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Broward Community College
Minutes of the Student Forum with the Board of Trustees
March 26, 2008

An open student forum began at 12:10 p.m. at the North Campus, Building 46, Room 152, Coconut Creek, Florida. In attendance were: Chair Garrido, Vice Chair Tanner, Mr. Guerin, Mr. Williams and President Armstrong.

President Armstrong welcomed everyone and thanked the students for attending. He thanked Dr. Bryan and the staff at North Campus for hosting the meeting. Dr. Bryan welcomed the group and introduced Director of Student Life and Student Government Adviser Mareta Sizemore. Ms. Sizemore introduced Student Government President Monica Eulo. Ms. Eulo reviewed campus-based activities that were held throughout the year. She then shared the student survey results which indicated that parking, book prices and cafeteria prices were the top three student issues.

Student Government Vice President Sara Murr presented the 2007 issues update. The first issue was the grade appeal process. Students made four recommendations on improving the grade appeal process: (1) Preliminary action should be date stamped by professors to show students' efforts to start the appeal 2) The BCC Student Handbook should identify the exact location where petition forms are available 3) A non-partisan ombudsperson to assist in the process should be available. 4) There should be a process to ensure a department adheres to the grade appeal process and deadlines. The second and third items currently are being implemented.

**The second issue is disguising full-time professors as TBA. Each department should provide the name of faculty assigned to teach specific class sections. The Student Government, Association along with administration, are continuing to monitor this issue.

The next update was the issue of student access to professors' evaluations. This is currently a UFF bargaining issue.

Ms. Murr identified several other 2007 issues, most of which had been resolved. Students were being fined for parking in the library parking lot. As of March 2007, students were no longer fined. Students wished to back in to parking spots on campus. This is still prohibited because police officers would have to walk around the back of the vehicle to see the license plate which poses a safety risk.

There was a concern about safety and lighting. The lights fixtures damaged by Hurricane Wilma have been repaired, and four to five new light poles are being installed in areas that are dark. All emergency telephones had been checked and are in working order, and their locations identified for students in a publication.

The last issue addressed was designated smoking areas. As of January 2008, designated smoking areas had been identified and appropriate signage had been placed throughout the campus. Maps of designated smoking areas are being distributed at orientation and will be included in the Student Handbook and made available in the Student Life building and security offices. The Student Government Association also is working with the American Cancer Society to assist in making students aware of the dangers of smoking and give out tips on how to quit. Ms. Garrido commented that she was pleased the students are working with the American Cancer Society and suggested the smoking cessation classes.

Paola Mariselli introduced Amanda Follett and addressed Student Input on Class Scheduling. The students proposed the following: A two-week window to register on-line through the web site; An on-line platform where professors and associate deans would view the student's requested schedule; An automated educational plan created for each student their first year based on the student's major to be reviewed by the associate deans.

Director of Public Affairs Sorty Mejia thanked Silvia Rotella for her assistance in creating the "Adding Classes Online Extension" concept -- a proposal that would allow students to add a class online after only one missed class session, instead of obtaining a closed class card, which is a difficult and time-consuming process. In discussions with faculty, it was determined that professors had no problem with the proposal as long as students realized that they were responsible for missed material.

President Armstrong appreciated the issue and asked the academic affairs staff to look into the proposal. He went on to say that he appreciated the work and way the issues were addressed, and the students presented solutions to the problems. Mr. Tanner stated that this was well thought out. He thanked the group for highlighting this and bringing it to the Board's attention. President Armstrong reiterated the professionalism of the presentations and solutions. He appreciated that the students surveyed faculty. President Armstrong asked Russ Adkins to look into this as well.

Student Senator Silvia Rotela presented publicity and communication issues. North campus is not visible from the main roads. Publicizing the North Campus would increase enrollment. Students are not aware of activities due to lack of appealing signage; one-third of the students polled said they don't read bulletin boards and flyers. Research shows that those who are more involved do better in school. The students proposed that indoor and outdoor LCD panels and a digital display by the Turnpike be installed to increase awareness on and off campus. Mr. Tanner thought it was a great idea and suggested public/private displays where companies would pay for the signage which would create funds for student government. He also asked if they had contacted the City of Coconut Creek regarding permits and zoning rules. President Armstrong agreed and stated that a group is looking into this. He asked Jillian Printz and Bill Pennell to work with the students. President Armstrong stated that Vice President Millender is looking into other online services and better communication through e-mail. Mr. Tanner stated

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that the signage to the Board meeting was excellent. Signs would be important for security issues such as lock-downs, hurricanes, etc. The goal is to complete this in three phases, with the first phase completed in two years. Mr. Tanner challenged the SGA to complete this project by next year.

Senator Patricio Gonzalez presented a video on energy efficiency and sustainability which he, Farley Thermidor and Nadine Delcin created... Mr. Tanner asked if the video is available on the website. President Armstrong asked to have copies to bring to Tallahassee with him. Mr. Tanner stated that it was excellent and very well done.

Ms. Eulo thanked everyone who had participated in the forum, and invited students to speak if they had a concern or issue.

Hannah, a student in the dual-enrollment program, requested that music classes be brought back. The classes she needs are on another campus making it difficult to get to. Dr. Bryan stated that they are working toward revitalization of the performing arts on North Campus. Mr. Tanner asked about a shuttle between campuses. Hannah also asked for "green" foods in the cafeteria. President Armstrong suggested that the students conduct a survey. Ms. Garrido suggested exploring a partnership with the green food markets.

A student named Patrick addressed the limited handicapped parking on campus. Dr. Bryan stated that an assessment was made and spaces were added. This will be reviewed annually.

Michael, the Vice President of DECA, asked how the budget cuts will affect students. President Armstrong stated that we don't know how much the cuts are going to be. We are going to try not to let the cuts affect students. Ms. Garrido stated that the legislature is in session and encouraged students to voice their concerns directly to the legislature now.

Another student asked about offering Calculus 3 during the summer at North Campus. President Armstrong explained that this depends on "supply and demand" and how many students want to take the class. He suggested that administration look into an online Calculus 3 class.

A student, Nadine, commented on the staff parking in the student lot. Dr. Bryan will investigate.

Silvia Rotella explained a situation where she tried to add a class after missing the first session and the professor refused. That's one of the reasons she worked on the "Adding Classes Online Extension" proposal.

President Armstrong commented on the professionalism of the group. Mr. Guerin asked the students about the name change to Broward College. Students did not seem enthusiastic about it. President Armstrong appreciated the feedback but stated that the

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legislature is only allowing us to drop "Community" from the name. The question arose as to how much the name change will cost for signage, etc. President Armstrong stated that we have not changed the logos on our current signage and he hopes to maintain some of the image we currently have.

The 2008 Student Forum concluded at 1:05 p.m.

A. Mc Coy

J. David Armstrong, Jr.
President, Broward Community College

Lourdes Garrido
Chair, Board of Trustees