

## **JSCC Faculty Council Meeting Minutes March 21, 2012**

The meeting began at 3:00 p.m. The following council members were present:

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

Absent Council Members: Dee Jones (Nursing); Barbara Scott-Goodman (Nursing)

Visitors: Donna Johnsey (RCT)

Dr. Raines was asked by Dr. Seymour (VP of Student Services) to get the councils feedback on a potential "convocation" at JSCC in the fall. The idea of convocation comes from Dr. Seymour's experiences at other college and universities. The convocation ceremony marks the beginning of a new academic year and welcomes new students. The convocation is usually an event that all faculty and staff participate in where the role of the college and education is further emphasized. A convocation ceremony at JSCC can be tailored to our own vision and mission. Council members were favorable to the idea of a convocation ceremony in the beginning of the fall semester, but a discussion on the logistics of the event was addressed. Council members felt that the event might be well received by students if it was in connection with the Back to School Bash. All council members were in favor of proceeding with a convocation ceremony in the fall semester.

Since JSCC is no longer participating in NISOD, the faculty council decided to facilitate the process of granting faculty and staff awards. Dr. Raines addressed the nominations for the various faculty and staff awards that were received. He proposed that a small sub-group from the council review the nominations and make recommendations on award recipients. Members of the council who submitted nominations would be excluded from this group to avoid any bias. Council members who volunteered to be on this sub-group to review nominations were: Dr. Bob Raines, Rob Wyatt, Don Brown, Dr. Andrew Kelley, and Pattie Easley. Award nominations were scheduled to be reviewed the following Wednesday at 2pm.

Dr. Raines indicated that he presented our concerns from our February meeting about faculty contracts to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Bobby Smith, Dr. Blanding, and the President's cabinet in the February cabinet meeting. He pointed out to them that most of the other advertised faculty positions at community colleges in the state of Tennessee were "tenure-track" positions and that makes JSCC less competitive. He also stated that our tenure process was not clearly defined and did not provide mentoring and yearly feedback. Dr. Blanding indicated that the tenure process deserved attention and agreed to schedule a meeting with representatives from human resources, Academic Affairs, and the Faculty Council.

Powell Franklin reported that Faculty Council elections for the upcoming 2012-2013 academic year are in the works. He is compiling the list of faculty eligible for faculty council. All council members will receive this list via email and have been asked to review the list to ensure no errors have been made. Mr. Franklin is looking into the ability for electronic voting through JWEB to encourage higher voting responses.

Dr. Raines reported that the Valentine Cards that were sent to all staff from the Faculty Council were well received. Thanks to Dr. Kelley for this idea and partial funding for the cards.

Dr. Raines mentioned the previous tradition of planting a tree on the JSCC campus when a former faculty member passes away. Former math professor, Flora Alice Metts recently passed away and the council

unanimously approved to plant a tree in her honor. The planting of the tree is tentatively scheduled for Good Friday. Dr. Raines will send out more information on time and location closer to that date.

Emily Fortner conveyed concerns regarding online testing. She has had previous issues of cheating and plagiarism within her online classes and is concerned with the lack of policy and procedure for online testing at JSCC. It is up to the professor if students are allowed to take exams with or without a proctor. She expressed a desire to have a streamlined policy for all online classes to require the use of a proctor when testing. Since it is currently up to each individual instructor, students many times are unaware of this requirement until the semester begins. Knowing that cheating is so pervasive in college and particularly online, it would make sense to expect online students to be held to some type of academic standard through the use of testing proctors. The council suggested that this concern be brought to the attention of the Distance Learning Committee.

Becca Rhea reported that the committee looking into the use of the "Paper Cut" program that would force a limit/count for individual student printing decided not to use the program due to cost.

The next faculty council meeting will occur April 18th at 3 p.m. with the location TBA.

The meeting adjourned around 4:50 p.m.