

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2007

Call to Order: Scott Beckett, President, called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Senators Present: Scott Beckett, Lana Jackson, Steve Weber, , Nancy Brent, Jnita Collins, Karla Dixon, Mindy Graham, Pricilla Hunt substituting for Ann Hamblin, Marianne Jones, , Bob Mathews, Aimee Martin, Gay Mills, Bill Netherton, Mark Rowh substituting for Sheree Talkington, Lil Withrow, and Michael Graf substituting for Henry Wyckoff.

Senators Absent: Larry Adams, Steve Beckham, Claudie Biggers, and Michael Kopenits

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of October 5, 2007 were approved as submitted. The motion to approve was made by Lil Withrow and seconded by Bob Matthews.

President's Report: Scott Beckett thanked the west campus faculty for hosting our meeting at the Allied Health Building.

Mead Award: Discussed under New Business

Technology Review: Scott Beckett shared a handout he received from Brad Johnson regarding the Eduserve consultation findings that was presented to the Board of Regents. Scott reported that Groupwise will be replaced by Outlook. The new servers will include "blade theory." Blackboard will replace WebCT, an advantage for AC since AISD is already using blackboard and students will be familiar with it. Finally, the portal will go away due to lack of support from Datatel.

Eduserve: Scott met with Eduserve consultants, Victor Fite, and Brad Johnson regarding future changes to AC's technology instruction. Eduserve recommends a 3-year plan with benchmarks. They recommend an increase of smart classrooms, a better structure to the governance of the IT department, training of faculty, development of programs to test student hardware and tutorials for online classes, and the goal of one login for everything. Eduserve challenged our IT and administration with asking "who takes ownership of all the various projects, and noted a lack of accountability in the organizational structure. Their findings and recommendations could be tied to budget, updating labs, keeping specific training for dedicated labs, and creating centralized databases for forms, policies, and committees (including committee minutes, etc.). Scott reported that Eduserve will release their findings in November, with a strategic plan delivered in December.

Senate Position descriptions: Scott Beckett requested from the senate that all senate subcommittee chairs and members of the senate executive committee create a description of their positions on a "word" document. These documents will be compiled by Scott and placed on a thumb drive to aide future senators in those positions.

Senate Sub-Committee Assignments:

Elections Committee – Scott Beckett recognized new faculty senator Diana Johnson, and asked for a motion to destroy the ballots. The motion was made by Bill Netherton and seconded by Nancy Brent and was carried.

Technology Committee – No report

Courtesy Committee – Lil Withrow reported that cards were sent to Bobbie Hyndman for the death of her mother, to Steve Dutton's family, and to Joel Goucher for his retirement.

Salary Committee – Lana Jackson reported that the salary committee is currently compiling data and creating a document of facts regarding salary comparisons. They plan to present this document to Dr. Jones in January after the CPI is released. Lana praised her committee for their excellent work.

Questions Committee – Bill Netherton reported that Dr. Matney responded to the questions from the previous meeting (see attachment for entire response). Regarding the suggestion to open up time for clubs by changing the 12 noon class schedule to 12:30 as proposed by SGA, Dr. Matney reported that after much discussion, the current schedule has more flexibility for more students. Dr. Matney made suggestions to assist SGA in promoting student involvement in clubs. Regarding the question about Frank Phillips College recognition in the paper, Dr. Matney responded that the data came from an organizational survey from Community College Survey of Student Engagement, a group with whom AC does not participate. The final question regarded appointment of faculty chairs. Dr. Matney reported that selection of department chairs does seek faculty input, requiring the supervision of the division chair. There is no “hired for life” tenured position, and the chairs are held accountable through the evaluation process. The senate further discussed the issue. Many departments do have direct involvement in interviewing and making recommendations, and the final decision is made by Dr. Matney. Senators recognized that department chairs salaries are very low for their job requirement. Scott Beckett suggested to invite Dr. Matney to the next senate meeting to further discuss this issue.

Bill Netherton reported two more questions: 1) How are faculty committee appointments selected? and 2) Is there any policy regarding use of profanity?. Scott Beckett responded to answer the first question. Dr. Matney’s office sends out a request for faculty to volunteer for standing committee service. The executive committee of the faculty senate gets the list, discusses, and makes recommended selections for each standing committee. Then the recommendation is forwarded to Dr. Matney and the Presidents Cabinet, who make the final decisions. Appointed committees are handled differently, and the administration can create and select appointed committees as they determine those needs. Scott reported that administration may look into restructuring and streamlining some standing committees into more centralized committees. The senate further discussed their personal experience regarding selection and service on committees.

Regarding the second question about use of profanity, the senate consensus was that while no policy exists specifically to this issue, all AC employees should be expected to behave in a professional manner, and the use of profanity has no place in our academic environment.

Faculty Development Committee - Lana Jackson reported that Faculty COINS has served its purpose and is going away. Professional development activities are evolving into "Communities of Learning," offering faculty opportunities to develop skills and interests through multiple sessions over a period of time. Three new communities have been introduced: the MindLeaders Series, CMS Faculty Focus, and MyAC Users Community. The MindLeaders Series offers interactive, online training opportunities which faculty can sign up for on an individual basis. Participants must complete the first module of their choice by the end of the Fall semester. The FDC will assess the value of this series at the end of this academic year to determine whether or not to continue the external service. Both CMS Faculty Focus, developed by Tommy de Jesus, and MyAC Users Community are offered on campus.

Faculty Survey Committee – Aimee Martin reported that she met with Danita McAnally regarding the new faculty survey, and that our administration was pleased with last year’s survey. Their committee is looking at ways to improve the survey to clarify the data and encourage higher faculty responses.

Information Parking Committee – No report

Old Business:

AC Multi-passenger vehicle – Bob Matthews provided a handout of charter bus options. Scott Beckett asked the senate to review the handout and invite Heather Atchley to our next meeting for discussion. Senators suggested developing a list of mandatory needs. Steve Weber will get a copy of Bob’s handout to Heather.

Other: None.

New Business:

Dutton Memorial – Senators suggest naming a room/lab/building in memory of Steve Dutton. Senators suggested the discussion to be tabled until after the bond election.

Mead Award – A faculty member met with Scott Beckett regarding the Mead Award. This person felt it should be more “student” driven. The senate discussed the history of the Mead Award, how it has changed over the years, and how it has become a complicated balance between student and faculty involvement. It was also suggested that letters be sent to former students, that tables could be set up for nominations from current students, and that the online method needs revision. Scott Beckett suggested that the Mead committee seek materials from last year’s chair Judy Isbell and then discuss and make recommendations.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lil Withrow and seconded by Jnita Collins. The motion was carried unanimously at 4:23 p.m.