Faculty Senate Meeting  
February 20th, 2014

Members Present:

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

DCA Liaison:

Debra Bitter

Guests:

Patty Finkelstadt, Faculty Association (FA) President, & Keith Heffner, FA President-Elect

FA President Finkelstadt reviewed an Arizona Supreme Court case (the Fields Case) in which a decision has been made in-favor of public pensions

The decision was specific to Arizona’s judicial officials yet should have favorable implications for Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) members

FA President Finkelstadt noted that there are additional legal challenges specific to the current pension system that remain to be addressed

One senator noted that the current pension system represents an “implied contract”

MCC Faculty Senate President Nunez asked if there is any new information available regarding the composition of the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Governing Board

FA President Finkelstadt indicated that it is very likely that the membership of the Governing Board will increase from five (5) to seven (7) members

FA President Finkelstadt additionally noted that at least two current MCCCD Governing Board members may not seek an additional term

Collectively, it may therefore be the case that as many as five (5) MCCCD Governing Board seats may be occupied by new members in the near future

FA President Finkelstadt also noted that multiple versions of a “guns-on-campus” bill are being considered in the state legislature
It was noted that the Citizens Defense League is one organization that supports passage of a “guns-on-campus” bill

Several senators emphasized that allowing firearms on a campus would cause multiple, novel challenges for a campus public safety office

It was noted that the MCCCD Governing Board will consider a tuition increase at its next board meeting

The proposed increase will be $5 per credit hour

FA President Finkelstadt noted that colleges continue to pay back money to the district while the district budget continues to grow

One senator suggested that FA officers might ask about the Seamless Student Experience (SSE) initiative and, in particular, inquire as to whether there is an integrated strategy between the district office and the various colleges for SSE

One senator noted recent conversations with constituents regarding the aforementioned “guns-on-campus” issue and encouraged senators to view a related video that is available via the FA Internet site

I. General

   A) Meeting called to order at 3:39 p.m.

   B) Approval of the Agenda -

       Add item under Information / Discussion, Item D, Initiative Fatigue

       A motion to approve the agenda as amended was advanced

       The motion was unanimously approved

   C) Approval of Minutes -

       A motion to approve the February 6th, 2014 meeting minutes was advanced

       The motion was unanimously approved with two (2) abstentions
II. Reports

A) President’s Report - Paul Nunez

President Nunez reviewed the recent Shared Governance event and suggested that the event represents the beginning of a broader, constructive conversation.

President Nunez emphasized his philosophy of incremental progress as a viable philosophy in working with MCC administration and correspondingly suggested that the recent shared governance event promoted incremental progress in improving the relationship between faculty and administration.

More generally, President Nunez emphasized that a shared governance dialogue is important.

B) Vice President’s Report - Robert Soza

President-Elect Soza deferred his report.

C) Recording Secretary’s Report - Jeff Messer

Recording Secretary Messer indicated that he will submit approved February 6th, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for posting to the MCC Faculty Senate Internet site and will prepare a draft of February 20th, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes for consideration at the March 6th, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting.

D) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski

Treasurer Waclawski noted that he has re-attained access to the faculty senate savings and checking accounts. Treasurer Waclawski indicated that the faculty senate saving account has an approximate balance of $8,000 and that the faculty senate checking account has an approximate balance of $40,000.

E) Past-President’s Report - Jeff Andelora

No report.

F) Department Chair Association Liaison Report - Debra Bitter

DCA Liaison Bitter deferred her report consequent to her note that her planned discussion items are included under Old Business, New Business, and / or Information / Discussion.
G) Faculty Senate Committees -

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

One senator noted that the SOC is meeting on Monday, February 24th, 2014

President-Elect Soza discussed a recent meeting with Kacie Takata in which participants discussed the evolution of a more strategic, structured process to optimally populate committees and an approach to regularizing timelines for committee sign-ups

President-Elect Soza requested feedback from senators in which senators would specify committees that must include faculty and committees that must include faculty senators per se

President-Elect Soza noted that an Internet site will be expanded to include standardized meeting structures for distinct committees

III. Old Business -

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

President-Elect Soza noted that the Core Team is meeting on Friday, February 21st, 2014 in order to explore an introductory letter that will be disseminated to campus faculty and will address a previously-discussed “Compelling Questions” resource

President-Elect Soza noted a “heightened concern” with respect to completing and distributing the Academic Master Plan

B) Distinguished Faculty Award -

A senator noted that progress is continuing
C) Maricopa Priorities: Status - Janice Pierson, Paul Nunez

One senator noted a human resources solutions professional will be attending three March 2014 Task Force sessions in order to provide expert insight to task force members

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

Senator Collins noted prior interviews with department chairs (conducted during the fall 2014 semester), indicated that student surveys are being analyzed and indicated that a final draft has been initiated

A senator asked if the college might evolve a policy in which if a new section is opened consequent to full enrollment in already-existing sections, the new section will not be cancelled as a consequence of enrollment (i.e. “if we offer it, we keep it”)

President Nunez and President-Elect Soza noted an upcoming meeting with the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) and indicated a corresponding intent to discuss scheduling-specific issues with Dr. Mabry

IV. New Business -

No New Business discussions

V. Information / Discussion

A) DCA and Senate Joint Resolution: Status -

President Nunez reiterated his recent request for feedback regarding the resolution

Multiple senators noted constituent comments regarding a lack of specificity in the resolution, an associated vagueness in the resolution, the absence of a request for specific action or interaction, and a lack of understanding of the fundamental purpose of the resolution

A senator reviewed the initial discussions related to the resolution and noted that both DCA and Senate agreed that a resolution should be drafted
The senator shared the view that the resolution as initially intended was viewed as promoting a constructive dialogue as opposed to a contentious dialogue.

Another senator noted that the senator’s department had recently drafted a resolution that detailed specific issues that might be addressed in-support of improving the existing faculty-administration relationship and thus contributing to both enhanced shared governance and improved transparency.

A senator emphasized that it is critical for senators and chairs to actively solicit feedback from constituents such that the feedback can be communicated to faculty leadership with the intent of gaining a broader perspective on the issue of faculty-administration relationship.

President Nunez suggested that the aforementioned department-generated draft should be shared with senators.

B) Operational Planning and Budget Committee -

President Nunez alerted Senate to the referenced committee and noted a prior forum initiated by the committee designed to promote financial savings for the college.

President Nunez that a document that evolved from the aforementioned forum.

Senators discussed potential frameworks for promoting faculty review of the document in the interest of advancing the broader process of identifying realistic savings.

One senator noted that the document was apparently created in direct contrast to Dr. Pan’s perceived notion of shared governance.

C) Shared Governance Discussion: Part II (The Conflict) -

President Nunez asked if the Senate is comfortable with rescheduling both the location and initiation of the March 6th, 2014 meeting in order to accommodate the next shared governance event.
D) Initiative Fatigue -

A senator reviewed a department meeting in which department mission and vision statements were discussed and that department faculty suggested that such department-specific statements were unnecessary.

Senate leadership indicated that they would address this situation with the VPAA in an upcoming meeting.

Another senator noted that department vision and mission statements might be highly valuable for a department even if such vision/mission is not acknowledged by college administration.

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

No reports.

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 March 6th, 2014, will be conducted at the Southern and Dobson campus, and will initiate at 3:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was advanced.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned 5:19 p.m.