

Southwestern Community College
Faculty Senate Meeting
October 24, 2011

Present: Elizabeth Haynes, Tony Belcher, William Brothers, Toni Knott, Kelly Burch, Mary Bradley, Debbie Ray, Randy McCall, Mitch Fischer, Meg Petty, Susan Cain, and Barbara Connell.

President Haynes called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

The first action was the approval of the Minutes of August 10, 2011. With no objection, President Haynes waived the reading of the Minutes, and the Faculty Senate approved the Minutes as presented.

Agenda Items:

- The first item of business was the recognition of Dale Hall as the winner of the Excellence in Teaching award. Dr. Brooks wants to have a breakfast in the spring semester to recognize the winner and faculty/staff. The question was asked, "When is the best time to meet?"
 - A suggestion was to have the breakfast in January before the semester starts back.
- The next item presented dealt with the Vision 2017 initiative. Vision 2017 is a five-year strategic plan for SCC. To date, there have been meetings with the general community, but the meetings are going to get more specific (e.g., emphasis on business leaders, government, etc.). Question was raised: "Does faculty need its own focus group or should faculty be grouped together with staff?" General consensus is that faculty does need individual representation due to the differing needs of faculty versus staff. A decision was made that the Faculty Senate will make the recommendation for specific representation.
- Next, the Faculty Senate discussed a topic raised by Dr. Thom Brooks. Dr. Brooks asked what procedures faculty currently uses to cancel classes due to sickness or other emergency (day off). Suggestions included using a phone chain, Twitter, Blackboard messages, putting signs up on office doors, and sending emails. Additionally, a suggestion was made to use Blackboard to send out an alert (Blackboard is capable of this functionality). In the event that Blackboard cannot accomplish this, the suggestion to use ConnectED to facilitate this process was made.
- Next, Vice President Belcher presented information from the Faculty Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution. The following actions were presented:
 - The creation of a mission statement.
 - One of the suggested changes is that there was no mention of our direct relationship with students and to include "staff" in the "working relationship with the administration" line.
 - One item of discussion is to avoid making this mission statement too broad so that the Faculty Senate mission statement does not become a repeat of the college's mission statement.
 - Agreed upon the following statement: "The Faculty Senate mission is to be an advocate for faculty."
 - The following line was added to the purpose statement: "To develop a working relationship with administration."

- One of the questions asked is should adjunct faculty have a place on Faculty Senate? Should they be allowed to vote and attend meetings? Ideas ranged from full admittance (voting) to restrictive admittance (non-voting). Proposed constitutional amendment allows meetings to be open to full-time and part-time (suggestion made to change this verbiage to “adjunct”). Decision was made to allow adjunct faculty to attend meetings; however, the Senate decided to table the decision to allow adjunct faculty into senate membership.
- Verbiage that faculty members will be “chosen” by faculty was adopted.
- The Senate agreed to the duties of the Executive Council without revision.
- One of the ideas mentioned is that Faculty Senate is looking to establish a portal so that people can bring anonymous concerns to Faculty Senate.
- Vice President Belcher noted that proxy votes are allowed so that quorums can be reached sooner. We will add to meeting announcements the following statement: “If you cannot attend, please appoint a proxy to represent you in your absence.”
- Revisions are tabled for now and will be re-presented at a later date.
- The final piece of business dealt with anonymous surveys and how to present them. One suggestion for anonymous vote was to use “Survey Monkey.”

There was no new business.

Conclusion – adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Brothers, Faculty Senate Secretary