

Vice President's Council
February 28, 2007
Summary Notes

Members Present: Paul Matney, Robert Boyd, Bill Crawford, Daniel Esquivel, Toni Gordy, Mark Hanna, David Hernandez, Judy Johnson, Jerry Moller, Sheryl Mueller, Ed Nolte, Lou Ann Seabourn, Robert Sloger, Jack Stanley, and Renee Vincent

Members Absent:

Others Present: Alex Vargas (MCC – guest of Renee Vincent)

Jack Stanley

Matney welcomed Jack Stanley to the Council.

Bobbie Glasscock

Dr. Matney announced that Bobbie is retiring on April 30.

“Chair Academy” (Dwight Huber & Dr. Kathy Wetzel)

Matney announced that the Chair Academy facilitated by Huber and Wetzel will kick off on Friday, March 2. The academy will be an opportunity for department chairs, program directors, and program coordinators to meet, brainstorm, and share. 50 invitations went out and 25 have made reservations. This new “informal group” will be a new POD initiative.

Department Chair Performance Review Program (evaluations)

The link to the department chair evaluation instrument will be sent to participating faculty and staff via e-mail. Responses for chairs with less than four respondents will not be revealed to the chairs but only to their supervisors.

First Year Experience Conference – Jerry Moller

Moller said the conference was hosted by the University of South Carolina and attended by seven AC faculty and staff. The focus was on college success and learning communities and the presenters had success in the concepts and were using transfer courses. He noted that AC's STSU 0211: Student Success is new and is not a transfer course which can be problematic.

Part-Time Faculty Load Policy

Matney believes the definition regarding part-time faculty loads in the Board Policy Manual is confusing. He is proposing adding a “Part-time Teaching Load Policy Explanation” to the policy. Matney noted that part-time loads of 12 hours should be used with discretion.

Testing Center Policy

Matney noted that the handout emphasizes the Testing Center can no longer accommodate proctoring all exams for an entire class. Reasonable requests for exceptions should be addressed to Jason Norman. The Testing Center should be used by faculty primarily for make-up exams.

Faculty Online Advisory Committee – Lou Ann Seabourn

Seabourn is chairing the new Faculty Online Advisory Committee. She said it is a standing committee whose membership is comprised of the director of E-Learning, a faculty representative from each division, a continuing education representative and herself. The mission of the committee is to involve faculty in the ongoing process of improving online teaching and learning, and to improve the development of online courses at Amarillo College. The committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month. Chairs should e-mail Seabourn any items they would like the committee to review.

Tech Prep Update – Lou Ann Seabourn

Matney and Seabourn updated the chairs about AC's relationship with Tech Prep. The last nine months have been a difficult period with Tech Prep. Amarillo College supports and will continue to support Tech Prep. As of February 18 Amarillo College, Clarendon College, and Frank Phillips College withdrew their memberships. Amarillo College also withdrew as the fiscal agent. Amarillo College will continue to honor Tech Prep agreements made with the secondary schools. We are working to get funding back. Seabourn said in the future more money will go to the schools, students, and programs. There are 66 schools in the Panhandle who can be part of Tech Prep. The Career Expo at WTAMU still wants representatives from Amarillo College to participate.

College Readiness and Course Re-Design Project – House Bill 1 (THECB) – Robert Sloger

House Bill 1 re-designed what we do with education in Texas. The Bill requires that 25 entry level courses be re-designed. We submitted two names for college readiness teams: Dan Ferguson (English) who was not appointed and Dan Porter (Biology) who was appointed. Sloger noted that Section 5 affects community colleges.

Matney questioned why Amarillo College would want to get immediately involved in course re-design and has talked to some of his counterparts at other colleges. If chairs have faculty who would like to get involved, McAnally can get copies of the RFP's. What they are trying to do is use current technology to improve college readiness and spread it throughout Texas. The first phase for Jump Start is already completed. RFP's for the second phase (Fast Track) will go out in May. They are taking large enrollment classes and re-designing them using "best practices." Core courses will be re-designed first. Matney said the big community colleges are jumping in first.

Seabourn said schools are tending to teach students to get out of high school not teaching them to get into college.

