MCC Faculty Senate
Thursday, March 7, 2013

Members Present:
Keith Heffner, Sally Kroelinger, Marie Brown, Charles Lewis, Frederick Schineller, Loretta Kissell, Paul Nunez, Christine Beckman, Kevin Healy, Denise Quintrall, Debra Campbell, Robert Soza, Phil Waclawski

Department Chair Association (DCA) Liaison:
Steve Budge

I. General

A. Call To Order -- 3:01 pm

B. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was advanced

An agenda addition was proposed for incorporation under New Business, Item C, entitled “Purchase of Robert’s Rules of Order”

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was advanced

Motion was unanimously approved

C. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve February 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes was advanced

Motion was unanimously approved with one (1) abstention

D. Approval of Minutes – 2/21/2013

Motion to approve February 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes was advanced

Motion was unanimously approved with three (3) abstentions

II. Reports

A. Department Chair Association Liaison Report -- Steve Budge
DCA Liaison Budge reported from a recent DCA meeting that Administration is looking for creative ways to save money such as selectively increasing class size.

DCA Liaison Budge had given a report on the Learning Plan to the DCA. He received useful feedback from the DCA which will be incorporated into the document. Terry O’Banion is being considered as a potential consultant with a brainstorming session to be scheduled, possibly on March 29. VP Mabry has funds that can be used to pay for the consultant under the professional services budget line. President Heffner asked to be kept informed. DCA Liaison Budge praised Senator Soza for his participation.

B. President’s Report -- Keith Heffner

President Heffner reported that the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee is looking for a representation in addition to Jeff Andelora. President Heffner prefers a Senate member as the representative, possibly Debra Campbell.

C. President-Elect’s Report – Paul Nunez

President-Elect Nunez reported from the recent DCA meeting that Dual Enrollment is receiving additional attention. Issues being addressed include the overall quality and the qualifications of instructors. Some departments have cut back in their dual enrollment offerings. Instructional Councils can have some control. It is important to keep the integrity of the coursework paramount. On-site evaluations include verification of textbooks and that competencies are being met.

One Senator asked for clarification of who does the evaluation. It was reported that the evaluation is conducted by the Chair or OPD or a designee.

President Heffner reported that there is no directive to relax standards to maintain enrollment numbers.

One Senator encouraged departments to make connections with high schools and encourage collaboration.

One Senator reported that if the Instructional Council decides against dual enrollment in a particular area or for certain courses that all Maricopa colleges are bound by that decision.

One Senator encouraged considering concurrent rather than dual enrollment as an option.

D. Recording Secretary’s Report -- Jeff Messer

No report
E. Business Secretary’s Report -- Marie Brown

No report

F. Senate Treasurer’s Report -- Phil Waclawski

Treasurer Waclawski noted that the research into the Wells Fargo account is continuing. It may be that several different groups are using the same employee ID number and this is causing the confusion with accounts.

President Heffner encouraged that this matter be settled as soon as possible.

G. Past-President’s Report

(vacant)

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

One Senator noted a very successful NASA visit to Physical Science. There were approximately 350 in attendance the first night and about 350 the second night. Both astronauts have been on shuttle flights. They were from Houston and both have spent time at the International Space Station.

Two Senators indicated that faculty were questioning how the constitution changes were presented and wanted an executive summary of changes. President Heffner reported that the changes made the two documents so dramatically different that it is difficult to make direct comparisons. President Heffner reported that the current vote is 45 for and 6 against the proposed changes. The voting could be extended for another week.

One Senator reported the status of Department Chair election in the Business Department. Administration recommended the Associate Dean as the moderator for the forum. Administrators are not to be part of this process; it is faculty driven. Faculty decide whether to even have a forum and faculty determine the format and moderator, if desired. President Heffner will serve as the moderator for the forum for this department and offered his services for other departments needing a forum moderator.

President Heffner noted that Phebe Blitz is still listed as Faculty on the FA membership roster. Senate should be diligent at looking at the list. The question was raised as to whether she should receive a faculty retirement plaque.

One Senator noted that summer youth camps had been cancelled without notification to the department sponsoring them. Kristie Folk is in charge of summer camps. Estrella has already contracted with Black Rocket, the company which provides the camp. MCC had an exclusive agreement, but Estrella is competing. There is some talk to cancel
summer youth camps entirely at MCC. The issue has been temporarily resolved by the efforts of Department Chair Collins and other faculty. DCA Liaison Budge indicated that DCA needs to be made aware.

Another Senator indicated that his department has not heard anything about summer camps. Also, the MCC Sci-Tech Open House was poorly attended even though it was advertised statewide.

I. Faculty Senate Committees:

1) Faculty Staffing

President Heffner noted that Chairs will be presenting again on March 22, followed by the Dean for a couple of weeks. There are about 12 requests including some replacements. The committee is trying to secure budget information that may influence the decisions. The Staffing Committee makes recommendations to the President, but it is up to the President to determine if he wants to go to Cabinet for advice.

2) Constitution/By-Laws/Best Practices

President Heffner noted that the vote closes tomorrow, March 9, unless extended. It was decided by consensus to extend the voting to March 22, the Friday after Spring Break.

