CBC Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 17, 2014

3:30 pm

E110, A143, K108, P140

Sign-In Senators and Visitors (See Attached)

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 3:30; a quorum was verified and the Agenda was approved and adopted without changes.

Approval of Minutes from September 5, 2014 Senate Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were provided. Donna Atkins motioned to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded; motion carried unanimously.

President’s Report

Daniel reported that representatives of the Faculty Senate will now have a monthly meeting with Dr. Wagner to present the Senate’s current concerns to the administration. This meeting is to take place the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the afternoon. Daniel also reported about the latest developments from the QLT meeting and Accreditation and Evaluation Meeting. He then reported about the October Calendar Committee meeting. This led to discussion about the 15 additional workdays added to this year’s calendar. Many faculty members expressed concern about the addition of these days and the reason(s) why these days were added. It was agreed that this should be a future agenda item. Daniel further reported that Dr. Wagner explained that there is difficulty in implementing the pay raises because of the structure of the existing scale. There may be a new scale in the near future. Dr. Wagner also stated that all faculty members should be on a nine-month contract, with the exception of LVN faculty. Various faculty members expressed concern with this idea.
Old Business

Committee Membership

Daniel inquired about current state of committee membership. No change in committee membership took place.

New Business

Replacement of Beeville Senator

Mary Kay Best resigned as Faculty Senator for the Beeville campus. Becky indicated that Mr. Lee may be willing to be a Senator this year. Mr. Lee teaches internet and 4-way distance classes so he is quasi-Beeville. Discussion about representation ensued. Members were asked to encourage their fellow faculty members to join the Senate and/or to obtain verification that Mr. Lee would serve.

Reinstitution of Campus Wide Evaluations

The question was raised if the Faculty Senate wanted to pursue campus wide evaluations. Several faculty members discussed having an evaluation of campus climate in the past. Donna motioned that the Senate should pursue reinstatement of the campus wide evaluation; the motion was seconded and carried.

Equity and Efficacy of Current Advising Model

The current advising model is not working. Several instructors are assigned an enormous number of students 80-160+. Making matters worse, many instructors have students to advise on campuses in which they do not have a regular presence. Many members are concerned that the advising model was used as a form of punishment. It was generally agreed that the model as being implemented does not serve the best interest of students. Dr. Wagner said the Senate should request the QLT committee’s minutes so that the Senate could understand the processes used in implementing the advising model. Phyllis motioned that the Senate pursue addressing the advising model concerns; the motion was seconded and carried.

College-wide Communication

Several concerns have been brought to the Senate about the lack of communication between the administration and faculty. The implementation of raises and the change in programs were brought up as examples. Many faculty expressed concern that there needs to be more substantive communication between administration and faculty. Daniel will discuss this concern with Dr. Wagner.
Determination of Class Size

Several members of the Senate expressed concern about the seemingly arbitrary increase in class size that took place in the fall. It is unclear to the faculty on how both face-to-face and online class size is determined. Several faculty members reported that their classes increased in size without any consultation. Phyllis motioned that the Senate pursue addressing class size concerns with Dr. Wagner; the motion was seconded and carried.

Determination of Faculty to Student Ratio

Daniel discussed the issue of how the college calculated faculty to student ratio. There seems to be many issues with how the ratio is calculated; they, to name a few, include non-faculty members on faculty contracts, not accounting for pro-rated classes, and incorrectly calculating distance classes. This calculation is of particular concern because it is part of our KPIs. Additionally, the faculty to student ratio of 17 to 1 is often referenced in Board meetings with the implication that CBC classes are much too small. A motion was made for Daniel to meet with Dr. Lane to discuss how to calculate a more accurate faculty to student ratio.

Creating Calculation of Overload Support Team

Daniel asked if the Senate would support creation of a support team to assist people with help in calculating their overload. With the implementation of a new formula, many faculty members are confused as to how their overloads are calculated. This group would assist in helping faculty members understand their overload payment. It was stressed that this group would only help in calculating the expected overload payment; they would not advocate in any way. Becky said she would be happy to work with anyone that has a concern about their overload calculation. She will put together a group to work from the Benefits committee.

Faculty Senate Monitoring of the Advising Model

As failure to follow the advising model was used to punish faculty last year, Daniel was directed to continue to carefully monitor the advising model; a motion by Donna was seconded and carried.

Items for Future Agenda

- 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Academic Calendars
- Implementation of 2014-2015 Raises

Adjournment
The motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded; meeting was adjourned