Faculty Senate Meeting
Monday, March 12, 2007

Call to Order

Cornelia Miller called the meeting to order

Old Business

1. Student Advising

Dean Hall, Dean Jones and Robin Sessions attended the Faculty Senate meeting to address faculty concerns relating to student advising. Students are emailed before pre-registration asking them to print a degree plan and meet with their advisor. Very few students sign up to meet with their advisor during the pre-registration period. It was suggested that advising can be longer than one week, since students can continue to register until the beginning of the term. Sign up sheets could also be made available earlier in the term. Advising signup sheets with a longer time period will be made available to the faculty as soon as the registration dates are determined. Faculty are asked to encourage their students to take advantage of the advising times. Robin Sessions will send out packets to instructors with a list of their advisees along with addresses and phone numbers. Instructors can now access a list of their advisees on the JDCC web page. It was suggested that this list be updated to include only current students. Faculty expressed interest in the ability to email all advisees at one time using some type of preset distribution list. Dean Hall will check on this possibility.

Students in English 101 are assigned a career investigative paper requiring them to research their chosen career using the STARS Transfer Guide and their Degree Plan. It is the student’s responsibility to take the required classes for graduation. Instructors have no liability in this area.

Faculty are concerned that many students could benefit from regular contact with their advisor. Currently students are not required to meet with their advisor every semester. The only way to force students to meet with an advisor is to block their web authorization. It was suggested that web authorization be blocked for students meeting certain criteria. This could include a set GPA, number of withdrawals, and Early Warning System referrals. Robin Sessions will look into the computer system capabilities and draft a proposal for Faculty Senate concerning selective blocking of web authorization. The Registrar’s Office is open to any suggestions the faculty may have concerning advising. Other schools also have the same concerns and JDCC must come up with the solution that will best fit our needs and help our students.

2. College Calendar

Faculty have expressed concerns about Spring Break not coinciding with those of the local high schools. This will affect dual enrollment classes and JDCC students with school age children. Since we have students from the local area and Florida, it would be impossible for our Spring Break to coincide with all the schools. Delaying Spring Break would be hard on our students who haven’t had a break since Christmas and would only have two weeks left before finals. The Faculty Senate, while understanding the problems concerning Spring Break, decided not to ask for a change in the proposed college calendar.
3. Telecommunication Classes

Students and faculty have had complaints concerning classes taught via telecommunications and with the telecommunications equipment. Problems were experienced during the Faculty Senate meeting with communications breaking up and poor picture quality. There seems to be more problems with the sound this year than in previous years. It is important for the students and instructor to be able to communicate during class. Dean Hall reported that Jan House and Heather Stone, who are the main instructors using telecommunications, have mentioned no problems with the system. They will be the only instructors teaching via telecommunications this summer. Instructors should alternate between campuses to ensure contact with all students. Sometimes this is not possible due to class schedules.

Dean Hall will have Anthony Hardy check the microphone to see if there is a problem which can be fixed. The equipment would be expensive to replace and upgrade. If the equipment cannot be fixed, the only alternative would be to discontinue the use of the telecommunications equipment. If all telecommunication classes were canceled, this would hurt the Atmore Campus since many of their classes could not make when offered in the traditional classroom.

4. Classroom Temperatures

The following is Bernie Wall’s comment concerning classroom temperatures:

The statement that “The temperature seems to be either very cold or very hot” is a generalized statement. Our AC/Heating controls are preset to allow for comfortable conditions for our average temperatures. Whenever maintenance receives a complaint, the complaint is investigated to correct the problem. Sometimes the problem may be a controller and other times a mechanical problem. When the outside temperature is extreme, areas near entrances may be affected due to the outside doors opening. Whenever classroom temperatures are uncomfortable, the problem should be reported to maintenance so corrective action can be taken.

Complaints concerning building temperatures and maintenance should be emailed to maintenance and Bernie Wall.

New Business

1. Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws

The Faculty Senate seeing no reason to change the current constitution and bylaw, voted to accept those now in effect.

The next meeting will be held Monday, April 9th at 1:30 p.m. via telecommunications.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.