Faculty Senate Minutes

Time and Date: 2:00pm – November 13, 2014 - Thursday

Senators Present:

Business & Information Technology - Craig Dawkins
Kristen Wolfe
Janelle Montgomery

Engineering Science - Amy Hurst
Bill Wilson
Steve Fowler

Humanities - Emily Robinson
Angie Keneda

Social Sciences - Joe Campbell
Kim Queri

Health Sciences - Brenda Lomas
Shelley Mitchell
Denise Haught

Adjunct- Amy Padgett-McCue

Deans - Claudia Buckmaster
Wayne Jones
Juanita Ortiz
Dan Points
Art Zenner

Call to Order: Amy Hurst called the meeting of November 13, 2014, to order at 2:00pm.

Approval of Minutes: Craig Dawkins motioned to approve the October meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Joe Campbell, there was no opposition - minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Emily Robinson reported that there were two deposits made for a total of 150 dollars which brings the balance of funds for the Faculty Senate to $6058.50.

Committee Reports:

1. Discussion and possible action related to committees.
   - There was no discussion of committee actions.
Old Business:

1. Update on meeting and dates and times for 2014-2015 meetings with Dr. Webb.
   - Next meeting with Dr. Webb is December 4th, 2014 at 2pm.
   - Spring times and dates for meetings are in flux and Amy Hurst will notify the Senate of dates and times

2. Letters of intent supplied in April (following board meeting).
   - You will receive a letter of intent in April and contracts in July. Dr. Webb is looking into the P and P to determine if these letters need to be provided to faculty and suggests that faculty poll their division faculty to see how strongly they feel about receiving the letter.
   - Dr. Webb’s intent is to hire everyone back, as long as there are sufficient funds.

New Business:

1. Discussion with stakeholders and possible action related to summit meeting between divisions regarding student enrollment, retention, and graduation. Ideas up for consideration include, but are not limited to: Spring convocation scheduling/planning workshop; 8 week/compressed courses; Priority enrollment for students with seniority.
   - Amy Hurst stated that the main point of this meeting is to have a discussion with as many stakeholders as possible relating to having a meeting at spring convocation with all divisions and all the individuals that play a role in regard to student enrollment, retention and graduation. She continued on to suggest that we have been tasked with this since our enrollment has decreased and with a decrease in enrollment comes a decreased need for full-time faculty.
   - Amy suggested that we have 9 to 10:30am during spring convocation to have a discuss ideas for alternative scheduling, retention, graduation, enrollment and retention. Do we want to bring somebody in to facilitate the discussion? We do want someone from outside the college to gain a fresh perspective, perhaps someone who comes from a college that has implemented alternative scheduling. The main idea that has come up is too offer a greater percentage of compressed classes.
   - What can we do to offer students more options? Some of the ideas put forward were priority enrollment, Weekend College and more eight week classes.
   - Craig Dawkins stated that the main reason we wanted the deans to attend is that a change of this magnitude cannot be implemented by one division without creating a huge disruption in enrollment across campus.
   - Claudia Buckmaster suggested that in Humanities developmental writing courses that students did particularly well during the first 8 week session and the students of the second 8 week session have not done nearly as well, which correlates with the findings in the developmental reading courses. They are still trying to determine the causal factors for this phenomenon and are aware that one size does not fit all.
   - It was mentioned that 8 week classes could cause some faculty to have to wait for overload pay until the second 8 weeks depending upon contractual obligation.
   - Dan Points questioned, What is the benefit of the 8 week movement? The mix we have seems to be working, what is broken? Craig Dawkins responded that it is broke because we have
dropping enrollment and other colleges with a similar problem have found a solution through alternative scheduling which includes offering more 8 week classes. It is not that 8 week classes is the guaranteed solution but the process may lead to what a viable solution is for the college. Perhaps, it is more Friday and Saturday offerings, or more hybrid 8 week, or hybrid 16 week or 12 week offerings gets our enrollment up. It is about finding the correct mix for our students to increase our market.

- Kristen Wolfe suggested that enrollment is cyclical, as unemployment decreases then enrollment in the college decreases. Craig Dawkins pointed out that while our enrollment has been falling four year schools in the area have seen increased enrollment, why?

- It was suggested that we need to advertise what we do. That we offer the same courses that four year schools offer and they are directly transferable, the professor knows your name, the class size is smaller, the cost is less expensive.

- Claudia Buckmaster stated that the reason they went to more 8 week classes in their development reading and writing was in response to their faculty. The Humanities faculty noticed that student engagement and attendance was high until 8 week mark and then student engagement and attendance dropped off, they did this for retention efforts.

- Members of the math department raised concerns about being forced to an 8 week schedule for their developmental math courses. They suggest that 8 weeks is too short of time frame and may hamper student success.

- When people start being creative on scheduling it begins to wreak havoc, it creates an environment where each division wants there students, it becomes a pick and choose of who gets what, there has to be a balance in it so every division gets their students.

- It was suggested that the issue at hand is a complex marketing research problem, we have a body of students that we do not want to alienate, and the vast majority have stated that they do not like eight week classes. We are currently serving the students we have with what they want and now we are asking about new markets. We need some real research and numbers to guide this decision so we are not grasping at straws.

- Dan Points suggested that cohorts have tremendous merit, you join a family and go through that program together for two years. How can we build these cohorts among the divisions?

- It was suggested that Planning Council is already working on cohorts beyond developmental courses.

- Comments were made in regard to the lack of knowledge among area high school students as to what Rose State offers. It was suggested that students at Midwest City did not know have of the things that they could do at Rose and that their current perception is that they needed to go another school for that area of interest, program or class.

- The comment was made that we need more marketing at all levels: area high schools, locally and regionally.

- Craig Dawkins posed this question to the Deans, How would you approach a 12 week and 8 week schedule integrated with the current sixteen week schedule?

- The Deans suggested that a twelve week approach with the current 8 and 16 week offerings would be a scheduling and logistical nightmare, some buildings are already at a maximum capacity for classes.

- It was pointed out that scheduling for some programs is the problem. Classes need to be offered at times in which the students prefer and not be moved around. It is important to be consistent to offer all of program’s classes in an organized manner throughout the school year.
• It was pointed out that we need to have some serious research completed to show how removing Fridays from the class schedule (MWF) has affected student retention.
• Several participants suggested that maybe we need to try a Friday schedule again, however, the offerings need to be robust enough across all disciplines to make it work for the student. Make entire programs available on Fridays.
• It was suggested, that it is more marketing than anything else. Nobody knows what we offer – the great programs. Talk about the quality more and market the cost less. We need to market all the way around, 70 percent of our students are from outside the area. For the market that we are serving we have not maxed out.
• Comments were made, it is the achievements of the faculty that will attract the students and market programs.
• It was suggested that if you have a bad website than you are done. Our virtual media is bad.
• The question was raised, were do we go from here? Several participants commented and the general consensus was a need to focus on best practices and scheduling. We need to do the research and developmental studies. It was also pointed out that marketing is paramount; having an overview of what everyone is doing as best practices inside and outside the college.

2. Discussion with Division Deans regarding expanded partnerships. Do we have outreach to supplement Campus Marketing Plans? What are or can we do regarding sponsorships, volunteerism, and support with Chambers and City Halls within our technical district?
   • It was the consensus of meeting participants that these questions have been exhausted through the discussion with stakeholders and possible action related to summit meeting between divisions regarding student enrollment, retention, and graduation.

Call to Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn at 3:32pm, the motion was seconded and all were in favor.