3) Faculty Travel
4) Honors Program Advisory Committee
5) Student Outcomes
6) CTL Advisory
7) Distance Education (on hold)

8) Faculty Social

The next Faculty Social will be at Nando’s on April 5, 2013. The Business Secretary will send out a notice.

III. Old Business

A. Constitution/Bylaws—update

See above.

B. Physical Sciences-faculty line? (Kevin Healy)
It was reported that the Planetarium Director position was ranked #3 by the Staffing Committee, but the position was not approved. VP Mabry indicated to the department that the Planetarium Director could not be a faculty line, but offered an astronomy faculty line. VP Mabry indicated that the position would be better served as a MAT position rather than faculty. VP Mabry recommended that the Department Chair go to Cabinet with the request for the Director position. Is this a violation of the RFP process?

President Heffner was not aware of the recent developments with the position and will bring it up with VP Mabry and let him know that Senate is aware of the situation.

One Senator expressed concern over the violation of the process.

C. Elections—process review and timeline

President Heffner reported that once the Constitution and By-Laws are ratified, they go into effect immediately. Discussion ensued related to John Giffith’s concern over how the voting was conducted and the lack of anonymity. Only President Heffner knows the names and they are not made public. There is no violation of process. The Senate’s advice to President Heffner is to continue the voting process as originally created.

Notice will go out on April 1 to those Zones (odd numbered) needing to conduct elections. Notification will include the self-nomination forms.

Senate will elect a Vice President for the incoming Senate. On May 2 President Heffner presides and passes the gavel to the incoming President (Paul Nunez). Paul Nunez will then preside over the incoming Senate meeting and will conduct elections. Currently, the Recording Secretary position is open.


IV. New Business—

A. MCC Senate bank accounts- discuss options for use/non-use

At the first meeting in April the Senate will approve the budget. Treasurer Waclawski will present a proposed budget. The future of the DFA needs to be resolved.

Other possible uses of Senate treasury could be sponsoring new faculty for a year’s worth of dues, FA rebates, parting gifts for retirees, and a Senate retreat.

One Senator asked if we are going to be under the FEC or be our own non-profit labor organization. President Heffner indicated that the FA is already incorporated. We would use the FEC tax ID number, but still manage our own money. Senate advised that
the agreement be in writing at the FEC level. MCC Senate supports the use of the FEC Employee ID number.

One Senator suggested another possible use of funding would be to help those faculty who are being back-charged for FA dues. President Heffner will research how much is owed by Faculty and report back to the Senate.

President Heffner also reported that FEC is discussing dues payment options: how to bring on new faculty, a more flexible timeline, and possibly software different from Wild Apricot.

B. Motion: to approve Marie Brown as an interim FEC rep through last, outgoing FEC meeting

A motion was advanced to approve Marie Brown as an interim FEC Rep through the last, Outgoing FEC meeting.

The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Purchase of Robert’s Rules

A motion was advanced to approve a Senate expenditure for the purchase of a copy of Robert’s Rules of Order for Senate use.

The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Information/Discussion

A. Debbie Thompson budget LB 300 (Southwest Reading Room)

The presentation of the overview of the District budget was well received and addressed performance funding – what it is and what it isn’t. There is a website with a copy of the presentation. The presentation was not the typical “gloom and doom”, but was not overly optimistic either.

Dr. Pan made the point that he wants MCC to know that the District budget position is not necessarily the same as that at MCC. With down enrollment, MCC is in worse shape. Because of 45th Day numbers, we will owe approximately $700,000 back (originally projected to be $650,000. Dr. Pan indicated the need for possible cut-backs, but is committed not to cut positions and to avoid layoffs, if possible. Dr. Pan encourages everyone to look for simple ways to help; promote enrollment in the classroom. Senators should relay the message to constituents.
One Senator asked about the RIF process. President Heffner indicated it is a Meet and Confer issue. M&C is trying to review the policy with the goal of revising it to make sense. There are no immediate plans for a RIF. Need a process that works for all.

One Senator commented that District internal funding is fairly stable, but Federal grants may be affected.

B. FEC Updates: FA President Elect nominee, Dues, FA membership options being explored, FEC schedule in/out, VC Thompson’s response to MAT hiring

President Heffner reported that Patty Finkenstadt (PC) is the new FEC President-Elect. FEC voted to maintain FA dues at $325 for the coming year.

President Heffner also reported that a white paper from GCC was presented to FEC showing the number of hires in MAT, PSA, and Faculty over the past 10 years. Debbie Thompson visited Glendale CC to provide a response as to why the numbers appear as they do. Her response gives a better contextual look. She has been asked to analyze Mesa’s numbers in a similar fashion.

One Senator asked about the plan to replace Shannon Ridgeway-Monaco in the Scheduling office. DCA Liaison Budge indicated that input from the Chairs should be considered. One possibility is to restructure the office with a MAT 15 position and replace Shannon.

President Heffner encouraged everyone to read the M&C update. One topic is a peer review process for probationary faculty. President Heffner is optimistic about the process creating an FEP with “teeth”. Any revision will have to be ratified by Faculty. At this point, it only affects probationary faculty.

VI. Announcements/ Good of the Order/ Adjournment

Chair Academy- April 4-7 – Promote to Faculty

Our next meeting is Mar. 21 and will be held at S&D.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm!