

Southwestern Community College
PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL
Monday, March 10, 2008

Members Present:

Thom Brooks	Rose Garrett	Dianne Lindgren	Chuck Reece
Janet Burnette	Allan Grant	Susan McCaskill	Ryan Schwiebert
Mike Burnette	Cecil Groves	Delos Monteith	Phil Weast
Gene Couch	Connie Haire	Laura Pennington	Sharon Grasty, Recorder
Bucky Dann	Sonja Haynes	Barb Putman	

Guests: Richard Fort, Chad Roberson, Lindsay Sobo, George Stanley

The President's Council met at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2008 in Room 256 of the Balsam Center.

Chairman Thom Brooks called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed guests, Chad Roberson, Richard Fort and Lindsay Sobo, representing the architectural firm PBC & L. PBC & L has been selected to develop the College's facility master plan.

Phase II of Advanced Planning Initiative:

Following introductions, Mr. Roberson gave an overview of the scope of the master plan project and facilitated a discussion with the Council regarding their input on future facility needs at the college.

Topics of discussion included:

Jackson Campus -

- new entrance to campus - parking/traffic patterns
- the effect of campus topography (linear vs vertical) on development/usage of site
- purposes of additional buildings considered for site
- advantage of incorporating LEEDS "green" building methods
- effects of program growth/enrollment on facility needs
- campus customers
- site utilities
- introduction of some form of art on campus for a focal point - i.e sculpture, etc.
- acquiring acreage in property adjoining campus to create a green way or nature park
- impact of Early College

Macon Campus -

- facility needs to accommodate growth of Early College Program and curriculum programs
- additional space for LAC Center - less computer labs
- additional classrooms needed at Public Safety Training Center
- lack of housing inhibiting enrollment growth in some law enforcement programs
- firing range and driving range resurfacing at Public Safety Training Center

Swain Center/Cherokee Center/Cashiers Center -

- issues with air conditioning/heating and water at Swain Center - expensive to maintain
- current space at Cherokee Center is limited - no permanent site for collaborative Fine Arts program
- possibility of new space when tribe builds new joint use educational complex
- current Cashiers site adequate for next 5-10 years

Mr. Roberson briefly described the building trends he is seeing at other college campuses. These include creation of common areas for students to gather, partnering with local businesses, fewer computer labs, building classrooms designed for technically advanced learning methods and increased usage of aesthetic and natural principles in buildings.

Discussion was held regarding the college's primary demographics and anticipated areas of future growth.

Other Facility/Priorities:

Dr. Groves provided a report on current college facility projects. Dr. Groves and Dr. Haire are scheduled to make a presentation at the March 10 Macon County Commissioners meeting regarding additional facility needs in Macon County. The former Macon County Public Library building has been proposed as a site for the college's entrepreneurial program. The situation with the road at the Macon Campus is still not resolved. The bus garage property adjacent to the Jackson Campus will be deeded to the college as soon as the bus garage is relocated to its new site. Collaboration with McMillan, Smith & Partners Architects on development of plans for construction of the new Jackson building is proceeding well. The GEAR Up and Upward Bound programs will relocate to the Stanford House following spring break.

Title III Update:

Laura Pennington reported the Title III team has identified areas to be included in the Title III plan and are now collecting data. A firm deadline for submission has not been established but is anticipated to be late April or early May.

Planning Assumption Assignments:

Delos Monteith presented and reviewed the 2008/09 Planning Assumptions assignments. He stated member assignments were shifted in order to bring fresh perspectives to each category. No objections to assignments were noted. Delos will email members their area of responsibility and the deadline date for submission of suggested updates or additions to the Planning Assumptions. Revisions will be presented at the next Council meeting and then used to develop the 2008/09 college priorities.

WAC Update:

Barb Putman provided an update on the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program. Coordinator Liz Kelly has been very productive. She has updated the website, completed the first edition of the style guide, collected feedback from staff and faculty, provided additional training to faculty and developed new workshops to assist students with on-line writing. The sequencing with faculty has changed the process slightly and they are considering a new type of assessment for next year. Liz is currently researching this. An open house for the WAC program will be held on March 26 to provide an opportunity to share information and recruit next year's WAC faculty.

Early College Update:

Dr. Groves and Dr. Couch gave a brief overview of the progress of the Jackson County Early College High School initiative. The college will partner with the public school system to offer two different early college programs. Smoky Mountain High students will be housed on the SCC Jackson Campus and Blue Ridge students will be housed at the Blue Ridge School campus. The designated college liaison will work with both programs. Open houses for each program will be held later this month.

Dr. Haire reported students and faculty in the Macon County Early College program were recently presented with laptops as part of the NC 1:1 Laptop Initiative sponsored by the Golden Leaf Foundation. Interviews will begin in April with students and families to choose the next group of students for the program.

Nominating Committee:

A volunteer nominating committee was appointed to consider candidates for the chair-elect position which will be vacated when chair-elect Bucky Dann transitions to the chair position. Mike Burnette, Connie Haire, and Chuck Reece were appointed to the Nominating Committee. They were charged with the task of submitting a name to the Council at the next meeting.

Other Business:

Dr. Couch noted the NC Community College System Conference: Beyond the Horizon will be held on October 12-14 in Raleigh. Information has been sent to full-time faculty and staff.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.