Faculty Senate Meeting  
August 21, 2014

Members Present:

Marie Brown, Linda Collins, Robert Galloway, Pam Harrison, Kevin Healy, Loretta Kissell, Megan McGuire, Jeff Messer, Patrice Nango, Mark Neeley, Paul Nuñez, Bruce Peterson, Janice Pierson, Robert Soza, Phil Waclawski, Eddie Webb

DCA Liaison:

Nora Reyes

Guests:

Patricia Roberts

Dr. Brian Dille and Dean Matt Ashcraft, Update on Higher Learning Commission visit

Dr. Dille and Dean Ashcraft updated the Senate on the planning for the Higher Learning Commission visit to MCC in March 2015

The schedule for planning and the visit were discussed. The visit will occur March 2-3, 2015. A full use of Informed Improvement will continue by MCC faculty after the HLC visit.

A webpage has been developed to distribute information on the HLC visit: tinyurl.com/MCCHLC

Dr. Dille and Dean Ashcraft asked faculty to examine “The Criteria” as presented on the HLC visit website and offer feedback. Faculty should expect news on planning for HLC visit.
I. General

A) Meeting called to order at 3:30 PM

B) Approval of the Agenda -
   Motion to approve as amended was advanced
   Unanimously approved

C) Approval of Minutes -
   A motion to approve the May 1, 2014 meeting minutes was advanced
   The motion was unanimously approved

II. Reports

A) President’s Report - Robert Soza
   President Soza deferred his report to be covered by other agenda items

B) Vice President’s Report - Linda Collins
   Vice President Collins expressed gratitude at being able to serve as vice president.

C) Recording Secretary’s Report - Kevin Healy
   Recording Secretary Healy indicated that he will post approved May 1, 2014 meeting minutes to the MCC Faculty Senate website.

D) Treasurer’s Report - Phil Waclawski
   Treasurer Waclawski reported on the writing of an IRS report.
E) Past-President’s Report - Paul Nuñez

Past-President Nuñez reported that he is taking on a role in the Strategic Planning Committee.

Past-President Nuñez raised a concern about the goal of making MCC an “exceptional” college without a college-based definition of “exceptional”.

F) Department Chair Association Liaison Report – Nora Reyes

DCA Liaison Reyes asked the Senators for their interest in a 4-hour Interest Based Negotiation training. Some Senators expressed interest in this training. A Senator affirmed the availability and interest by Eddie Genna to provide this training.

DCA Liaison Reyes reported on a DCA retreat where the Red Mountain course scheduling process was discussed. Further discussion will take place on a future date.

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

A Senator raised the concern of a faculty member that the Staffing Committee membership had not changed after the recent changes in Staffing Procedure. The faculty member had also discovered that several faculty committees are closed and questioned the meaning of a “closed” committee.
President Soza described the reasoning behind the “closed” committees. The Professional Rights and Responsibilities Committee is composed of Past-Presidents. The Staffing Committee membership remained the same because of the change in timeline for the faculty staffing process. There will be a call for membership in the Spring.

II. Old Business -

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

President Soza reported that the AMP Committee will be scheduling forums to engage departments and programs in the Spring to draft the plan.

President Soza reported that the AMP Committee will solicit feedback from 60 to 70 targeted groups, but there will be additional opportunities for all faculty to provide input.

B) Key Campus Committees

President Soza provided a list of the Committees requiring a Senate Member for the AY 2014-2015. He asked that one committee be added: Travel.

President Soza asked Senators to consider membership in these committees.

C) Senate Budget: revisions

President Soza reported that the formula for FEC rebates has changed while the MCC Faculty Senate budget has not. President Soza asked the Senate to empower the Senate Treasurer and Senate President to take the lead in balancing the Senate budget.

Treasurer Waclawski reported that the Senate accounts balance was approximately $30,000.

President Soza asked the Senate to support the creation of an MCC Faculty Senate Scholarship program. A Senator reported that a new scholarship required a minimum of $10,000.
IV. New Business -

A) Senate Webpages

Recording Secretary Healy presented recently updated Faculty Senate webpages and asked for corrections or feedback on additions or changes.

President Soza recommended that Bob Samson be contacted for updates to the documents and links related to Faculty Travel.

