Jefferson Davis Community College
College Council Meeting
September 14, 2006

The College Council met on Thursday, September 14, 2006. Members absent were: David Jones, Marie Heaton, Cornelia Miller, and Al Bennett. Members present were: Susan McBride, Kathleen Hall, Latitia McCane, Sherry Martin, Lee Barrentine, Tonya Nelson, Richard Lynn, Bernie Wall, Mike Tedder, Loletta Redmon, Beverly Gulley, Mike Kircharr (student), and Ada Adams.

Dr. McBride opened the meeting and welcomed new members bringing attention to the newly nominated technical student, Mike Kircharr.

Dr. McBride shared her recent meeting with Dr. Corts, the Interim Chancellor of Postsecondary Education. She said that he was an excellent listener and was interested in what she had to say about JD’s needs and accomplishments. Dr. McBride stated that she feels that we are fortunate to have a man of his integrity and stature heading the two-year college system.

In light of recent newspaper articles, Dr. McBride commended Marie Heaton and Bernie Wall for making sure that state money entrusted to us is handled appropriately.

The Murder Creek Classic Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th, at the Brewton Country Club. This is a fundraising event by the JDCC Foundation. Dr. McBride said that some students and staff might be asked to help with the tournament.

Work on the parking lots should begin soon since problems have been worked out with contractors. Dr. McBride said they had hoped to begin work last May when fewer students were on campus. However, she said that construction will be handled in such a way as to have minimum impact on students. This construction should result in approximately 50 new parking spots at the Hines Building and more parking in front of the ATN building. It also includes replacing parking lot lights and repairing drainage problems.

Dr. McBride announced that Student Affairs, SGA, and PTK did a great job in getting students to attend the Political Forum on campus on September 13th. Candidates John McMillan, campaigning for state senate, and Allen Baker, campaigning for state representative, spoke briefly to the crowd and answered a few questions from students. The next Forum will be September 27th when Representative Skippy White and Senator Pat Lindsey will have the same opportunities as the previous candidates in meeting and speaking with students. Dr. McBride explained that the reason all candidates were not invited on the same day was because the purpose of the forum was not to have a debate, but so that students could meet the candidates and obtain information. Also, there was not enough time on those days for four speakers since the Forum was held during a time that most students have a break between classes. PTK and SGA members were also encouraging students to register to vote and provided forms for that purpose before and after the forum.
Enrollment was discussed by Dr. McBride. Enrollment is up a small amount on the Brewton Campus and down some on the Atmore Campus. One of the nursing classes was moved from Atmore to Brewton. She said that we are doing a great job recruiting high school students but that it is more difficult to reach older students.

The Commitment to Diversity was the next item for discussion. Dr. McBride explained that it had been presented at the last council meeting, but she wanted to give new members a chance to review and discuss as well. The statement had been e-mailed to members prior to the meeting for review. Dr. McBride asked for comments or questions and if members wanted to vote to adopt this as a college commitment. One question asked was whether this commitment would make any changes to our Mission Statement and goals. Dr. McBride answered no. The diversity commitment elaborates on who we are as a diverse group of people. Mike Tedder suggested some changes such as to include that our main goal at JDCC is to provide quality education to all students. After comments from members, Dr. McBride said that she will take the suggestions back to members of the College Diversity Committee for review. A revised statement will be provided to the College Council at a later meeting. She thanked Mr. Tedder and others for their suggestions which would help to better convey our commitment to diversity.

Lee Barrentine announced that two make-up orientation days had been held on the Brewton and Atmore Campuses. Seventy students attended which makes a total of 200 taking part in orientation sessions this fall. He stated that this contact with students helps them to bond with the college. He also announced that October 25th is the College Fair where students in the area high schools are invited to campus to meet representatives from various colleges.

Loletta Redmon brought students concerns over lack of lighting in the parking lot on the Atmore Campus to member's attention. She said a work order had been submitted. Dean Wall explained that Tri-County Electric was called to repair the lights, but their lift had broken. As soon as the lift is repaired, we are first on the list to get the lights fixed. Dean Wall said that he is experiencing difficulties with contractors in getting jobs done.

Dr. McBride asked everyone to be thinking about if we want to change our meeting times to every other month and also if we want to continue to hold meetings via telecommunications or to meet face-to-face (perhaps quarterly). Our next regular meeting will be held in November. Dean Hall suggested that we may consider changing the time that we meet as well.

In lieu of a College Council meeting in October, Dr. McBride asked Council members to attend the faculty professional development program from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on October 26. She stated that members were welcome to come late if they could not attend the entire time. Any College Council business can take place immediately following that meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.