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Broward College
Minutes of the Student Forum with the Board of Trustees
March 31, 2009

An open student forum began at 12:10 p.m. on the North Campus, Building Bldg. 46, Room 152, 1000 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek, Florida. In attendance were: Chair Tanner, Vice Chair Guerin, Ms. Douglass, Ms. Garrido, Mr. Williams and President Armstrong.

North Campus Provost Dr. Bryan welcomed Board members and those in attendance. She then introduced the Associate Dean of Student Affairs Mr. James Evans. Mr. Evans introduced Student Life Director Mareta Sizemore. She recognized all the representatives in attendance. Ms. Sizemore then introduced Student Government President Sylvia Rotella.

Sylvia Rotella welcomed everyone and asked the guests to complete a card if they have any questions during the open forum. She then introduced the Student Government officers in attendance: Aubrey Jacques, Senator; Jewel Kahn, Treasurer; Kristen Gomez Senator; Sarah Murr, Vice President; Manny Roberston, Senator, Nicki Racey and members of DECA.

Ms. Rotella summarized the survey process. Student Government began polling students in October 2008 on issues and concerns and created a general paper survey for students to write down their concerns. In January, an on-line survey was conducted on the last 11 issues of the paper survey. The highest rated issues from the on-line survey were reviewed and investigated based on their merit.

Sarah Murr provided the 2008 updates. The first issue was students wanted more input on class scheduling. The College conducted a survey on providing block scheduling. A follow-up survey will be conducted this week. President Armstrong invited Dr. Law of Tallahassee Community College to conduct a workshop on precision scheduling. The next proposal was to add classes on-line during the first week. This process has not been changed. The students then proposed increased publicity and communication. The campus is in the process of purchasing two internal LCD panels, two outdoor LCD panels as well as two digital marquis displays. Energy Efficiency was showcased. The Downtown Center, in conjunction with FAU, now has solar panels. North Campus will be purchasing solar panels next year. The College will be converting chiller plants from city water to well water, at a savings of \$200,000 per year. To save on electricity during the summer, the College will be experimenting with a four-day work week. Phi Beta Kappa created a poster that transmits the core message of recycling.

Kristen Gomez presented the 2009 issues. She addressed the degree audit efficiency. Student Government conducted an online survey and out of 301 students surveyed, 201 did not know what a degree audit was. There are 12,000 students enrolled at the North campus. Out of those who were aware of the degree audit system, some of them felt that it was too hard to interpret, others stated that their advisors were very helpful and some of them learned about the degree audit system through their SLS class or orientation. An educational plan is created by an advisor with the student. The plan requires the student to make an appointment with a counselor. Some of the comments were: the educational plan is not easy to locate from the homepage; an educational plan does not allow students the option to browse requirements for majors and degrees or to make modifications.

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Jewel Khan provided a comparison of different degree audits and a demonstration of an educational plan. The students compared degree audits from Broward, Miami Dade and Valencia CC. Students understand this process is being developed and appreciate that. They are amazed at the new home page. Students felt Broward's degree audit is crowded with information making it harder to find. The instructions are difficult to understand. Miami Dade's is similar to Broward's. Valencia's program was favored by the students. Ms. Khan gave a demonstration of this plan. Ms. Douglass asked President Armstrong if he supported this plan. He stated that the students identified a critically important need. We are in the process of developing a tool. The student's research can feed into it. Vice President Millender and Vice President Barney are working on this project. We want to take it to a new level that works for our college and welcome the input the students give. President Armstrong would like to use them as a focus group for this project. This will help the students plan better, so that they can succeed and take the courses they need, and based on the new slogan for the student success campaign, "Finish What You Start." President Armstrong is very impressed with the research the students have done. Ms. Douglass commended President Armstrong for involving the students in the focus group. Mr. Williams described the registration process when he was in college. Mr. Tanner thanked the students for creating the study. He commended them on the number of student government representatives attending the meeting and recognized the importance of their involvement. President Armstrong stated that Vice President Millender will present the "Finish What You Start" campaign at the next Board meeting. The College will be receiving a significant increase in work study financial aid. We will hit the \$1 million mark in financial aid from the Federal government. The previous amount was \$630,000. The Pell Grant is significantly enhanced with the current administration. Angelia will provide a full briefing next month.

Senator Aubrey Jacques presented the remaining survey topics. Students would like to see more mentor and internship programs with businesses in order to get more experience in their field of study and help prepare them for when they enter universities. These would include hospitals, law firms, broadcasting, and other businesses. The second area of concern is paving the overflow parking lot by building 60 to avoid flooding and damage to vehicles. Third: The students would like the hours in the computer lab increased to 1:00 a.m. This is being researched. Students would like a greater variety of general education courses offered in session II and IV such as humanities and social sciences. Last: Students would like a value menu offered in the cafeteria.

Mr. Guerin mentioned that there was significant discussion on the signage at the last session. He asked what the signs would be used for. Dr. Bryan mentioned that money was set aside for digital, energy efficient solar signs that could be used to advertise meetings, forums, etc. Mr. Tanner mentioned that we were talking about a larger sign facing the highway at one point to advertise. Dr. Bryan is looking for vendors to advertise.

Mr. James Evans opened the student forum for questions.

Miguel: What would be required for us to start a football team?
President Armstrong responded that state law would have to be changed. The legislature has not supported it due to the cost.

Gretchen: Why are we on a different vacation block as the rest of the schools?
President Armstrong responded that the calendar committee made the decision based on feedback from faculty to try to plan spring break at a time that best accommodates student learning and student success. We welcome student input and will consider it in future planning.

Shirleen: With Broward College becoming a college, does that mean that tuition will be raised as it is at other colleges?

President Armstrong responded that tuition will increase for the Bachelor's degree programs, but it is significantly less than state universities. The upper level tuition is set by statute and the state appropriations bill at 85% of the rate of public universities.

Iyani: I would like to know why our cafeteria has products that are not healthy and prices are too high?

President Armstrong asked Dr. Bryan to set up a meeting with a group of students as a feedback and focus group to meet with the cafeteria staff to discuss these issues.

Mickey: Repeat question about a football team.

President Armstrong appreciated student interest in athletics. We have a number of teams, but not a lot of student attendance at these events. The Men's Basketball team went to the State playoffs. He asked the group for help in finding ways to get students to attend these events. There are a lot of intramural athletics at Broward College. He encouraged students to participate.

Mr. James thanked the students and the Board for indulging their questions. Sylvia Rotella, on behalf of the students, gave the President a special recognition for his commitment to student centered teaching and learning. An indigenous tree will be planted in President Armstrong's honor in the hardwood hammock on April 22, 2009. Dr. Bryan thanked the student ambassadors for serving lunch.

The 2009 Student Forum was concluded at 12:53 p.m.

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J. David Armstrong, Jr.
President, Broward College

Paul Tanner
Chair, Board of Trustees

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