerous institutions of higher education are increasingly characterized by fewer tenured positions

Dr. Finkenstadt noted that popular culture often portrays a distinct and periodically misleading depiction of tenure

FA President-Elect Heffner encouraged Senators to remain abreast of the process that will lead to a Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Governing Board replacement for former board member Mr. Ben Miranda
Dr. Finkenstadt conjectured that the aforementioned replacement process will very likely follow a process similar to the process that was utilized to replace former MCCCD board member Miss Colleen Clark

Dr. Finkenstadt encouraged Senators to devote resources and time to the Political Action Committee (PAC)

Dr. Finkenstadt and Faculty Senate President Nunez briefly reviewed the extensive scope of MCCCD board member responsibilities

President Finkenstadt noted that faculty reassign appointments must involve projects, initiatives, discussions, etc. that are designed to contribute to and thus improve the community college district

I. General
   A) Meeting called to order at 3:28 p.m.
   B) Approval of the Agenda -
      Motion to approve the agenda was advanced
      The agenda was unanimously approved
   C) Approval of Minutes -
      A motion was advanced to strike one comment from the November 7th, 2013 minutes
      The motion was unanimously approved
      The November 7th, 2013 minutes were unanimously approved as amended with two (2) abstentions

II. Reports
   A) President’s Report - Paul Nunez
      President Nunez indicated that no Reductions-In-Force (RIF’s) have been formalized or finalized
      President Nunez noted a corresponding emphasis on reassignment as opposed to reduction-in-force
      President Nunez noted that spring 2014 enrollment will very likely impact the college’s ability to retain faculty lines
In particular, President Nunez noted that 45th day spring 2014 enrollment will very likely impact associated discussions regarding faculty lines

President Nunez shared his perception of a sense of pessimism regarding Spring 2014 enrollment

President Nunez emphasized the importance of a concerted effort to remain focused on the positive work that embodies MCC

President Nunez reminded Senators of the minimal teaching experience / background characteristic of the members of the President’s Cabinet

President Nunez correspondingly indicated that the President’s Cabinet will be expanded in order to include leadership of all employee groups in addition to Department Chair Association (DCA) leadership

President Nunez indicated his view that participating faculty must be allowed to and indeed encouraged to engage in substantive Cabinet discussions and not be included merely to fulfill a reporting role

One senator asked about the basis for this refinement of the composition of the President’s Cabinet

President Nunez noted his strong advocacy for the inclusion of employee groups and faculty leadership within the Cabinet

President Nunez encouraged Senators to consider faculty needs regarding shared governance

President Nunez distributed a resource that Dr. Pan recently shared with the President’s Cabinet in which several foundational, strategic questions were offered to Cabinet members

President Nunez reminded Senators that approximately 87.5% of the college budget is devoted to salaries and associated benefits and correspondingly noted that merely 12.5% of the budget remains to cover all other expenses such as advertising

President Nunez noted that the Performing Arts Center will soon be completed and will require an ongoing budgetary commitment to maintain the new facility
One senator suggested that an increased commitment to marketing in the interest of enhancing enrollment may not address more foundational issues such as problems with student services.

Another senator asked if there could be an issues forum and / or “town hall” in order to discuss issues such as the issue of marketing and the issue of student services.

A senator proposed that college-hosted events in which faculty from various departments host, for example, groups of high school students in order to market the college are extremely positive and effective.

It was noted that the aforementioned, shared questions do not address retention strategies and that enhanced retention should also be a primary focus.

President Nunez noted that Bruce Peterson had resigned from the Faculty Senate.

B) Vice President’s Report - Robert Soza

Vice President Soza noted a special DCA meeting in which conversation focused on a statement that will address improved communication between faculty and administration, shared governance, transparency, etc.

Vice President Soza also assured Senators that, even prior to preparation of such a statement, conversations are proceeding that are designed to improve communication between faculty and administration.

President-Elect Soza noted that he will construct an initial draft of the aforementioned statement and share that statement with all stakeholders.

President-Elect Soza noted that faculty are anxious to receive FA membership rebates.

