

College Senate Meeting
Thursday, November 30, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Senators in Attendance:

Marie Basche, Stephanie Calhoun-Ward, John Christie, Miah LaPierre-Dreger, Chair: Seth Freeman, John McNamara, Guillermo Muhlmann, Daniela Ragusa, Eileen Rhodes, Mary Jean Thornton

Guests in Attendance:

President Wilfredo Nieves, Andre Freeman, Josh Hummel, Roxanne Plummer, Suzanne Rocco-Foertsch

1. Meeting called to order at 2:30pm with both the previous meeting's minutes and today's agenda approved without amendments.
2. **Standing Committee Reports:**
 - a. **CAP:** S. Freeman reported that Mike Ligon told him CAP did not meet this month, but that it would meet next month.
 - b. **CTC:** Josh Hummel reported main points from CTC's meeting, including:
 - The need to replace music tech lab equipment with mini-Mac stations or PC equipment
 - Kevin Lamkins is taking over the 20th Century classrooms
 - M. Basche asked if the advising software Insight would be renewed once the grant ends; is it worth the \$18,000.00 investment? Nursing uses Insight, and Pres. Nieves reported that the Advisement Task Force still uses it, too. S. Rocco-Foertsch asked if all faculty would be given passwords to access Insight as it is brought to scale, and would professional development be offered for it?
 - Dan Lewis will present on Scan-X
 - c. **College Affairs:** Suzanne Rocco-Foertsch reported main points from the College Affairs committee's meeting, including:
 - The Media Marketing Committee's Sheryl Lee is working on an online "memory book" for colleagues who've passed away.
 - Jennifer Thomassen proposed the Media Marketing Committee be placed under College Affairs. This suggestion initiated many questions, including:
 - S. Freeman: should MMC be an ad hoc committee to CA? Is MCC part of the strategic plan?
 - J. Christie: how does MMC fit in with shared governance? Who is communicating with CCC and the Senate the work of the MMC?
 - G. Muhlmann: should MMC be under the Senate?
 - MJ. Thornton: How can CCC as an institution make a commitment to MMC and Marketing in general? Does MMC fall under and report to CA, or does Jane take MCC under her department?
 - M. LaPierre-Dreger: Is there a budget for MMC?

- M. Basche: Should MCC fall under additional responsibilities?
 - A. Freeman: what are the short and long-term goals for MCC?
 - After much discussion, the Senate has proposed a recommendation that a short term operational plan be put in place for the Media Marketing Committee and Jane Bronfman and Jennifer Thomassen are invited to update the Senate regarding this committee's work.
- d. **Diversity and Inclusion:** Marie Basche reported main points from the Diversity & Inclusion committee's meeting, including:
- 60 people attended a very successful DACA event on Nov 15 that featured a panel with two speakers (a Quinnipiac University Law School student and UConn Hartford professor). This event was facilitated by Michelle White and Edwin Colon, a Children's Advocate. The event was video recorded and is available for viewing online.
 - D&I is planning a Women's Conference for Spring 2018.
 - D&I is exploring the idea of starting a Women's affinity group at CCC.
 - D&I is interested in making Hispanic Heritage month in Oct of 2018 more robust on campus; planning will begin in Spring 2018 with the help of Derrick Curry.
 - D&I is interested in promoting more events related to diversity, including Black History Month and other events that represent our varied student populations, including our Muslim and Asian students, and other groups.
 - D&I should be stressed in our institution's strategic plan, as well as our mission statement.
 - After much discussion, the Senate has proposed a recommendation that the Diversity and Inclusion committee plan for more meaningful campus events to include all groups. For example, there should be a concerted effort to design an inclusive invocation for commencement. D&I and CA should collaborate on this.
 - M. LaPierre-Dreger suggested the Senate should have its own strategic plan for accomplishing goals within shared governance to be more proactive rather than reactive as changes occur. Upon further discussion, it was suggested that all Senate committees have a plan for each academic year with 2-3 priorities to focus on.
- e. **Faculty, Staff, and Student Development:** Roxanne Plummer reported that FSSD does not yet have a chair and has not held any meetings.
- f. **Planning and Review:** A. Freeman reported main points from the Planning and Review committee's meeting, including:

- P&R developed a timeline for writing a new strategic plan: getting feedback from faculty, staff, and students between January and April of 2018 (via an online survey and collaborative intellectual labor) before putting a plan in place by Spring 2019. This plan was met with much objection and many questions, including:
 - S. Freeman: What have we done with our previous SP?
 - MJ. Thornton doesn't agree with bottom-up planning and argues that there needs to be a top-down approach from the administration for any credibility and traction. Checkpoints on the current plan need to be communicated: what was achieved, what needs attention within what timeframe, and how do we re-evaluate our goals and assess our progress?
 - J. Christie: The Senate should make a recommendation to suspend the strategic plan, at least temporarily, as we move forward with consolidation.
 - Pres. Nieves: The next two years will be in flux, so the items that need continued attention will include constants such as NEASC.
 - A. Freeman responded to these critiques by reminding the Senate that the Academic Division does respond to the SP and uses it for AR.
 - J. Christie suggested that the Senate recommend the P&R summarize the current plan's results and report on them before moving ahead with a one year operational plan. A. Freeman agreed.
3. **Election of a Staff member to Foundation Advisory Council:** J. McNamara reported that the Foundation Advisory Board accepted Jeff Partridge as a non-voting member and Marie Basche as an alternate. Other people on the FAB include: students Joe Young and Abi Rodriguez, and members from the community: Liz DuPont Deal, Marjorie Jones, and Jodi Greenspan.
 4. **"Students First" Consolidation Proposal:** S. Freeman reported that he has not yet heard back from anyone to whom he has sent the Senate's statement on the consolidation.
 - MJ. Thornton commended S/ Freeman on getting the statement out with integrity and professionalism.
 - The BOR votes on the consolidation plan on December 14th
 - Although there are ongoing concerns regarding "Students First," the Senate is committed to continuing to communicate its displeasure with this process to the BOR and the local media, along with the CCGA and other CT Community College reps.
 - M. LaPierre-Dreger asked if the statement was sent out to the Regents and the Hartford Courant. D. Ragusa suggested it also be sent out to the CT Mirror.
 - J. McNamara reminded the Senate that there should be a point made about "shared sacrifice" in terms of the fact that the consolidation focuses solely on changes made to the Community College system, with no concessions made by State Universities.
 5. Old Business—none

6. New Business—an announcement was made that Linda Domenitz's career fair is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, and that students should be encouraged to attend.
7. Executive Session
8. Meeting adjourned at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniela Ragusa