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

Sherry Martin presided over the meeting since Dr. McBride was attending the University of Alabama Leadership Academy in Tuscaloosa as a member of the president’s panel.

Lee Barrentine reported on current orientation sessions stating that the third one was held today, July 17. The next one is scheduled for July 22nd on the Atmore Campus. Approximately 110 students have completed orientation. Two makeup orientation sessions will be held in August. Those students will register for classes on registration day. Mr. Barrentine said that he feels the increased cost of fuel is keeping some students out of college who would be coming because of the poor economy. Ms. Miller complimented him on how well advising seemed to go by offering more orientation sessions. Mr. Barrentine said the smaller groups of students first go into advising classrooms where they do not have a long wait before being advised. Then they are escorted to the labs where they are assisted in registration via the Website. He credited offering more orientation sessions and agendas for orientation days to QEP. The concept came about while working on a QEP subcommittee where ideas were being thrown out for discussion on ways of improving students' learning and campus experiences.

Ms. Martin asked Dean Wall to give an update on college facilities. He said that work on two classrooms on the Atmore Campus should be complete and ready for fall semester. Work on the Atmore nursing lab renovations will begin as soon as the building commission approves specifications and bids. Neal Building renovation repairs have been slowed down because the project has to be bid again. Plans for the demolition of the pool and construction of new parking lots at the gym and Fine Arts Building are being prepared and then will be sent to the building commission for approval. Qualified architectural firms were asked to submit letters of interest relating to professional services for the renovation and construction of the Brewton Campus Library. The College received 16 letters of interest and supporting documentations from architects. Three firms were selected for an interview and presentation. Interviews have been scheduled for July 23, 2008. Dean Wall said that work should begin in the summer of 2009. The culvert replacement should soon be completed going into the College Park. Dean Wall said he hopes the road going into the park will be open next week.

Ms. Martin gave an update on SACS. Compliance certification reports were submitted in March. An off-site team reviewed the documents in May and determined whether the College met SACS criteria and if all responses were documented sufficiently. A report of the team’s findings has been provided to the College by the Commission on Colleges. Ms. Martin said that she was extremely happy to report that the College was
cited with only five areas that needed to be worked on, and all of them are easily fixable. Those areas are: faculty and administrative evaluations; faculty credentials; general education requirements for the OAD and Drafting and Design programs; and attainment of general education competencies. The College will submit a report which will provide clarification and additional documentation. Ms. Martin said that the On-Site review Committee will review some of the other compliance standards when they come on campus the end of October even if the Off-Site Review Team had determined compliance. However, their main focus will be on QEP. The College QEP goal is on improving students’ math skills.

The College will have a math learning lab as well as a math coach to help meet this goal. The QEP plan is a five year project. The SACS committee will look at the QEP program and determine if it is a good program and if there was input from employees and students college-wide. Ms. Martin stated that a lot of work has gone into the development of the plan which focuses on redesigning all math courses.

Ms. Linda Stegall, SACS committee chair, will visit the College August 26-27, 2008, to make sure everything will be ready for the on-site review on October 28-30, 2008. Ms. Stegall will coordinate how the committee will function and time-frames of events while they are on campus in October. The on-site committee will consist of 7-10 members.

Ms. Martin stressed the importance of employee and student awareness of the QEP Program. Ms. Martin said that the fall college-wide in-service meeting will focus on the QEP Plan. Mr. Barrentine is currently working on promotional items for the QEP program. Dean Wall suggested that information be printed on a small card which could easily be carried in a wallet. Tonya Nelson suggested that the information be printed on the back of college ID cards.

Ms. Martin announced that the College applied for a Title III grant from the federal government to help fund the QEP program but did not receive it. Only one college in Alabama, Northwest-Shoals Community College, was awarded the grant. Only 62 grants were awarded nation-wide. She stated that we will be able to reapply for the grant next year.

Ms. Martin announced the retirement of Buddy Combs the end of July. She said that he has many years in the system and has done a good job while at JD, and she wishes him well.

The character trait for the month was discussed briefly. Ms. Martin shared the five keys to decisiveness at work: gather accurate information, keep a clear perspective, make the right choice, follow through, and weather criticism.

Ms. Martin asked for items from the floor. Ms. Nelson shared that the College will begin accepting nursing applications for the spring semester on August 18th. The deadline is October 15th.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,