Branch Campus Online Course Decision

Matney said that for more than a year a group has been trying to develop a way for the branch campuses to teach more on-line classes. About six weeks ago, he proposed selecting WSC on-line classes and reserving seats for both MCC and Hereford sections linked to the WSC class. The contact hours and the expenses would be allocated proportionately to the branch campuses. Due to several factors, the proposal was not approved. Vincent said she believes strongly that students are voting with their enrollment in online classes and that online classes are needed at the branch campuses. With more students taking online classes, it is difficult for the branch campuses to grow. Matney wants the branch campus directors and himself to meet with Dr. Jones and others about some of the problems the branch campuses are facing. Matney will set a meeting time soon.

TACHE (Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education) Report – Daniel Esquivel

Esquivel and Alex Vargas (MCC) recently attended the TACHE convention and Esquivel gave a presentation.

The Association's main focus is Closing the Gap:

By 2015 – main goal is to add 600,000 new students to college and universities in Texas

In 2005 - goal to enroll Hispanics was 340,000; actual 314,000; all other races surpassed goal.

By 2040 – 70 percent of the Texas population will be Hispanic

Hispanics are the largest, fastest growing minority group in Texas. By 2015, Hispanics will be the majority of the population. In Texas, out of every 100 Latinos, 60 are dropouts, 20 finish high school, 8 college bound, only 1 becomes Masters/ Graduate level.

Esquivel would like for the WSC to host a TACHE seminar. WTAMU is involved in the program.

Hernandez said that we can begin by encouraging Hispanic students to further their education. He asked the chairs to be sensitive to the need of Hispanics on advisory committees. Currently about 24-25 percent of Amarillo College's student population is Hispanic.

Esquivel noted that some schools are offering courses/programs that will attract Hispanic students such as History and Humanities classes that focus on the Latino culture.

2007 – 2008 Budget Requests

Budget information will be sent out via e-mail on March 1. If a budget officer needs to be corrected contact Bobbie.

Non-print materials will not be included in equipment but will have its own object code. Salaries have been loaded as of March 1. Budgets are due April 2 to the Business Office. Dr. Jones has said no new positions, so any request will need a strong rationale. Funds for unfilled positions are going to be released. Matney told the chairs to budget what they need - not what they have always budgeted. The Governor's budget proposes AC will receive \$1.6 to 1.8 million dollars less than last year. Matney suggested chairs write our representatives and senators about funding needs for community college education.

MATH 1333 – Contemporary Math

Matney announced that for years we have been in violation of Coordinating Board policy. MATH 1333 is in the ACGM. Amarillo College teaches it below college level and many AAS program accept it. The lowest prerequisite test score for a college-level math is 270. Amarillo College chose to accept 230 for MATH 1333 and due to that lower test score, it is not listed in the Math general education course list. WTAMU has approached Wetzel about this. It should be a transfer course and some students are taking it and trying to transfer it to WTAMU. WTAMU questions why they should accept it if AC's doesn't include it on its approved general education course list.

Matney has talked to Dr. Goeman at the Coordinating Board and he has agreed that we do have a problem. Matney will work with the programs that are affected.

Announcements:

- TCCTA – Matney noted that the handout was distributed at the TCCTA meeting last week
- WECM Training Session; March 7; B&I; 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Matney emphasized that this is an important meeting for technical/occupational programs chairs and he encouraged that those programs be represented at the meeting by division and department chairs and staff assistants for all WECM programs.
- Online student evaluations pilot project (Faculty Evaluation Committee) – The committee is looking at converting to on-line student evaluations and doing a voluntary pilot this spring.
- Web-based enrollment data – The Strategic Plan Status Report was distributed at the February Board meeting. Matney noted the section on Web/Hybrid classes and how both are growing.
- POD discontinues tracking external staff development – President's Cabinet has decided to discontinue tracking of external staff development which will save staff time and effort. Individuals are encouraged to track their own external development.
- Board Meeting
 - Professor Emeritus – Judy Hathcock (ESL and English)
On behalf of the Faculty Senate Scott Beckett made the recommendation to the Board of Regents
 - Dr. Jones – Is recovering, doing well, and will probably report back to work on a limited basis later this week.
 - Community Capital Needs Assessment Committee – Touring the campuses and seeing the needs and what we do at Amarillo College. The purpose of the committee is to take a look at the needs of Amarillo College and then determine from a community viewpoint AC's most "pressing" needs. There may be some "make-up" tours available. Matney complimented Danita's office and the fact sheets she is putting together and also complimented the faculty speakers.
 - Student Government Report by SGA president Elizabeth Bauman.
 - The Medical Laboratory and Mortuary Science programs have both recently experienced accreditation visits and received complimentary reports.