The Faculty Senate of Coastal Bend College met on December 11 2009, in the distance learning rooms. The meeting was called to order President Elden Price. John W. Fox gave the invocation. Senators present were: Donna Atkins, Karl Clark, Juanita Dominguez, John W. Fox, Jerry Frasier, Cynthia Hatcher, Jeanene Jones, Ed Massey, Katie Perez, Elden Price, Ann Richmond, Becky Simonson. Senators absent were: Noemi Aguilar, Lisa Craig-Young, Floyd Green (nursing conference conflict), Anna Green (Title V meeting conflict), Eddie Guidry, Darien Lieker. Visitors present were: Dr. Thomas Baynum, Betty Sims, Irma Trevino. On a motion by Ed Massey, seconded by Jeanene Jones, the Minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2009, were unanimously approved as written.

A report from the recent SACS conference was presented by Jeanene Jones. She and Mark Secord attended as faculty representatives for the college. She stated there were two main items that would impact faculty credentials:

1. Academic Faculty – A master’s degree plus 18 hours in the field may not necessarily be required to teach academic courses. There are other ways to qualify that require one-on-one discussions with the SACS representative.
2. Workforce Faculty—It is OK to follow WECM guidelines for approving instructors in vocational-technical areas and these are less stringent than the previous interpretation of the SACS guidelines by the college.

No college passed the monitoring report so Coastal Bend College had the same issues all other colleges under review did with no really clear answers to any questions posed to the SACS representatives.
Dr. Thomas Baynum addressed the Senate with regard to a recent SACS meeting in Houston that he, Alma Adamez, Michael Kane, and Rito Silva attended. He said he took all the suggestions made by SACS seriously and has some good ideas to remedy potential problems but got vague answers from the SACS representatives to questions he and everyone else there posed. He stated that all 37 colleges reviewed “took a hit on faculty load” apparently because they did not do a table or did not do one in a format SACS preferred. SACS is implementing a 6 hour course overload rule beginning spring 2010. This is a problem because the college will need more adjuncts in some cases and our salaries do not attract individuals in many of the high-demand areas. So the “down side” is faculty load is and will continue to be an issue for SACS.

Dr. Baynum reported that the “up side” is that SACS is becoming more realistic about credentials and faculty qualifications and more sensitive to the financial stability issues of institutions dealing with the need to increase full-time or part-time faculty while at the same time having an unstable tax base and decline in enrollment. Unfortunately enrollment declines do mean letting people go. The SACS perception is that big overloads reduce quality.

He again reminded everyone that all 37 schools being monitored failed to receive approval, not just Coastal Bend College. The final written report is expected by January 15 and he said he would place it on the CBC website for all to see.

On a motion by John Fox, seconded by Ann Richmond, Juanita Dominguez was unanimously elected as chair of the Academic Freedom Committee and instructed to look at volunteers and select members for her committee that are representative of all areas of the college.

Discussion followed on the roles of Senators and the number of jobs each could have. While it is not in the Bylaws, there has been an informal agreement that a Senator may serve on only one committee. Mr. Price instructed the Bylaws Committee to review this and perhaps make a formal recommendation to change the Bylaws next year to include this limitation in order to allow more individuals to participate in decision making.

On a motion by Ed Massey, seconded by Jeanene Jones, the final list of committee chairs was unanimously approved.

The Salary and Benefits Committee had no report as it had not reviewed overload pay and policies yet. A January report was promised but may have to be postponed now that SACS has implemented its new rules.

Ed Massey stated that the Division Chairs Association had recommended that the number of hours available in testing centers for Internet course testing be increased to better accommodate the increasing number of students in Internet classes.

General discussion followed on the requirement in HB2504 for standardized syllabi and evaluations with no action taken.

Michelle Duran was not present but had indicated to Jeanene Jones that she wished to address the Senate regarding the enterprise license for WebCT6 and provide informational issues related to the Internet campus at an upcoming meeting.
Katie Perez reported on the new advising model and stated there had been only three applicants for the SSS advising position with a total of ten needed. She encouraged interested individuals to contact her as soon as possible.

Betty Sims briefly addressed the Senate stating her concern on the additional roles faculty members were being asked to assume with a concern faculty are being stretched too thin. The Senate agreed this could be discussed at a later meeting when it was on the Agenda.

On a motion by Ed Massey, seconded by Jeanene Jones, the meeting was adjourned.