

JSCC Faculty Council Meeting Minutes January 18, 2012

The meeting began at 3:00 p.m. Dr. Raines invited all faculty to attend this meeting to discuss the various changes that we anticipate due to the Complete College Act. A total of around 30 faculty attended the meeting. The following council members were present:

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

Dr. Raines welcomed all faculty members in attendance and identified the various new Student Success Initiatives that were discussed during the spring in-service. The council wanted to provide all faculty members with an opportunity to discuss these ideas and identify any specific academic principles and values that we want to ensure are upheld as the college shifts to provide higher retention and completion numbers.

Dr. Terri Maddox reminded faculty of the Student/Staff Mentor project that she has organized due to the work last semester of Dr. Lisa Smith and Jeanette Burton. Dr. Maddox emphasized what a great opportunity this was to get faculty and staff working together to provide better support for students. She encouraged all faculty interested to please contact her.

Several faculty voiced support for changes in the advising process.

- Faculty discussed this idea of intrusive advising and the need for better support and guidance to students instead of this shift that the college made to give greater freedom and convenience for students.
- Faculty also addressed the need for non-faculty advising since there are times when faculty may not be available or are not campus. Students need access to well informed staff advisors who can also assist them.
- In the past various processes were in place that required students to meet with an advisor before registering for classes. Going back to some type of process like this might get students to the goal of a degree faster and more efficiently.
- Due to the large number of students that faculty members may have, the idea of group advising was addressed. The nursing program currently does this type of advising for many pre-nursing students and even with those enrolled in the nursing program.
- Many current JSCC students have had multiple advisors and are confused whom to contact for assistance and guidance. Faculty agree we need more consistency in this process for students.

Along with the advising concerns was an additional discussion of the current catalog.

- Due to the new Pathways, many students may be confused or unaware of what courses apply to certain “elective” options mentioned on the catalog degree sheets.
- There is also a need for specific advising for students who may be interested in a specific program at a 4-year university that would be beyond the scope of the generic pathway.
- It is apparent to faculty that students are unaware of course descriptions listed in the back of the catalog. Students need to be aware of this course information especially for courses that may not be offered every semester.

- Faculty would like to be able to add additional information to degree sheets when necessary to help clarify “elective” options or recommendations for students completing such a major at JSCC. The current degree sheets are generic to the TN System and do not fully inform our students to the specific options at JSCC.
- Faculty would like more involvement in the catalog and would like to be able to review their course program sheet prior to printing.

Other ideas discussed by faculty were the following:

- Creating a JSCC FAQ sheet to help better answer consistent questions that students may have. This may also help streamline the proper answers and guidance that all faculty and staff should be providing students.
- Faculty and staff need to be better informed on the various processes and who serves as contacts for students with specific needs.
- Mandatory orientation for all students. The “Great Expectations” orientation could be expanded and also allow current JSCC students lead certain aspects of this orientation.
- Year-Round college and changing up the academic schedule to create greater flexibility and the ability to complete degree requirements in a timely fashion.
- Allowing students who have PR’s in learning strategy courses to work in December or May to complete their work.
- In an effort to attend to students’ affective domain, faculty members addressed a greater need for appropriate student services on-campus including a wider variety of counseling services.
- The need to engage students not only in the classroom, but within the college community. Providing more events and programs for students. Current student groups and organizations outside of SGA seem to solely rest on assistance from the faculty advisor. Faculty are many times unable to provide the support needed for such organizations due to their scheduling and/or class load. Greater support for student organizations is needed.

Faculty members seemed to share an overall desire to improve the efforts that JSCC is making in regards to student success and completion. While everyone may have differing views on the specifics on how to reach such goals, faculty are open to changes campus-wide that will create a better environment for student success while still upholding academic integrity. Effective communication of such proposals and processes with the entire campus community will be important in getting support of the implementation of these new initiatives. Faculty did address the need for better communication between the various entities on-campus.

The next faculty council meeting will occur February 15th at 3 p.m. with the location TBA due to Student Union renovations.

The meeting adjourned at around 4:30 p.m.