

Faculty Council meeting

25 August 2010

The meeting convened at 1:00 pm with all members present, and three guests.

The council discussed recent changes to its constitution, and several members expressed their uncertainty as to the significance of these changes as they pertain to the mission and goals of our Faculty Council with regard to our representative role to the faculty and advisory role to the president. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to invite Dr. Blanding and Mr. Dodson to the September 8 Faculty Council meeting, in order to solicit more information from them.

The council discussed the upcoming Family Fun Day, which has been postponed until October 22. All members of the Faculty Council promote this activity and encourage the faculty at large to participate in the planning and preparation leading up to the event, and to enjoy the festivities on the day of the event.

A concern was brought to the council regarding the academic integrity of one dual-enrollment course in particular (Spanish) and the dual-enrollment program in general, ie: how do we assure that the rigorous academic standards of our courses are being met by adjunct faculty teaching dually-enrolled students. Assistant Dean Fordham assured the council that this concern, with regard to the Spanish course, had been addressed, and that the dual-enrollment program in general would come under her personal scrutiny in order to assure that all classes meet with JSCC's standards of academic excellence. She assures the council that faculty teaching those courses are being required to complete training. She indicated that mentors from the full-time faculty may be assigned so that adjunct questions and concerns may be met within each discipline, and one member of the council volunteered to serve in this capacity. Others are encouraged to volunteer.

Professor Xanthopoulos reported from the Faculty Sub-committee:

- Keith Byrd from Kentucky has been appointed Vice-Chancellor for community colleges
- A proposal has been reiterated for a "single instance of Banner for all community colleges," which may mean that course titles and numbering rubrics will be identical throughout the system, but individual colleges may still use different textbooks and customize their syllabi
- 6% reduction (39 million dollars) in the budget for higher education in Tennessee

- A proposal is on the table for an additional fifty dollars per year in longevity pay. While this may not happen, there are assurances that the fifty dollar match for the 401K will continue
- UT/TBR articulation committees have been formulated, consisting of three faculty from each system (six total) within each discipline in order to streamline courses and facilitate transfer
- Dr. Short has committed to afford faculty enhanced opportunities for professional development. She has gone on record as stating: "We must protect tenure."
- John Morgan, the incoming chancellor, has contacted the lone dissenter in his nominating process (who had voted negatively not solely from concerns with Chancellor Morgan's experience and credentials, but because TBR faculty had not been represented in the process), and he (Chancellor Morgan) agreed that faculty should have had a voice in the process.

A motion was made to table the remaining item on the agenda (how can we aid communication on campus), as we had spent much of our time discussing the issue of communication already, and everyone agreed that enhanced communication should be an ongoing concern for the council and for the faculty at large. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 3:00 pm on Wednesday, September 8.

Respectfully submitted,

Powell Franklin, secretary