

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2007

Call to Order: Scott Beckett, President, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Senators Present: Scott Beckett, Steve Weber, Steve Beckham, Claudie Biggers, Nancy Brent, Jnita Collins, Kay Taylor substituting for Mindy Graham, Pricilla Hunt substituting for Ann Hamblin, Marianne Jones, Michael Kopenits, Bob Mathews, Aimee Martin, Gay Mills, Bill Netherton, Sheree Talkington, Lil Withrow, and Henry Wyckoff.

Senators Absent: Lana Jackson, Larry Adams, Karla Dixon, Ann Hamblin.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of September 7, 2007 were approved as stated. The motion to approve was made by Henry Wyckoff and seconded by Lil Withrow.

President's Report:

Steve Dutton – Scott Beckett reported that Steve Dutton has come home from the hospital with the aide of hospice care. Michael Kopenits and Claudie Biggers said that the Dutton family wish to have visitors, and that an email will be forthcoming regarding appropriate times to visit Steve at his home. Senators agreed to purchase some sandwich trays and boxes of tissues for the family during this difficult time.

Learning Management System – Scott Beckett reported that Instructional Technology is researching possible learning management systems to replace WebCT, and are looking at Course Cruiser and Blackboard. Scott indicated some concerns regarding Course Cruiser's support and mentioned that AISD school system was already using Blackboard.

Portal – There are 2 years left on the contract for the Web Portal. Scott Beckett encouraged the senators to poll their students to get feedback on "myAC" in order to collect information in anticipation of future decisions regarding web portals.

Assessment and PET forms – Scott Beckett reported attending a meeting regarding Assessment. Danita McAnally stated from that meeting that the Assessment process is important to collect data over a 6-year period of time to help fulfill SACS requirements. Scott Beckett credits Dr. Jones for encouraging the process to help make the college better in addition to fulfilling SACS requirements. Gay Mills reported that while serving on the "General Education Competency Committee" regarding Communication Skills, the committee was surprised that student results fell below their expectations. Scott Beckett also mentioned that there was some discussion about tying student assessment with budget in the future.

President's Council – Scott Beckett said that Dr. Jones, Matney, and Johnson were averaging 3-4 presentations daily regarding the upcoming bond election. The President's Council is undergoing some changes from last year. The 18 members of the council will rotate and Dr. Jones will prepare agenda's for the meetings. Any questions posed to the President's Council should be forwarded to Dr. Jones. Dr. Jones reported that he believes the Governors veto will be reinstated soon, but will likely have compromises. Scott Beckett also reported that the Strategic Plan for technology upgrades is underway. While it may take about a 5-6 year period of somewhat painful transition, a controlled IT governance of a 3 to 4-year rotating basis for new computers is in the plan. IT further reported that the system will be down on the 3rd Friday of each month for upgrades.

Senate Sub-Committee Assignments:

Elections Committee – Michael Kopenits stated that nominations have begun to fill the Sciences and Engineering position on the faculty senate.

Technology Committee – No report.

Courtesy Committee – Lil Withrow said that 6 cards were sent out to the following: John Chaka for the birth of his son, Ann Hamblin, Brad Borden for the birth of his second daughter, John McConnell for the death of his great-grandson, and Frank Sobey for the birth of his daughter.

Salary Committee – Henry Wyckoff reported that the committee is in the beginning stages of meetings, gathering data and researching facts. Lana Jackson and Henry Wyckoff met with Dr. Jones on September 17 to solicit his input regarding faculty salaries and compensation. Faculty senators were provided a handout of notes from the meeting.

Questions Committee – Bill Netherton received several questions for the faculty senate. Questions included adjusting the time schedule of 12 noon classes to 12:30 to allow for student club meetings and lunch, status of an online bookstore, an article in the Globe-News regarding Frank Phillips Community College ranking without mentioning AC, faculty parking, and equity in selecting and continuing department chair positions. After some discussion, the senators decided to forward several questions to Dr. Matney and others appropriate to answer these questions.

Faculty Development Committee – Michael Kopentis reported from minutes of a meeting of the Faculty Development Committee as follows. 1. The ACTS 2008 retreat will be shortly after spring commencement in Santa Fe, NM. 2. Courtney Milleson announced the first meeting of the AC Common Reader Program. 3. Patsy Lemaster stated that Mindleaders training will be offered, and volunteers are needed for a pilot project. 4. FDC members are working to identify topics for Faculty COINS.

Faculty Survey Committee – Aimee Martin reported that their first meeting will be next week.

Informational Parking Committee – No report

Old Business:

AC Multi-passenger vehicle – Bob Mathews reported that he encountered a computer failure and was unable to forward the bus information to the faculty senators. Steve Weber stated that he spoke to Heather Atchley and she has agreed to serve as a liaison on that committee.

New Business:

Claudie Biggers reported that the AC Foundation Hot Air Balloon event is in need of volunteers on the weekend of October 26-27. Contact Sharon Doggett if you can help.

Scott Beckett requested a special meeting next week October 12 to invite Dr. Jones and Dr. Matney to speak about the bond election. Senators requested a special invitation for all faculty to attend. Scott Beckett will contact Dr. Matney before formally inviting all faculty.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Henry Wyckoff and seconded by Aimee Martin. The motion was carried unanimously at 3:55 p.m.