

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 4, 2011**  
**Private Dining Room, CUB**  
**Call to Order by Pam George, President, 3:04pm**

<b>Members Present</b>	Pam George, Mark Rowh, Collin Witherspoon, Becky Burton, Carol Buse, Brent Cavanaugh, John Chaka, Cherie Clifton (Sub: Nancy Brent), Jana Comerford (Sub: Emily Gilbert), Becky Easton, Denise Hirsch, Judy Isbell, Tiffany Lamb, Michelle Orcutt, Tamara Rhodes, Amanda Wheeler
<b>Members Absent</b>	Michael Barnett, Bruce Moseley, Jerry Terry, Theresa Edwards
<b>Visitors</b>	Tara Meraz

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Discussion/Information</b>	<b>Actions/Decisions Recommendations/Timelines</b>
<b>General Introduction</b>	Pam George introduced Tara Meraz, the faculty supervisor for the Math Outreach Center.	
<b>Tara Meraz</b>	<p>Tara started her presentation with the video that was produced for the Outreach Center by KACV. The video is a collection of student interviews regarding their experiences in the ORC.</p> <p>The ORC is located in Room 104 of the Engineering building and is open 60 hours a week. The ORC is a peer tutoring center where students enrolled in a math course at AC can receive free tutoring.</p> <p>Tara provided some history of the ORC. It started in 2005 when Dr. Wetzel, the Chair of the Math and Engineering Department, cleared out an outdated general access computer lab, and obtained funding from the Federal Work Study program, Peer tutoring, and Dr. Jones, the President of AC in 2005. The ORC had over 7,685 student visits during the 2005-2006 academic year with one full time supervisor and three learning specialists. The ORC now has a full time faculty</p>	

	<p>supervisor (who is required to have a Master Degree in mathematics), 3 learning specialists, and approximately 15 student tutors, and, during the 2010-2011 academic year, had 24,507 student visits. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board awarded the ORC the Star Award in 2009, and it was a Bellwether Award finalist in 2010.</p> <p>Tara told the Senate about some of the unique services that the ORC provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30-minute tutoring sessions by appointment for developmental students scoring below 70 on a test,</li> <li>• Faculty generated solution manuals available for specific courses,</li> <li>• developmental and College Algebra videos, and</li> <li>• computers for students to use to view the videos and work on online homework.</li> </ul> <p>The 30-minute tutoring sessions are mandatory. The ORC has seen student's grades increase from a 40 to a 90 after tutoring.</p> <p>Carol Buse asked if students not enrolled in a math course could utilize the ORC, and Tara told her that the current policy is that you have to be enrolled in a math course.</p>	
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Pam George, President, asked members for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2011, meeting.	Becky Burton - 1st motion Denise Hirsch - 2nd Unanimous vote.
<b>Signatures</b>	Pam passed around the courtesy card template for Senate members to sign	
<b>Reception</b>	Pam asked for volunteers to host a reception for an unknown person, and for an unknown occasion, to be held on November 28, 2011, from 2:00 - 3:30 P.M. She mentioned that the Senate officers were sworn to secrecy as to whom the reception will be for and the occasion.	
<b>LMS Selection</b>	The LMS selection process is under way, and the last day to	

	<p>vote for the LMS of your choice is November 4. Several Senate members mentioned that the e-mail they received did not work at first, and some faculty may not have tried to vote again.</p>	
<b>Study Camp</b>	<p>Mark Rowh reminded the Senate that Linda Hendrick will be hosting the Study Camp for finals on December 1.</p>	
<b>Faculty Evaluations</b>	<p>Student evaluations should be sent out today with a link in AC Online and an e-mail sent to each student. Carol Buse mentioned that the problems we have had with the evaluations should be corrected once we have the new LMS in place. The committee in charge of the evaluations attempted to provide some corrective measures in regards to student awareness about whom they were evaluating. They placed a blank at the top and the bottom of the evaluation form where the student should type the instructor's name.</p> <p>Carol discussed the new faculty evaluation form that will be piloted in the CIS Department this year. The form focuses on faculty improvement. Some of the issues that are included in the current version of the form are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List up to three ideas you want to implement in the classroom to improve student success.</li> <li>• List up to three areas in which you need to improve.</li> <li>• List up to three activities that promoted the mission of the College.</li> </ul> <p>As of now, this is intended for full-time faculty only.</p> <p>Some Senate members voiced their concerns about student evaluations. One concern was the fact that student evaluation results are not returned to faculty in a timely fashion, which makes it difficult to incorporate in their self-evaluations and/or to make improvements before the next semester begins. The other major concern was with Class Climate itself. The survey causes confusion. For example, comments are not linked to the</p>	