C) Recording Secretary’s Report - Jeff Messer

Recording Secretary Messer indicated that he will submit approved November 7th, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for posting to the MCC Faculty Senate Internet site and will prepare a draft of November 21st, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for consideration at the December 5th, 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting.
D) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski

No report

E) Past-President’s Report - Jeff Andelora

No report

F) Department Chair Association Liaison Report - Debra Bitter

No report

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 and a Senator noted that the Student Outcomes Committee (SOC) has been working very diligently to evolve a set of improved student outcomes

III. Old Business

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

Senator Soza noted that the Academic Master Plan Core Team has reviewed all feedback from multiple forums and has subsequently developed a document that reflects areas of focus

Senator Soza additionally noted that the areas of focus will be aligned with existing committees such that committees can contribute to the evolving process

B) Distinguished Faculty Award (DFA) (progress) -

A senator noted that the committee is evolving the DFA toward a Hall-of-Fame type award
C) Maricopa Priorities: Status - Janice Pierson, Paul Nunez

President Nunez noted his recent attendance at a Planning Meeting and shared his perception that foundational organizational efforts are continuing.

President Nunez noted that he is beginning to receive requests for data.

President Nunez additionally noted that the program reports can include, for example, graphical and tabular information.

A senator asked if the primary goal of Maricopa Priorities is to eliminate competition between similar programs at the distinct MCCCD colleges.

President Nunez indicated that he does not see the aforementioned, suggested goal as a primary goal of Maricopa Priorities.

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

Senator Collins indicated that there will be a report that will be issued in order to update stakeholders on the progress of the reorganization initiative.

IV. New Business

A) eLearning Document: Revised -

President Nunez noted his very recent dissemination of the referenced document.

President Nunez noted that a prior version of the document was not consistent with the RFP.

President Nunez indicated that he and President-Elect Soza have worked to evolve the document such that consistency with the RFP is achieved.

President Nunez encouraged Senators to review the document and to correspondingly make a determination as to whether the revised document encompasses the spirit of a robust eLearning environment.

One senator asked if the document will be a compulsory statement or a “Best Practices” statement.
V. Information / Discussion

A) Informed Improvement and possible Climate Study -

One senator recounted a recent conversation with Brian Dille in which the question of a survey addressing the Informed Improvement process could be developed and utilized.

It was noted that such a survey could be generated by faculty.

Another senator emphasized that a corresponding process must reflect a collaborative conversation.

Several senators mentioned the construction of a “dashboard” in which faculty have access to data that would better inform necessary decision-making.

B) New RFP Probationary Review Process: Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) and Peer Assistance and Review Committee (PARC) training -

President Nunez reminded Senators that it is easy to confuse the two acronyms (PAR, PARC).

President Nunez reminded the Senate that the associated process will be implemented in July 2014.

President Nunez also reminded Senators that “PARC” refers to the Peer Assistance and Review Committee.

President Nunez noted that the PARC’s will be characterized by significant faculty membership.

It was noted that the PAR process will be subject to considerable refinement and continuous improvement subsequent to the 1st year roll-out.

A senator noted that the “nuts-and-bolts” of the process are still being evolved.

C) Thinking About Succession -

President Nunez suggested that it is not too early to contemplate senate officer succession.
VI. Zone and At-Large Reports and Significant Happenings / Issues

A senator noted that it is increasingly common for professional schools not to accept on-line natural science / laboratory courses

It was suggested that it is not at all likely that transcripts will not list modality of course delivery

One senator noted a constituent concern that the MCC Internet schedule is not consistent with the schedule published via the Student Information System (SIS)

It was noted that the aforementioned issue is a long-standing issue

It was similarly noted that the preferable resource for viewing accurate scheduling information is the SIS

One senator expressed concern regarding inability to interact with zone chairs despite repeated efforts to initiate such contact

One senator noted continuing departmental concern regarding pressure to cancel multiple course sections for Spring 2014

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 December 5th, 2013 and will be conducted at the Southern and Dobson campus

A motion to adjourn the meeting was advanced

The motion was unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.