Academic Senate Report

February 8, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Michael Flaherty called the meeting to order at 2:34 P.M.

Members Present: Maxi Armas, John Augustine, Paul Bhasin, Liz Brindise, Christina Brophy, Mary Casey-Incardone, Kathi Deresinski, Marianna Desmond, Michael Flaherty, Julie Gilbert, Cynthia LaGon, Larry Manno, Maureen Musker, Emily Reabe, Lisa Samra, Barbra Zak

Adjunct Representative:

College Council Functional Committee Additions:

Ex-Officio Members: Cheryl Antonich, Debra Baker, Paul Jensen,

Guests: Antoinette Baldin, Susan Campos, Sue Collins, Terence Felton, Rebecca Fournier, Angelee Johns, Kevin Kennedy, Mary-Rita Moore, Darren Robards, Lucy Smith, Marge Stabile, Mary Ann Tobin, Lindsey Westley, Sujith Zachariah, Marie Ange Zicher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: * John Augustine made a motion to accept the minutes of December 7, 2010, seconded by Kathi Deresinski. ♦ Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

College Curriculum: No report. The Curriculum Committee did not meet due the closure of the College caused by the snow storm. The curriculum items were moved to next month.

B. Academic & Scholastic Standards: Julie Gilbert reported that the committee met yesterday. Comparable Credit draft was discussed and feedback on the draft will be requested soon. The committee is discussing attendance issues as a topic for College Hour. The committee is in the process of sending out invites to establish a focus group or workshop to work on online quiz which would include components related to plagiarism. The purpose of the quiz is for faculty to attach it to their syllabi. Future projects were also discussed.

C. Student Development: Mary Casey-Incardone reported that the committee has not met yet. Next meeting is scheduled for February 28 at 1:30 p.m.

D. Academic Support: Larry Manno reported that the committee is meeting next Tuesday.

E. Marketing: Paul Bhasin shared that the new marketing arrangement will meaningfully impact the Go to Market Plan. As far as change from last year, Compact Agreement, Transfer programs and Certificate programs marketing pieces are planned to be heavily emphasized, which the marketing committee has and continues to support. Faculty were encouraged to contact either Paul Bhasin or Tom Olson if they have exemplary student stories they want shared in print or on the Web/TV/Radio.
The committee had a quorum at the last meeting but new members are still needed. Dr. Flaherty encouraged everyone to talk to departments and advertise the need. He added that it will be an opportunity for faculty to have impact on development of the college.

**F. Quality of Life:** Kathi Deresinski reported that the committee did not meet and is in the process of rescheduling the meeting. They are collecting recommendations regarding furniture. She will forward the recommendations she receives to Lindsey Westley. Some of the furniture is still on display but the pictures are available for those who want to see the whole display.

**G. Professional Development:** Liz Brindise reported that the committee has not met yet.

**H. Assessment:** Dr. Flaherty reported on behalf of Maureen Musker and said that the committee meeting was cancelled due to the snow storm.

Learning Communities: No report.

**Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Internal Program Review:** Dr. Flaherty mentioned that after the last Senate meeting he sent out e-mail to his faculty with a request that they review the draft and inform him of concerns. He indicated that a number of faculty responded and he passed the information on to the Dean.

A discussion about the Internal Program Review followed.

Christina Brophy shared her concern related to student success. She said courses that are more challenging are the ones that have lower retention which will affect student success. Lisa Samra said that her department is communicating with adjuncts to keep high educational standards. Paul Bhasin added that the department has been having discussions regarding a moratorium on giving the grade “F” instead of a “W”. Angelee Johns stated that students are encouraged to take charge of their own education and that they are responsible for withdrawing from courses. She asked if a grade “F” will count against the faculty.
Liz Brindise’s concern relates to two-hundred-level classes. Some of those classes have a higher percentage of withdrawal and she asked if faculty will be penalized for withdrawal of students from those high standards classes.

Angelee Johns noted that the ratio in small classes where students need individual instruction might work against the faculty.

Dr. Flaherty expressed his concern about the one-size-fits-all program review. Senate members agreed that different areas should have different modes of evaluation.

Christina Brophy expressed her concern that best practices and teaching styles are being evaluated. She noted that faculty are trying to improve constantly and that their goals should always be to teach as best as they can but commented that one method might work for some and not for others.

Dean Jensen encouraged faculty to give feedback in a form of a letter to the dean in the respective area and let the dean know of any concerns. The deadline for submission of input is February 15th.

Paul Bhasin asked if for example a trumpet class is eliminated whether it would affect the faculty? Lisa Samra added that programs that don’t have the expected vitality should be given resources to help to shape up the programs to be viable. Angelee Johns asked how much a narrative will be taken into consideration. She mentioned that Music program offers private lessons which will require an evaluation in the form of a narrative. Dean Baldin responded at this point the Deans are gathering information and dealing with all the feedback. Lucy Smith when and if a discussion will happen after the revision is complete. Dean Baldin replied that Vice President Latham already addressed that at the last meeting. Paul Bhasin noted that there is no direct faculty meeting with the VP therefore there is no value using Senate as a discussion platform. He added that he would like to have a forum where the issue could be discussed.

Kathi Deresinski acknowledged that it is great to submit a concern but the Administration will do the final decision. Dean Mary-Rita Moore pointed out that the dialogue which is happening now will continue. She added that she is sure faculty has had a dialog with their Dean and added she thinks the Vice President would thank everyone for their comments and tell them how the communication will continue. The members were reminded of the February 15th cut off date for faculty input and were encouraged to participate.

On February 18th the revised document will be presented. AVP Cheryl Antonich reminded everyone that the VP pushed the date back based on faculty input and stated that the VP would take all comments into consideration. The recommendations will be implemented based on merit. Dr. Flaherty encouraged faculty to make it known if their recommendations are not included in the document and request an explanation. Everyone was encouraged to stay involved in the conversation.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:  ✦ Christina Brophy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lisa Samra. ✦ Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Dr. Flaherty adjourned the meeting at 3:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Lidia Aratyn, Secretary

Minutes Approved: Michael Flaherty, Senate Chairperson