

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate
February 12, 2008
Central Campus**

Faculty Senate Attendance:

Senators (20/30): Maria Bernal-Dobek, Bob Brasco, Blaine Browne, Damon Davis, Ed Erazo, Rosa Gaskins, Kelli Hammer, Terri Hayes, Teresa Hodge, Jim Lansing, Kate LeGrand, Catherine Leisek, Neil Linger, Angela Michaels, Karen Modrich, Barry Mowell, Debbie Nycz, Greg Reeder, Gloria Scheff, and Ione Turpin.

Guests (32): Russ Adkins, Chris Casper, Wendy Clink, Denese Edsell, Marcial Echenique, Patrick Ellingham, Gregory Ferenchak, Donna Henderson, Maria Hincapie, Cathleen Horne, Candice Hunter, Jan Johnson, Trish Joyce, Alan Lebovitz, Naylet Leon, Greg Lindeblom, Jose Macias, Hank Martel, Joel Nydahl, Mattie Roig, Colleen Quinn, Daniel Rieger, Chris Roddy, Dianne Ruggiero, Jerry Schwartz, Pat Senior, Michael Tenenbaum, B.G. Thompson, Mindy Tilles, Jane Treptow, Peggy Turcotte, and Bruce Wingerd.

01. **Call to Order.** President Catherine Leisek called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.
02. **Approval of the Agenda.** The agenda for the meeting was approved.
03. **Approval of the Minutes.** Motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 2008 meeting by Debbie Nycz. Damon Davis seconded. Motion passed.
04. **Old Business**

President's Report. Catherine Leisek started by stating a word for the day that was especially appropriate at this time at the college. The word is collegium, defined as a group in which each member has approximately equal power and authority (Word of the Day for Feb. 12, 2008, Merriam-Webster).

Catherine also stated she wanted to acknowledge Ken Ross, who had accepted a position at Polk Community College, for his years at BCC.

Catherine continued her remarks by stating that at the recent official opening of the Holcombe Institute, no faculty spoke at the ceremony, which seemed very telling of the times.

Catherine explained that the emergency meeting of the Faculty Senate had been called—a week prior to our regularly scheduled meeting—because she needed our help on task forces and committees, due to the major

changing of the guard now underway at the college. Past history is being swept away, she observed. The Faculty Senate needs to get the troops organized. This would have been the topic for the emergency meeting today. Instead, she said, we will use this meeting time today to hold our regular, monthly Faculty Senate meeting a week earlier than expected.

Catherine shared that the sabbatical program for administrators and PTS had been tabled this year due to financial restraints, which was a shame.

Lastly, Catherine stated that the VPAA search was in full force. The final meeting will be February 15, 2008. Information on the candidates is on the shared drives, Catherine stated.

- A. Block Scheduling for the Fall.** Ken Ross reported that graphs and charts were sent via e-mail today. The president's cabinet needs an immediate decision on reviewing block scheduling for two years. It is now time to do the fall schedule. Ken added that President Armstrong is not inclined to do it. The president asks that we look at classroom use. Ken shared other information. Math students, for example, are passing at a greater rate. PBCC has been on block scheduling for eight years or so. It was noted that the block scheduling saves gasoline since only two trips to campus are required instead of three (2 days vs. 3 days). Fridays can still be used for three-hour classes.

Dianne Ruggiero pointed out that more sections were being offered in four days and that there were more afternoon classes under block scheduling.

Catherine stated that we needed a subcommittee to look at the data. She also shared that students were on campus on Fridays for labs. Attendance, from her understanding, is better MW and TR rather than MWF. EAP students are also saying that the 50-minute classes are not long enough, so EAP students especially appreciate the block schedule. There are a lot of questions on block scheduling, and faculty want a voice in the decision.

Rod Appleton, who is an adjunct and teaches art, says that the fact that BCC had so many adjuncts (60% of the classes are taught by adjuncts, he had heard) should be a consideration for continuing the block scheduling.

Russ Adkins added that in his opinion, block scheduling works. If the question is about the utilization of the classrooms on Friday, attack that. Block scheduling also works in terms of working for the environment (our green initiatives). We need comparisons of room utilization charts.

Debbie Nycz made a motion to continue block scheduling for another year so as to continue the discussion with a goal of adding more Friday classes. Jim Lansing seconded. Motion passed.

Catherine ended by saying that she wanted us to send her any comments in writing that we may have on the topic today. She said, e-mail them today.

- B. Text Book Policy and Procedure.** Ken Ross reminded us that he had written a white paper on this topic some time ago. The State of Florida wants to push through legislation on this. We will have to get our own policy and procedures written on this. Reference was made to a letter by Greg Service on the fact that there was no college-wide adoption of texts.

