

Classified Employees Council Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: February 26, 2009

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Washington Street Campus, Private Dining Room 106

Members Present: Holly Hicks, Felicity Swann, Corey Willis, Catfish Evans, Dave Snelson, Gina Garrett, Mike Jager, and Kathy Wheeler

Members Absent: Lissa Merchant and Connie deJesus

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Holly Hicks.

President's Report: presented by Dr. Matney

Dr. Matney began by asking the CEC to submit any questions to him.

He commented on the ground breaking ceremony held February 22nd of the new nursing building on West campus. He was proud of the ceremonies and felt Dr. Jones was smiling down at us. According to Dr. Matney, it was a good day for AC, to celebrate Dr. Jones' life and legacy. Construction should begin March 2009, with a Fall 2010 opening. In addition, the new biology lab on the Washington campus should open Spring 2010. Bids are still being taken for renovations to Parcell's Hall and the Byrd building. While working on renovations, students will temporarily be moved to the old biology building. Warren Hall will also be renovated.

The Board of Regents deferred on hiring consultants for the position of Amarillo College President, choosing to evaluate internal candidates first. Dr. Matney revealed he will be applying for the job. He looks forward to putting together an application and sharing his vision of Amarillo College. He feels any internal candidate must earn the position.

Dr. Matney discussed his trip to Austin for Community College Day. He stated a group met with Kel Seliger, John Smithee, and Dave Swinford. After talking with the legislators, Dr. Matney said they would support us (AC); however, we've heard that before, so we'll see. One student, Brittany Bargas from Caprock, who attended the event, shared her story with Dave Swinford. She comes from a large family. Her mother has 18 siblings, and her dad has 8 siblings; therefore, Brittany has over 100 cousins. She is the 1st in her family to attend college and is an A.C.E. scholarship student. She said she has taken several of her cousins, ranging in age from 8-13, around the campus, and now, they're interested in attending college too. Swinford stated he was the first in his family to attend college, and he considered Brittany a hero. Dr. Matney agreed lives are being changed.

The budgeting progress is beginning. These are troubling economic times. Our tuition has gone up 114%. According to Dr. Matney, we need to be sensitive to balancing the budget. Governor Perry does not support the President's stimulus package, but, according to Dr. Matney, he would take the money anyway; therefore, if Texas gets money, so should Amarillo College. Amarillo College typically

does not receive a lot of state support. In 1986, we received 66%. Today, we receive about 29%. According to Dr. Matney, less than 1/3 of AC support comes from the state. He reiterated again we need proportionality to go away concerning employee health benefits.

We have 150 students enrolled in the Wind Energy program, and over 500 on a waiting list.

Dr. Matney and a group of AC students were scheduled to visit San Jacinto Christian Academy after the February CEC meeting to talk to students about AC. According to Dr. Matney, this is a marvelous opportunity to give AC information to students and encourage them to attend college locally. He wants AC to adopt this school.

Topic Board of Regents Meeting for February

Information/Discussion

Corey Willis presented.

Minutes from January were approved.

Student Government Association Report

- Condolences for the loss of Dr. Jones
- Distinguished Lecture – John Walsh from America’s Most Wanted
March 5th , 7:30, Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza
- Started State meeting and preparing for competitions

Edu Serve Contract for Dr Laura Grandgenett

- Extended to June 30th to provide a smooth transition for new CIO Lee Colaw starting in July

NASA Faculty Training

- Jack Stanley & Colin Witherspoon
 - Went to NASA, did experiments in Zero Gravity
 - Showed Video
 - Experience will be shared with AC and local high school students
 - With AC being there it provides students the opportunity to compete and possibly also get to go on the Zero Gravity Plane to conduct their experiments.

Strategic Plan Update – Danita McAnally, Dean of Assessment and Development

- AC now offers 7 complete online degree and another 20 are very close to be completely online.
- Last 7 years online growth up 536% - 1 in 5 AC students are taking an online course.
- Looking into using E-Checks and AC debit card for student’s financial aid.
 - ie. They get a loan/scholarship, and the money would go on a card where the student could take it to the bookstore and use it to buy books etc.

