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AGENDA ITEM III

Broward Community College
Minutes of the Student Forum with the Board of Trustees
January 29, 2008

FEB 27 2008

ENCLOSURE B

An open student forum began at 12:25 p.m. on the A. Hugh Adams Central Campus, Building 17, Room 425/426 3501 Southwest Davie Road, Davie, Florida. In attendance were: Vice Chair Tanner, Mr. Guerin, Ms. Douglass, Mr. Williams and President Armstrong.

Adams Central Campus Provost Dr. Bolton welcomed Board members and those in attendance following the grand opening of the Holcombe Institute. She then introduced Dean of Student Affairs David Asencio.

Dean Asencio discussed how pleased he is to work with Student Government this year. Student Government collected over 700 surveys from the student body to determine the issues to bring before the Board. He introduced the Student Government representatives who would be speaking: Student Body Vice President Kathy Efthimiou, who would provide a recap of last year's issues; Student Body President and a member of Phi Beta Lambda Ashley Airaghi, who would be presenting the current issues and WHC Senator and Anchor Point Club President Carl Engelsman who would present WHC issues.

Kathy Efthimiou provided a recap on 2007 issues. The first issue was the increase of lab hours and the second was class cancellation procedures. Kathy provided an update on the lab hours. Data collected from September to December of last year indicated that ESL students did not utilize additional lab hours. The math lab was heavily utilized. ESL lab hours were removed because it wasn't beneficial. On the issue of classroom cancellation procedures, students did not always receive timely notice of class cancellations. This caused potential problems with scheduling and financial aid if requirements were not met. Faculty have tried to contact the students by e-mail and phone and post notices on the door. The results of the survey showed that many students don't check their BCC e-mail account. Ms. Douglass mentioned that these were two issues that were discussed last year as to why those methods of communication were failing. Kathy stated that they are still trying to get in contact with the students, and for some reason the correct phone numbers are not on file. President Armstrong addressed the trustees and stated that this is an important issue because we need to communicate and engage students more and more. One of the things Vice President Millender is trying to do is send more informational e-mails to all of our students. President Armstrong stated that as we give more relevant, timely and important information that is valued by students, we're going to see more e-mail usage. Vice President Millender stated that the students are able to link their AOL account to their BCC e-mail account, and is not sure why this continues to be an issue. President Armstrong stated that he appreciates the student leaders working with us to assist in communicating to students to engage them more in the use of e-mails so we can help them succeed. Kathy discussed the process for filling classes.

Ashley Airaghi addressed the student concerns of flooding, nighttime security, lighting and increased leisure activities and stress-free zones on the Adams Central Campus. There are plans to build a parking garage on the campus as well as to improve lighting and drainage in existing parking lots. Ms. Douglass asked the facilities department to provide a report on creating a simple drainage system. Mr. Tanner stated that improving the lighting could be easily resolved. Ms. Douglass indicated that the lighting is a liability issue and should take priority since it has been brought to the attention of the Board. Mr. Williams added that each campus has a lighting plan. Ashley pointed out that the campus was once a naval aviation base which may have something to do with drainage issues. She suggested that the yellow lights be replaced with white lights and requested that blue lights be placed on the emergency call boxes.

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Mr. Williams indicated that he thought the boxes already had blue lights and Mr. Tanner recalled that this was requested a year ago. Dr. Bolton will follow up on this. Mr. Williams stated that he is going to hold the Provosts accountable for outcomes on their specific campuses. President Armstrong stated that this will be included in the report. Ashley indicated that the students would like more leisure areas with benches throughout the campus, adding gazebos and volleyball nets and that the campus be more like a university. Ms. Douglass asked if anyone knew the cost of the plastic benches. She suggested we look into naming opportunities for benches. Ms. Douglass asked what a stress-free zone was. Ashley responded it could be a grassy area where students could just sit down and relax. The last concern was wireless internet throughout the campus. President Armstrong stated that we are already looking into this. Patty Barney informed the group that there is wireless available on Central campus in Building 19, Building 7, Building 8, Building 15 and in several classrooms. A student survey was posted on the internet for students to express their opinion about the areas they felt should have the highest priority for wireless service. Ms. Douglass asked for a one- to two-page memo regarding what our sister colleges are doing with respect to wireless.

Carl Engelsman discussed the issues at the Willis Holcombe Center identified in the student survey. The concerns are classroom temperatures, parking and security. Mr. Williams informed Carl that the parking garage belongs to the City of Fort Lauderdale. Carl felt that there was not enough information on parking. If a student registers on line and does not enter the building, they may not see the informational signs posted. Another issue the students had was the cost of textbooks. President Armstrong indicated that we have a textbook committee comprised of faculty and administrators who are working to try to minimize costs.

The floor was opened so that individual students could voice their concerns or ask questions. One student felt that her math class was too difficult and she was afraid of the professor. The deadline had passed to withdraw without penalty. President Armstrong referred her, and students with other concerns, to meet with Dean Asencio and his staff of advisers and counselors. He stressed that it is important to talk with the faculty member first. Another student felt that more information on the testing center should be provided to students.

Dr. Bolton thanked everyone for attending.

The 2008 Student Forum was concluded at 2:10 p.m.

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ENCLOSURE *B*