	questions.	
<b>ATC Items</b>	Pam stated that the ATC was waiting for Faculty Senate to determine how committee assignments will be changed due to the restructuring of departments/divisions.	Carol Buse has agreed to lead the committee on committees.
<b>ITC</b>	Pam mentioned that Lee Colaw discussed the same topics during the ITC meeting that he did during his Faculty Senate visit in September.	
<b>Faculty Development</b>	The next meeting is on November 18.	Report back next time.
<b>Courtesy Committee</b>	No report.	Send a card to Jana Comerford about her sister.
<b>Elections Committee</b>	The use of Class Climate for the Piper nominee was well received.	
<b>Pinning Committee</b>	Denise Hirsch	
<b>Legislative Committee</b>	No report.	
<b>Mead Committee</b>	Vicki and John will be meeting soon.	
<b>Professor Emeritus Committee</b>	No report.	
<b>Questions Committee</b>	<p>Michelle Orcutt reported that HR would be glad to have a special retirement session for faculty if we could get a list of those interested in attending. Also, the retirement calculator is on the HR website.</p> <p>The following questions were sent to the committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much does the Faculty Focus newsletter that is sent out to our Outlook e-mail accounts cost the college? I don't know anyone who reads it. Maybe we could save some money there.</li> <li>2. What happened to the results of last year's Senate Faculty Survey? I'd like to see them.</li> <li>3. I recently heard the Academic Affairs committee was done away with. This was one of the few places faculty</li> </ol>	<p>The committee will respond to the questions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some faculty do read the Faculty Focus newsletter, but we will find out how much it costs.</li> <li>2. The results were sent out this week.</li> <li>3. The committee was renamed. It is now the Curriculum Committee. It's charge is the same as before.</li> <li>4. Faculty parking was part of last year's salary proposal. The Salary Committee was informed that all employee groups would have to be included.</li> </ol>

had a real voice in important decision making at the college. Has the Academic Affairs Committee been done away with? If so, how did this decision come about? Why were faculty not told about it?

4. What are the objections to reserving a couple of rows in the north parking lot facing 22nd Street for faculty? Faculty have been needing - and asking for - some reserved parking on the north side of the Washington Street campus for years. It wouldn't cost the college anything to speak of and it would show a bit of respect for faculty, many of whom are feeling more and more marginalized and demoralized.
5. Dr. Lowery-Hart says about the "No Excuses" initiative that faculty "will be front and center in the planning and subsequent implementation." So far, I haven't seen any faculty involvement at all, nor even any opportunity to express opinions. Even the survey that was sent out following the Poverty Seminar was sent in such a way that it couldn't be responded to anonymously. I know several faculty who had legitimate objections to many ideas put forth in Dr. Beighel's seminar, but did not respond to this survey because of this lack of anonymity. Also, we are being told two things concerning the "No Excuses" initiative. On the one hand, Dr. Lowery-Hart tells us that we're not being asked to lower standards or make exceptions or even change our way of teaching. On the other hand, we read in the *Amarillo Globe News*, "Amarillo College will no longer have any excuses if one of its students does not successfully complete his or her program for a degree or certificate." The focus, clearly, is on the school -- and therefore the faculty -- to pass students, no matter what the students do -- or don't do. Lana Jackson is quoted in *The Ranger* as saying, "AC pledges to remove any barrier that might prevent

5. The Faculty Senate officers will schedule a meeting with Dr. Lowery-Hart to discuss this concern.
6. The Faculty Senate officers will schedule a meeting with Dr. Lowery-Hart to discuss this concern.

	<p>students from reaching their academic goals." "<u>Any</u> barrier." Such a "pledge" <u>cannot</u> possibly be kept without lowering standards or granting privileges or making exceptions for some students. Many faculty have serious reservations about the whole philosophy behind this movement and the logistics in carrying it out, but they have as yet had no opportunity to voice their concerns. So my question is <u>when</u> will this so-called "dialogue" begin for real? When will faculty be given a <u>real</u> opportunity to speak in a format where they will feel safe to truly speak their minds?</p> <p>6. It has come to several faculty members' attention that a selection of faculty in the math and science departments has been chosen to evaluate the credentials of all faculty in order to meet SACS requirements. Isn't having a colleague check other faculty members' of transcripts an invasion of privacy? Should this responsibility not fall on the department chairs and HR? Why were faculty not aware that this was being done and who made the decision?</p>	
<b>Faculty Survey Committee</b>	Judy Isbell reported that the results from last year's survey have been sent out. Jeremy Mares informed the committee that it would not be possible to send out the new Faculty Senate Survey before the end of the semester.	
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>	05:19:00 PM	Judy Isbell - 1st motion Brent Cavanaugh - 2nd Unanimous
<b>Next Meeting</b>	December 2, 2011 will be held at the West Campus, Allied Health Bldg., Room 162.	

Recorder: Collin Witherspoon/Senate Secretary