



College Council

Minutes

April 16, 2024, 3:30 p.m. via WebEx

Voting Members

Present: Lynne Collins (Faculty Senate); Desryan Jenson (Faculty Senate); Marsha Jesse (Classified Staff); Ewan Magie (SFAC Representative); Troy McKie (APT Instructional Staff); Connie Mitchell (Faculty Division Chair – Gen Ed); Tracy Schneider (VP of Administration and Finance); Sally Shawcroft (APT Student Services Staff); Dr. Jennifer Thistle (Faculty Division Chair – Health Occupations); Michelle Uhrick (APT Admin & Finance Staff); Yarley Uribe (SGA Representative); Su Wright (Gen Ed Instructor)

Voting Members Absent: Dr. Deborah Coates (VP of Instruction); Dr. Gary Dukes (VP of Student Services); Bill Miller (Faculty Division Chair – CTE)

Non-Voting Members

Present: Dr. Curt Freed (President); Jane Fries (Assistant to the President); Ariella Gonzales-Vondy (Director of Communications, Marketing, & Recruitment); Holly Haman-Marcum (Centers); Michele Hodge (Interim Director of Human Resources)

Non-Voting Members Absent: Susan Clough (Director of Development); Becky Geltz (Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Planning)

- 1) **Call to Order/Welcome:** Curt Freed called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. He introduced Michelle Hodge, Interim Director of Human Resources.
- 2) **Standing Reports:**
 - a) **Faculty Senate:** Desryan Jenson reported that the updated Faculty Senate Handbook was ratified at the Senate's most recent meeting. Lynne Collins was elected as the new Faculty Senate President. Desryan will become the new Professional Development Committee Chair.
 - b) **State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC):**
 - i) Ewan Magie reported that BP and SP 2-50 updates (regarding shared governance) have been approved. Ewan, Curt Freed, and Christiane Olivo were part of the group that worked on the revisions.
 - ii) SFAC is currently working with the CCCS Legal and HR Departments to clarify due process for faculty (BP and SP 3-20).
 - iii) Ewan, Curt, and Christiane will be part of a subcommittee working on State Board and System policies relating to academic freedom. The goal is to have the revisions completed by December 2024.
 - iv) MCC faculty participated in a morale and retention survey through the Faculty Senate. Ewan noted that MCC's faculty had many positive things to report, and overall satisfaction levels are high. SFAC hopes to roll out a similar survey across the System to supplement the CCCS Climate Survey.
 - v) Dr. Landon Pirijs has transitioned from his role as the CCCS Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs to his new position as President of Red Rocks Community College.
 - vi) Dr. Sarah Heath, formerly the CCCS Associate Vice Chancellor for Career and Technical Education has filled the vacancy left by Dr. Pirijs' departure.

- vii) Dr. Chato Hazelbaker from Arizona will assume the role of President at Pueblo Community College in July.
 - viii) The final state budget is still forthcoming, but higher education allocations are looking better than expected, with an average 8.8% increase in funding across System colleges.
 - ix) The next SFAC meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2024.
- c) **Student Government Association (SGA):** Yarley Uribe gave an update on Student Life/SGA activities.
- i) An Earth Day event will be held April 24.
 - ii) The search continues for new SGA members.
 - iii) A spike ball tournament will be held April 17.
 - iv) Work is being done to update the Student Center decor to enhance a welcoming environment.
 - v) “De-stress” activity stations and food will be available to students during finals week.
 - vi) Curt Freed shared that seven students participated in the PTK induction ceremony on April 15.
- d) **State Student Advisory Council (SSAC):** There is currently no MCC SSAC representative. SSAC sponsored a Student Excellence Celebration in Denver April 10. Curt Freed and five MCC students attended.
- e) **Colorado Online:** Ewan Magie shared that there are four challenges Colorado Online is working on: course design, class materials, section size, and enrollment. Working groups that include faculty representation are addressing each of these areas. Curt Freed noted that Catlyn Keenan, the Faculty Representative on the SBCCOE has indicated that a group of faculty are working on a letter of concern about Colorado Online that includes recommendations for technical fixes.
- f) **Rural College Consortium:** No updates.
- g) **ACCESS:** Curt Freed noted the “Dash Around the World” community event held March 23 was a big success.
- 3) **Updates:**
- a) **Budget:** Tracy Schneider reported the following.
- i) The State Board has recommended a 3% tuition increase. Curt Freed noted that communication to school district partners about tuition rates cannot be finalized until after the May board meeting and will likely include an increase in online course rates, as well.
 - ii) MCC achieved 809 FTE for the year, an increase over last year. The college will base the FY25 budget on 800 FTE.
 - iii) The State has appropriated a 10.1% funding increase for MCC. College leadership is determining strategies and priorities for the FY 25 budget.
 - iv) MCC’s budget will go to the State Board for review at their May meeting.
 - v) The inability to fill some staff positions has helped the budget’s end-of-year balance.
 - vi) Curt noted that the System has discussed a 3% raise for APT and Faculty employees. MCC hopes to give a greater raise.
 - vii) Tracy noted that the college will cover 75% of the increase in health insurance premiums. Curt noted this is the approximate percentage that the college pays for benefits overall.

- b) **Construction:** Tracy Schneider reported the following.
 - i) **Dahms-Talton CSTT:** The steel for the building is scheduled to arrive April 22, after which the wall framing will begin. A considerable amount of work will be needed to rebuild the Eighth Avenue campus entrance. This will be financed with institutional funds.
 - ii) **Wray Center:** Staff is working to secure an architect for the Wray remodel.

- c) **Human Resources:** Michele Hodge gave the following updates.
 - i) A new financial wellness tool, “My Secure Advantage” is available to benefit-eligible APT and Faculty employees. Access is available for a year and once an employee signs up, they can receive 180 days of free financial coaching.
 - ii) Michele emailed employees wellness flyers with health tips. She will be emailing links on April 17 to access professional development opportunities.
 - iii) Open Enrollment for Classified Staff ends April 29. Faculty and APT Open Enrollment will run April 22 – May 13. Benefits will rollover if no changes are made. However, Flex Spending accounts require annual re-enrollment. New benefits available to APT staff and Faculty include air ambulance insurance, pet insurance, and legal services. Instructors who meet a teaching load threshold may be eligible for benefits and will receive notices.

- 4) **College Council Member comments:** Ewan Magie clarified the Open Enrollment dates for faculty.

- 5) **Audience Comments (non-College Council member participants):** None

- 6) **Adjournment/Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2024.

Minutes by Jane Fries, College Council Recorder/Assistant to the President