

JSCC Faculty Council Meeting Minutes September 21, 2011

The meeting began at 3:00 p.m. with the following people present:

Council Members: Don Brown (CIS); Richard Coppings (Assistant Dean Sciences); Patty Easley (PTA); Emily Bates Fortner, Council Secretary (Sociology); Dee Jones (Nursing); Andrew Kelley (English); Carol Norman (ex-officio); Bob Raines, Council Chair (Psychology); Becca Rhea (Communication); Shelia Holland (Nursing); Barbara Scott-Goodman (Nursing); Mechel Camp (English, proxy for Powell Franklin)

Absent Council Members: Rob Wyatt (Nursing); Powell Franklin, Council Vice-Chair (English)

Visitors: Bill Seymour (Student Services Consultant); Donna Johnsey (RCT)

Dr. Bill Seymour introduced himself and explained his current role as a consultant with Student Services. His focus is on the One-Stop Shop remodel of the Student Union building and on the increase of student retention at JSCC. With the changes in community college funding and the pressure to increase student retention, his role will, ideally, help identify ways in which to better address our process and policies surrounding recruitment and retention of students. Dr. Seymour has been reviewing reports from the Survey of Student Engagement and will be holding focus groups with current JSCC students in order to gain a more holistic viewpoint of the campus and of the needs within student services. Currently, the focus has been on the development of the building plans for the Student Union and the creation of the One-Stop Shop; these changes would maximize staff efficiency and offer more streamlined services to students.

The One-Stop Shop staff members would be cross-trained to answer questions dealing with various enrollment and student services departments. If a student has a more complex issue, then he or she can be referred to that particular department and have his or her situation addressed in detail with a staff member from that discipline.

The official renovation of the Student Union building will potentially begin in December and be completed by July, so that the various departments can move into the new space before the fall semester begins. During the renovation, the testing, registration, financial aid, counseling, and career planning will be relocated to the currently vacant basement of the Classroom Building.

Bob Raines asked about the option for a food service provider in the new redesigned Student Union building. Dr. Seymour stated that the current plans for the remodel include an area for a coffee shop or snack bar. While there are no immediate plans for the space to function as a food service vendor, the Student Union will be available to accommodate a full-service food facility in the future.

Emily Fortner raised concerns regarding the space for the bookstore since there are no plans to change or add additional space to this function. She patronized the bookstore during the first few days of the semester and witnessed students leaving the bookstore without purchasing books due to the chaos and long lines in the store. Faculty has been asked to support the bookstore and to encourage students to purchase their books from the JSCC bookstore. It appears that there may be a need for additional space in this location.

Bob Raines stated that there has not been a response or action regarding the academic misconduct issue at the TBR level, but we are expecting a response soon.

Dr. Raines reported news and updates from the President's cabinet meeting that he attended.

- The college budget is going through the October revision and JSCC is still recommending the one-time \$1,000 bonus and potential 2% pool increase for employees. The goal is to compensate employees with their "target" pay, but the 2% raise will not necessarily be across the board for all employees. TBR must approve these budget items and if passed, the October paycheck should reflect raises retroactively as of August 2011.
- The new health science building has officially been designated to house the Allied Health programs. Nursing will remain in the McWherter Center Building and all Allied Health programs will relocate into the new facility upon completion.
- The campus bookstore is operated by the Nebraska Book Company, which recently filed bankruptcy. Dr. Raines is not sure if this will affect our campus bookstore.
- TBR has announced that Dr. Warren Nichols, the current President of Volunteer State Community College, will be serving as the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges at TBR. We assume that this is a full-time assignment that will require him to resign from his presidency at VSCC. This is a new position and the salary will have to come from the collective community college budget.
- The Human Resources office announced the Benefits Fair that will take place in the Student Union on Sept. 22nd.
- The Dean of Professional and Technical Studies position is open and posted.

Dr. Raines mentioned a faculty concern regarding the master shells for online courses and the ability for full-time faculty members to make changes or alterations to assignments within online courses. It was the understanding of one faculty member that the course developer who created the master shell for the course was the only faculty member who could make changes to the course, and full-time faculty members had to teach the course as it was created. From discussion among the faculty council members it appears that this may not be the common practice across disciplines. It was clear that part-time faculty members were not to change any content or assignments within a course; however, full-time faculty members may have that discretion. The council decided that Dr. Raines would request clarification on this issue with Dean Fordham.

Carol Norman expressed concern regarding the JSCC catalog; she wants to revise how some of the JSCC courses and electives are listed to more accurately reflect our campus' specific offerings. Carol is seeking clarification from Dr. Paula Short regarding the ability of individual colleges to amend catalog course degree program sheets. Carol will update the council at the next meeting regarding Dr. Short's response.

Dr. Raines wanted to address some dual-enrollment concerns that were brought to his attention—specifically a scheduling issue that doesn't allow the faculty member enough time to travel to his/her subsequent class. As a result, the faculty member was instructed to shave time off of both classes in an effort to commute to the later teaching location. Dr. Raines is concerned because this places unrealistic expectations on the faculty member to physically get from one location to the other, lowers faculty moral, and creates an issue of course integrity when classes are consistently being cut short. The faculty council unanimously supported these concerns. Dr. Raines plans to have further discussion of this issue with Mr. Bobby Smith and to address the various issues of dual-enrollment.

The next faculty council meeting will occur October 19th at 3 p.m. in the Foundation Board Room.

The meeting adjourned at around 5:00 p.m.