Faculty Senate Meeting
December 6th, 2012

Members Present:

Marie Brown, Debra Campbell, Kevin Dressler, Kevin Healy, Keith Heffner, Loretta Kissell, Sally Kroelinger, Charles Lewis, Jeff Messer, Paul Nunez, Denise Quintrall, & Robert Soza

Department Chair Association (DCA) Liaison:

Steve Budge

3:00 - 3:15 p.m. - Brian Dille - Informed Improvement / SOC Update

Mr. Dille noted his November 2012 attendance at a recent Higher Learning Commission (HLC) training session that addressed new HLC criteria for accreditation. He noted that some of the criteria are specifically relevant to the nature of assessments that are currently conducted at Mesa Community College (MCC)

Mr. Dille emphasized the multiple criteria for accreditation reflect “Guiding Values.” He noted that representative guiding values include 1) focus on student learning and 2) a culture of continuous improvement

More specifically, Mr. Dille indicated that one aforementioned criterion, a culture of continuous improvement, assumes that not only are assessments being conducted but also that the results of assessments are being utilized to direct informed, continuous improvement

Mr. Dille proceeded to note specific criteria for accreditation including 1) Mission 2) Integrity 3) Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support and 4) Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement

With respect to the criterion entitled “Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement,” Mr. Dille emphasized the primacy of institutional commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning

Similarly, Mr. Dille emphasized the parallel importance of institutional commitment to improvement through ongoing attention to retention, persistence, and completion rates in both degree and certificate programs

Mr. Dille consequently noted that the new criteria for accreditation clearly reflect enhanced emphasis on not only evaluation of but also improvement of teaching and learning
Mr. Dille correspondingly suggested that Senate initiate a leadership role in articulating the MCC faculty’s commitment to supporting and advancing retention, persistence, and completion

Furthermore, Mr. Dille emphasized that assessment must capture all students including both face-to-face and on-line students

Mr. Dille shared his belief that there needs to be greater faculty participation in assessment

Finally, Mr. Dille emphasized the need to utilize data in order to support continuous improvement

In summary, Mr. Dille indicated his desire to ensure that Faculty Senate be aware of the new criteria and reiterated his suggestion that Faculty Senate assume a leadership role in such issues as the issues relate to continuous improvement in teaching and learning

I. General

A) Meeting called to order at 3:28 p.m.

B) Approval of the Agenda -

Motion to approve the agenda was advanced

An amendment was proposed in order to eliminate from Section IV. New Business, Item B

An additional amendment was proposed in order to add to Section IV. New Business, Item B, Host Table at Mesa United Way Walkathon,

The amended agenda was unanimously approved

C) Approval of Minutes -

Motion to approve the November 15th, 2012 Meeting Minutes was advanced

The motion was unanimously approved
II. Reports

A) Department Chair Association Liaison Report - Steve Budge

DCA Liaison Budge noted that Dr. Pan met with department chairs at the most recent DCA meeting

DCA Liaison Budge indicated that corresponding conversations included a discussion of the President’s Cabinet and its membership

DCA Liaison Budge shared President Pan’s comment that the aforementioned discussion with DCA catalyzed Dr. Pan to reflect upon his decision-making processes

DCA Liaison Budge additionally noted that a distinct conversation addressed the issue of academic master planning

DCA Liaison Budge reminded Faculty Senate that MCC does not currently have an academic master plan

DCA Liaison Budge shared an associated diagram illustrating that a facilities plan, an enrollment management plan, an information technology plan, and a resource development plan all relate to an academic master plan

DCA Liaison Budge subsequently reviewed the assumptions that contribute to the development of an academic master plan

DCA Liaison Budge noted that a planning committee should include representation from both college administration and faculty

DCA Liaison Budge emphasized that an academic master plan is not a strategic plan

Finally, DCA Liaison Budge indicated that development of an academic master plan would contribute to the evolution of shared governance at MCC

B) President’s Report - Keith Heffner

President Heffner indicated that he recently met with Dean of Instruction for Innovative Learning & Academic Support Services Roger Yohe concerning a data management policy

President Heffner noted that there is an evolving effort to develop a policy addressing how data will be utilized
President Heffner correspondingly noted that one goal of such a policy would be to ensure that data is not inappropriately utilized to, for example, impact faculty evaluation.