President Soza also recommended that Faculty Developer / PAR Facilitator Janice Pierson provide documents and links related to the PAR process and IDP development.

B) Zone Re-alignment, Fire Science

Senate President Soza reported that the Fire Science program has asked to move to a different Zone. Best practices will be investigated.

C) Meet & Confer Issue Generation

President Soza called on all faculty to vote on the Meet & Confer Issue Generation survey that had been announced by the Faculty Association.

President Soza reported that only approximately 225 faculty had vote so far.

D) Senate Vacancies

President Soza reported that he will email Chairs about vacancies in Zones 4 and 7. There is also an At-Large vacancy at Southern & Dobson.

E) Membership

President Soza provided a list of all Probationary Faculty in the AY 2014-15. He encouraged Senators to approach Probationary Faculty and non-members to join Faculty Association. President Soza stated that MCC is a few members away from a 6th seat on FEC.
F) Employee Celebration

President Soza reported that faculty are responsible for planning the Fall Employee Celebration.

President Soza reported that M&O has asked to switch with Faculty so they can plan the Fall and Faculty will plan Spring 2015.

A motion to delay was advanced and unanimously approved.

G) Late Grades

Steve Gerlock and Barbara Boros reported to President Soza that late grades have an impact on student outcomes and on public attitude about MCC.

President Soza reported that some missing grades go back 3-4 years or longer.

A Senator asked what ratio of missing grades are the responsibility of adjunct vs. residential faculty.

A Senator stated that some missing grades might be for internships or ongoing incomplete contracts.

President Soza stated Faculty have an interest in resolving this issue.

A Guest reported a personal experience of students appearing on an official roster after the course ended and the instructor was asked to provide grades for these students.

President Soza stated he would contact Chairs about addressing the outstanding grades. There needs to be a better understanding of the primary cause: whether it is faculty error or technology/process errors.

A Senator raised concern that this issue is a Chair responsibility, not of the Faculty Senate.

DCA Liaison Reyes stated that this will be raised at the DCA meeting to
check for progress on the issue.

H) Registration Policies

A Senator reported that today (8/21) VPAA Mabry alerted Chairs with changes to registration processes. Specifically that students losing enrollment after first class period will not be directed to Departments.

DCA Liaison Reyes reported that Chairs have recently raised concerns with this policy.

DCA Liaison Reyes reported that VPAA Mabry stated that some Departments do not accept late enrollment and some do accept late enrollment.

President Soza reported that this is a difficult situation that impacts Students, Student Affairs, and Academic Departments, and that a resolution requires input from all of these parties.

Vice President Collins raised concern for students who are in the uncomfortable situation of being placed in between Enrollment Services and Department offices.

DCA Liaison Reyes confirmed that this policy was announced to DCA on Monday (8/18).

DCA Reyes stated that VPAA Mabry had used previous data on the impact of late enrollment on student success to make this policy change.

A Senator raised the issue that an exception to late enrollment policy can be raised in student-instructor consultation, but consultation cannot happen if student is not directed to instructor.

A Senator raised the issue that data on late enrollment has not yet been reported and it is faculty’s right to decide who can enroll in their courses.

President Soza expressed sympathy with Student Services staff who must accept many individual Department policies.
Vice President Collins raised concern about Enrollment Services staff training.

A Senator raised the issue of Departments using permission numbers for late enrollment. A Senator reported that some Departments are using permission numbers for late enrollment.

A Senator pointed out that there is a difference between the timing of this policy announcement regarding first-week enrollment and the enrollment policy itself. A Senator expressed concern about the timing of this enrollment policy change so close to the beginning of class start dates.

V. Information / Discussion

A) Senate Distribution List: dl-mc-mccfacultysenate@mesacc.edu

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

Senator / PAR Facilitator Pierson reported on the progress of the PAR process and the large number of faculty who have completed PAR mentor training.

A Senator raised an issue with student advisement.

A Senator reported that a former Senator is doing well and misses attending Senate.

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

A) Reminder for faculty to vote on survey for Meet & Confer Issue Generation
B) Request to solicit faculty to fill vacant seats on Faculty Senate

VIII. Announcements / Good Of The Order / Adjournment -

Motion to Adjourn

Unanimously Approved

Adjournment at 5:06 PM