Jane Treptow stated that from a student perspective the concern is that with sequential courses, they would want the textbook to be the same. She added the textbook selection is not an academic freedom; faculty are hired for their expertise.

Daniel Reiger stated that textbook selection, in his opinion, is an academic freedom.

Another faculty member stated that in economics, for example, there had never been just one book used by all the campuses in all his years at BCC.

Debbie Nycz stated that in Chemistry, they had made the decision to adopt only one textbook, college-wide, taking into consideration that Chemistry textbooks now cost more than \$200.00.

Catherine asked anyone who wanted to join the textbook committee to please send her an e-mail and she would send it to the committee—Teresa Hodge and Steve Watnik were on that committee, she remarked.

- C. Search/Screening Committees.** Catherine brought up the appointment of search and screening committees at the college and that some favoritism had been reported to her. The question had come up recently on the members of the search committee for the two provosts—were these search committee memberships already set, she asked. Who is on them?

Debbie Nycz added, she had asked these questions about each committee:

- 1) Who is on the committee?
- 2) Who chose the committee?
- 3) How was the committee appointed?
- 4) When will the committee be meeting?

She has still not received any answers. Debbie also reminded us that search and screening committees are a working condition in our contract.

Kate LeGrand made a motion that the memberships of screening committees become known as per Florida Law (Sunshine Laws) as a matter of public record. Neil Linger seconded. Motion passed.

- D. BOT Petition Report.** Catherine reported that the petition drive was underway. She asked everyone, who had collected signatures, to submit them by Friday, Feb. 15, 2008. Three senators were collecting the sheets with signatures—one on each campus: Damon Davis on Central, Blaine Browne on North, and Kate LeGrand on South.

Teresa Hodge made a motion that the signature sheets be forwarded to the Senate President by the three senators on the campuses by Feb. 22, 2008. The motion was seconded by Debbie Nycz. Motion passed.

Catherine then asked how we wanted to deliver the petition with the signatures. Blaine Browne asked about the publicity for the petition. A task force was appointed to look into this and report back to the Senate (Blaine Brown, Jim Lansing, Angela Michaels, and Damon Davis).

- E. BCC E-mail Communication Policies.** Catherine reported that Patti Barney would like to meet with a group of faculty on this issue. Debbie Nycz made a motion to form an ad hoc committee to work on the issue of e-mail communication. Neil Linger seconded. Motion passed.

Catherine asked for volunteers to form this ad hoc committee so it could be set up right away. Volunteer Senators are Debbie Nycz, Terri Hayes, Kate LeGrand, Neil Linger and Karen Modrich. The group will make their recommendations known in the future.

- F. Emeritus Policy.** Catherine reported that Fred Searcy had resigned from the committee working on this. She added that as Senate President, she would ask to have this issue put on the agenda at president's cabinet.

- G. Senate Election Committee.** Catherine stated that we needed a Senate Election Enabling Committee to accept nominations, run the election, and then count the ballots. Catherine asked for volunteers and appointed the following three senators: Jim Lansing (chair) on North Campus, Barry Mowell on Central Campus, and Robert Brasco on South Campus.

05. New Business

- A. Achieving the Dream.** Jose Macias stated this was just one of the success initiatives that were currently underway at the college. Jose shared both a brochure on Achieving the Dream and a six-page handout, "Success is What Counts," describing this initiative for community college students.

It was “created to help students succeed to complete courses, earn certificates and degree.” Nationally, Achieving the Dream has 19 funders—in Florida, the Lumina Foundation for Education—and eight national partner organizations. Achieving the Dream institutions includes 80 community colleges in 15 states and four Texas universities. For more information see <http://www.achievingthedream.org> – the Achieving the Dream web site.

- B. **UFF Report.** Debbie Nycz reported that the Special Magistrate’s report had been mostly in favor of the faculty and that the UFF Executive Council had voted to accept the whole report. Debbie added that we had not yet heard a word from the administration in response to the Special Magistrate’s report. We should hear soon.

Debbie also mentioned that the UFF was taking to arbitration two current grievances over contract violations that had recently been denied. Daniel Rieger was in the process of selecting an arbitrator for the first of the two.

06. **Announcements.** Debbie Nycz wanted to publicly recognize Daniel Rieger for all of the work he had done on behalf of faculty during this long period of contract negotiations and especially in preparation for the special magistrate. Daniel Rieger has also handled several grievances these past few months and has met repeatedly with Edna Chun over these matters. He has had a very busy year. On behalf of the faculty, I want to thank Daniel. (Applause.)
07. **Adjournment.** Debbie Nycz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Teresa Hodge seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Next Meeting is March 20, 2008, Central Campus, 17/425-426.