President Heffner noted Chancellor Glasper’s attendance at a recent Faculty Executive Council (FEC) meeting and a related discussion addressing the evolving Corporate College.

President Heffner expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the DCA.

C) President-Elect’s Report - Paul Nunez

President-Elect Nunez emphasized his belief that Faculty Senate must be strongly allied with DCA.

President-Elect Nunez noted his attendance at a recent DCA meeting and mentioned a related Action Item concerning underage students taking college courses.

Specifically, President-Elect Nunez noted that a related policy is being drafted in the absence of faculty participation and emphasized that faculty must be involved in the development of such a policy.

One senator noted that the aforementioned policy is focused on protecting the district from allegations of discrimination.

President-Elect Nunez mentioned program prioritization is an evolving concept and proposed that faculty will want to be involved in such prioritization.

One senator shared a belief that an increasing emphasis on protecting fiscal and related resources is compromising empowerment of students and thus the broader missions of teaching and learning.

D) Recording Secretary’s Report - Jeff Messer

Recording Secretary Messer indicated that he will prepare a draft of current meeting minutes for consideration at the January 17th, 2013 Faculty Senate meeting and that he will submit approved November 15th, 2012 meeting minutes for posting to the Faculty Senate Internet site.
E) Business Secretary’s Report - Marie Brown

Business Secretary Brown noted that she has recently ordered plaques for retiring faculty

F) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski

No report

G) Past-President’s Report - Janice Reilly

No report

H) Maricopa Colleges Faculty Foundation (MCFF) Report - Janice Reilly

No report

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

The upcoming January 9th, 2013 visit and presentation of Dr. George Cohen was mentioned

One senator mentioned an ongoing security issue concerning the Red Mountain library

President Heffner committed to following-up with MCC Public Safety in order to address the Red Mountain library security issue

J) Faculty Senate Committees -

1) Faculty Staffing
2) Constitution / By-Laws / Best Practices
3) Faculty Travel
4) Honors Program Advisory Committee
5) Student Outcomes
6) CTL Advisory
7) Distance Education
8) Faculty Social

President Heffner indicated that the Constitution / By-Laws / Best Practices committee recently met and continues to make progress on an initial draft of a revised Constitution & By-Laws

President Heffner noted that both documents should be available to be read and reviewed prior to the initial Faculty Senate meeting of 2013
President Heffner indicated his desire to focus on these documents during the January 17th, 2013 Faculty Senate meeting

President Heffner indicated that the discussion should include consideration of the Honors Advisory Committee

President Heffner shared his associated intent to interact with Honors Program leadership in order to enhance his understanding of the Honors Advisory Committee work and contributions

III. Old Business

A) MCC Course Cancellation Process / Policy -

President Heffner informed Faculty Senate that a draft policy / process document has been sent to Dr. Mabry for his review and consideration

B) Motion to Approve Eddie Webb as an appointed Southern-&-Dobson (S&D) At-Large Senator through May 2013 -

President Heffner noted that the Senate President can appoint a senator

President Heffner proposed the appointment of Mr. Eddie Webb as an interim At-Large Senator

A motion was advanced to appoint Mr. Eddie Webb as an interim At-Large Senator

President Heffner emphasized that Mr. Webb has a strong interest in participating in Faculty Senate

The motion was unanimously approved

C) Update on Senate Constitution and By-Laws -

An update was previously provided by President Heffner during the current meeting
IV. New Business

A) Underage Students (Debra Campbell) – (discussed during Pres-Elect’s Report)

B) Mesa United Way Walkathon -

President Heffner noted that the planned Walkathon may include other, allied activities consistent with the central mission of Mesa United Way

In that regard, President Heffner initiated discussion of a possible donation to Mesa United Way

Several senators articulated concerns with respect to such a donation

V. Information / Discussion

A) Learning Plan (Academic Strategic Planning and Integration into MCC Strategic Planning) – (reported by DCA Chair-Elect)

No update on nor discussion of this item was undertaken

B) DCA / Senate / Administration Retreat: Spring 2013 -

President Heffner suggested that such a retreat should occur during the upcoming semester

VI. Announcements / Good Of The Order / Adjournment

President Heffner noted that the January 17th, 2013 Faculty Senate meeting will be conducted at the Southern & Dobson campus

A motion to adjourn the meeting was advanced

The motion was unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.