The College Council met on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. in the ATN Building on the Brewton Campus. Members absent were: Maurice Moore, Mickey Cannon, Jaclyn Seay, Kathleen Hall, Cornelia Miller, and Alexis James. Members present were: Susan McBride, Lee Barrentine, Richard Lynn, Carol Bates, David Jones, Bernie Wall, Sherry Martin, Linda Miller, Al Bennett, Marilyn Nicholson, Tonya Nelson, Anita McCreary, Christopher Steele, and Ada Adams.

Dr. McBride welcomed everyone to the meeting. She announced that the Relay for Life annual event is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th, and encouraged everyone to stop and say hello to students and staff who will be participating. She recognized Dr. Gill and the Honors Students who sponsored events which have netted close to $1000 thus far. They are currently accepting pennies for the Relay. Maurice Moore and SGA students held a car wash today (April 17) with proceeds to go to Relay for Life. Dr. McBride also shared that the SGA held a blood drive on the Brewton Campus on April 16th for the Red Cross. Other student fundraisers have been sponsored by the nursing program. Dr. McBride stated that students have collected over 100 pounds of soda pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. More will be turned in at the end of April. Mr. Bennett stated that some of the Fountain Correctional Facility faculty have saved a large amount of pop tabs for the nursing department toward that fundraiser as well.

Dr. McBride announced that the Awards Day ceremonies are scheduled for April 30, 2008. Programs will begin on the Brewton Campus at 11:00 a.m. and on the Atmore Campus at 5:30 p.m. She also reminded everyone that graduation is set for May 12th and that she is pleased to have former faculty member Mike Tedder serve as the guest speaker.

She provided an update on the Neal Building renovation repairs stating that construction bids from contractors were opened today (April 17). The architects and building inspector will review the lowest bid. If all goes well, repairs should begin in May.

Dean Wall and Dr. McBride next provided information regarding a $150,000 grant received for the library expansion on the Brewton Campus. JD applied for the grant from the Alabama Public School and College Education Incentive Fund Council. Dr. McBride stated that one way of gaining more space for seating in the library might be by closing in some of the porticoes. Part of the grant money will be used to replace the carpet since it is showing signs of wear.

Part of the approximately $800,000 bond money (beyond the grant received) from the PSCA will be used for replacing the automotive body repair shop roof on the Atmore Campus and the demolition and filling in of the pool on the Brewton Campus. The vacant pool space will be used for new parking. The campus needs more parking as well as more lighting on that end of the campus. Parking lot repairs and increased lighting are also in the plans for the Atmore Campus. Renovations will also take place in
the Wallace building. Dr. McBride asked Dean Jones to form a committee to discuss floor plans and suggest minor renovations that can be done to make the building a one-stop center for advising, tutoring, and financial aid, and plans to include private spaces for counseling. These recommendations will be reviewed and presented to the architect.

Dean Wall and Dr. McBride also discussed the renovation of the automotive mechanics building on the Atmore Campus. The renovation will consist of some demolition and construction of nursing labs, audio visual instructional area, biology lab, multipurpose classrooms, faculty offices, restrooms, etc. This project was approved by the State Board in January 2008. The architect has already looked at the renovation requirements and will take the plans to the building inspector for approval.

The Facilities Master Plan (FMP) was discussed. Dean Wall and Dr. McBride expressed the importance of the Plan. She said the FMP is our template or guide for facility upgrades and that it should be reviewed carefully each year. The current plan was reviewed which depicts immediate capital requirements (2008-2009); intermediate capital requirements (2009-2010); and long-term requirements (2010-2011 through 2012-2013). Any need that can be foreseen should be included on the plan. If it has not been put on the plan, we cannot do the project. For example, Dr. McBride said that we never know when a private donation may be made. Therefore, our wishes should be on the plan. Also, when the library renovation was put on the FMP, we had no idea that we would receive the $150,000 grant. Dr. McBride asked that everyone look around to see where repairs are needed or what facilities projects could be beneficial to the college and students. She asked that Dean Wall be notified of your findings. Al Bennett spoke up and requested that something be done about the planters (which hold no plants) on the Atmore Campus. He recommended that they be removed or filled in. Other requests at the meeting included parking lot repairs and better lighting in the rear of the Atmore Campus, the need to re-key buildings, the need for security cameras, and also an alert (public announcement) system that can be heard from in or outside buildings. Dean Wall said that a bid is being prepared for the purchase of an alert system. The purchase does not have to go to State Board for approval. All of these type items are put in the FMP under Security Measures/Improvements. Also requests were made for renovation of the current nursing building on the Atmore Campus. Continuing with a review of the FMP, Dean Wall stated that, currently, the first four items on the immediate capital requirements have been funded. They are: pool demolition & parking lot construction – Brewton; renovation/remodeling nursing lab – Atmore and Wallace Building – Brewton; and roof replacements/repairs. Resurface of the park walking path has not been funded. It will remain on the current year of the FMP. Dr. McBride noted that funds must first be channeled to things that affect academics, workforce development, and adult education. However, private donors usually request how their donations are to be spent.

Intermediate capital requirements for year 2 (2009-10) were discussed. Listed in the FMP is the construction/acquisition of a classroom building on the Atmore Campus. The Atmore Campus needs a large meeting room. Dr. McBride stated that she envisions a large room with portable walls so that the space can be utilized as needed.
An additional building would free up some space in the Administration Building for possibly enlarging the bookstore, etc. Another item discussed on page 2 of the FMP was the Network Infrastructure project. Dean Wall said that a Title III grant could assist with this project. Comments were made regarding the items on the list for 2010 through 2013. Dean Wall stated that some of those needs are partially being taken care of now as the need arises, such as air conditioner repairs. He stated that when opportunities become available, we take care of some of the needs in this section of the FMP. Ms. Miller voiced her appreciation for the removal of the old carpet and installation of tile in the OAD classroom on the Atmore Campus. Dean Wall stated that drainage improvements will be made as funds become available as well.

A question (Have we tried to sell the dorms?) was asked because of the bonded indebtedness created several years ago. The college has investigated the possibility of such a sale; however, there is not a market at a price that would cover the indebtedness. Dr. McBride stated that athletes need a place to live, and if it were not for the dorms, the college would have trouble locating places to house them. She also said that we probably have around 50 students each year that we would not have if we did not have the dorms.

Dr. McBride briefly discussed the character trait, persuasiveness, stating that good communication is a key to being able to be persuasive. She also stated that she feels that teaching is all about being persuasive. She reviewed the overcoming obstacles listed on page 6 of the magazine: Stay calm; Imagine yourself in the other person's shoes; Recognize how the other person takes what you say, and make adjustments; Be specific; Identify obstacles early; Communicate about communication. She also said that these traits were good for general day-to-day problem solving.

Dr. McBride asked for comments from the floor. Ms. Martin reminded everyone to fill out the Institutional Effectiveness Survey stating that the results are used to address the things that need improvement. She also commented on scholarship applications stating that she had seen the highest ACT scores that she had seen in a long time. She was pleased that we had gotten some of the valedictorians and salutatorians and many of the honors students from the area high schools. She thanked Lee Barrentine for his part in getting them to JD.

Dr. McBride announced that the next meeting of the Council is scheduled for July 17th and that the meeting will have a high focus on SACS. Ms. Martin informed the Council that the SACS Compliance Reports have been submitted to SACS.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ada Adams