Consent Agenda – Passed

Hiring of

- Brian Nixon – Director of eLearning Center
- Walker Carlisle – Math Instructor
- Bruce Moseley – Paralegal Instructor

Bond Project – Jones Hall on West Campus

- Bid Proposal - Had Budgeted 10.8 Million
 - Accept a bid of 9.8 million
 - Extra money to be used in other areas they thought they might be short in.

Sim Central Purchase Request – Passed

- Start of Fall 09
- Spend up to 250,000
 - Will include equipment for 3 simulation bays
 - Sim Baby etc.

Financial Report – Approved

President's Report

- Community College Days - AC took 9 students
- Enrollment was over 9900 this Spring
- Starting Budget Process
- New CIO for ITS Division - Lee Colaw will be starting in July

Public Comments

- They excused Dr. Matney from the meeting due to the topic of the Public Comments.
- Comments from 3 former AC College Employees
 - All 3 recommend Dr. Matney for the job of AC new President.
 - Nothing but praise for Dr Matney.
 - Would be a waste of money for a search committee and consultants to find a new president when we already have the best man for the job right here in Paul Matney.

Topic Approval of CEC Minutes

Information/Discussion

January 29, 2009—approved

Topic Ask It Basket

Information/Discussion

Dave Snelson's question about the use of social security numbers on campus documents was discussed. Holly received a suggestion from a former CEC member to send an email to Lynn Thornton, concerning campus policy regarding social security numbers, and include a copy of the email to Dr. Matney. Then, wait for a written response before proceeding. Catfish commented on pay stubs being thrown away in trash cans, which have an employee's i.d. numbers and the last 4 digits of their socials.

Topic CEC Vacancy

Information/Discussion

Rebecca Archer and Nola Bartling will fill vacancies on the CEC left by Suzette Overstreet and Tina Maloney.

Topic Look at the Election Timeline

Information/Discussion

Holly gave CEC members a copy of the CEC election timeline. Every year, the CEC must elect four new members, as four existing members have fulfilled their three year terms. Nominations will be made March 23rd—April 3rd. A ballot will be created around April 6th and sent to employees April 9th. Ballots should be returned by Thursday, April 16th. Around April 23-24th, council members will be required to count ballots for accuracy. Election results will be announced at the April 30th CEC meeting. During the May 28th CEC meeting, new members will be introduced, officers elected, and farewells given to CEC members who have fulfilled their terms.

Topic Email Conversion Plan

Information/Discussion

Holly Hicks presented.

Holly spoke with Anastacio Nieves from Network Services. They are still working on the email 'groups' we used in GroupWise. This is targeted to be completed by the end of the Spring 2009 semester. He fixed the CEC email group. Dave said there was some resistance to the idea of having a computer at Physical Plant for employees to check their email. He said there was discussion concerning employees possibly spending too much time on the computer searching other sites, but Dave heard there is an option to restrict computers to only view pre-approved web pages.

Topic Paper Certificates-Are we able to do this?

Information/Discussion

Holly Hicks presented.

Because the pinning ceremonies are a joint endeavor between the Classified Employees Council and the Administrative Association, both groups must agree to providing certificates to all attendees. Unfortunately, due to the fact that the Administrative Association had already met prior to this meeting, the CEC could not get their opinion on this. Their next meeting is March 11th. We will wait for their response. The CEC received remaining funds from the dissolution of ACCEA. We have contacted Terry Berg to inquire if we can use the funds to pay for these paper certificates and a new punch bowl. In addition, we are checking if these funds will be available every year, or just once.

Topic Miscellaneous/Open discussion

Information/Discussion

Comments were printed in the paper about the hiring of a new AC President. CEC was not mentioned. The council agreed a CEC member should be on the committee to hire a new AC President.

Adjourned

2:56 p.m.

Next meeting March 26, 2009