

**MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**February 6, 2014**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**DEANS:** M. Conners, D. Edwards, M. Laskowski-Sachnoff

**ASST.DEANS/DEPARTMENT CHAIRS/DIRECTORS/ADMINISTRATORS:**

N. Berger, D. Groninger, J. Herron, S. Larkin, L. Lederer, K. Pearle, C. Quigley, M. Reid,

**FACULTY:** N. Archer, V. Blanco, G. Bedoya, C. Christensen, E. Dikun, A. Dzurisin, R. Foley, N. Granuzzo, J. Misuraca, U. Narayanan, N. Picioccio, E. Reid, A. Rivera, E. Shur

**STUDENTS:** A. Alarcon, K. Christensen, Q. Dang, J. Fernandez, D. Garoniak, L. Jackson, R. Logan, E. Villapiano

**SUPPORT STAFF:** A. Giles, B. Roa, S. Wajda

**TASK FORCE CHAIRS:**

**Academic Standards:** G. Allen

**Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities:** T. Canavera\*

**Bylaws:** D. Gardner

**Campus Diversity:** L. Nagarajan-Iyer

**Campus Life and Community Concerns:** T. Halasinski

**Curriculum:** N. Picioccio

**Educational Resources:** M. Maciolek

**GUESTS:** R. Cole, P. Farrett, R. Goldfarb, R. Kim, A. Miller, J. La Perla-Morales, T. Orosz, M. Paul, A. Picardo, R. Roy

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** J. Kruszewski

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**DEANS:** M. Brinson\*

**DEPARTMENT CHAIRS/DIRECTORS/ADMINISTRATORS:** N. Heller\*

**FACULTY:** F. Burke\*, H. Holbeck\*, E. Schatz\*, S. Zale\*

**STUDENTS:** B. Barrera, D. Cyckowski, P. Dhiman, D. Kendle\*, I. Leo\*, D. Molina\*, M. Paracha, R. Rivera

**SUPPORT STAFF:** K. Nagy\*, W. Rodriguez\*

\*Excused

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With a quorum present, Jeremy Nickerson called the February regular meeting of the College Assembly to order on Thursday, February 6 at 2:10 p.m. in the Rose M. Channing Danzis Amphitheater, L'Hommedieu Hall.

Professor Nickerson introduced Dr. La Perla-Morales, President of Middlesex County College who provided welcoming remarks to the new and returning College Assembly members. The President emphasized the significance of the College Assembly as an opportunity for all to affect the College government and the policies. In her remarks, she stressed the importance of the work that is done here which makes us a shared government institution, which we all value in this institution. It is authorized by the Board of Trustees to be the shared governance body of the institution and any policies of the institution come out of the College Assembly through the President's office to the Board of Trustees for approval. She encouraged the students to speak boldly this semester, to influence the decisions and policies made and to preserve the quality of the College's institution. She hoped that the Assembly would appreciate the past accomplishments and strive to make new ones as the College comes into its 50<sup>th</sup> year.

Professor Nickerson introduced Dr. Goldfarb, who, in his remarks acknowledged students, faculty and administrators for their participation. He concluded by wishing the Assembly well for the academic year.

Professor Nickerson thanked Dr. La Perla-Morales and Dr. Goldfarb for their remarks. He emphasized the importance of student participation, and then welcomed and thanked everyone for their participation. He stated that the College Assembly members and Task Forces are responsible for making recommendations that affect academic, student, and other College affairs to the President of the College. These recommendations can be multi-faceted and carry important changes for the College. Our ultimate goal is to support student success and uphold the College's academic standards. He encouraged everyone to actively participate and to do so with professional consideration for others. College Assembly is most effective when recommendations are carefully considered, researched and discussed.

Professor Nickerson thanked the Office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs for the refreshments that were provided for the meeting. He acknowledged and thanked the Parliamentarian and Assembly webmaster. He also introduced Lisa Sgro, Departmental Assistant to the College Assembly and provided information regarding the College Assembly office location, phone number and email address.

Professor Nickerson stated that since the last meeting of the College Assembly on May 3, 2012, the College had undergone an administrative reorganization. As a result, it is necessary to temporarily suspend the Bylaws in order for the College Assembly and its Task Forces can continue to conduct business while the Task Force on Bylaws finalizes its charge. Therefore, according to Article XI Section 1.1102 regarding Meeting of the College Assembly – February 6, 2014

suspension of the Bylaws Professor Nickerson asked for unanimous consent that Article IV Section 1.0400 regarding College Assembly Membership and Article VII Section 1.0700 regarding Task Force Methods of Membership be suspended until the completion of the Bylaws Task Force charge at which time regular order can be reinstated . The Assembly voted unanimously to temporarily suspend the Bylaws.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes:

Mov: M. Laskowski-Sachnoff      Sec: N. Picioccio

Minutes are accepted as presented.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

Professor Nickerson announced that the Task Force Organizational Meeting was held on Thursday, January 30, 2014. After a brief introduction and welcome by Dr. La Perla-Morales the Task Force members met, elected chairs, and set future meeting dates.

The Task Force Chairs are:

Academic Standards: Dr. George Allen

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities: Ms. Tara Canavera

Bylaws: Professor Donna-Marie Gardner

Campus Diversity: Professor Lakshmi Nagarajan-Iyer

Campus Life and Community Concerns: Dr. Thomas Halasinski

Curriculum: Professor Nicholas Picioccio

Educational Resources: Professor Mary-Pat Maciolek

Professor Nickerson introduced the new Chairs of the Task Forces, who introduced themselves and gave brief reports.

### **STANDING TASK FORCES**

- A. Academic Standards – Dr. George Allen, Chair**
- B. Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities - Ms. Tara Canavera, Chair**
- C. Bylaws – Professor Donna-Marie Gardner, Chair**
- D. Campus Diversity - Professor Lakshmi Nagarajan-Iyer, Chair**
- E. Campus Life and Community Concerns: Dr. Thomas Halasinski, Chair**

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- F. Curriculum - Professor Nicholas Picioccio, Chair**

## **G. Educational Resources - Professor Mary-Pat Maciolek, Chair**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

1. All curriculum items that came before the College Assembly at the May 3, 2012 meeting were approved and signed by Dr. La Perla Morales and forwarded to the office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.
2. Dr. La Perla-Morales signed the following recommendations by the College Assembly on May 3, 2012 and subsequently forwarded them to the various offices for implementation.
  - a. The recommendation from the Academic Standards Task Force on a policy to replace the current MCC withdrawal policy was signed by Dr. La Perla-Morales and forwarded to the office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
  - b. The recommendation from the Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and the Educational Resources Task Force to conduct a college wide staff development program to educate and sensitize the College community on accessibility standards signed by Dr. La Perla-Morales and was forwarded to the Office of Counseling and Career Services.
  - c. The recommendation from the Educational Resources Task Force on the use of printing activity on campus pertaining to access, efficiency and cost effectiveness was signed by Dr. La Perla-Morales and forwarded to the Vice President for Finance and Administration.
3. The recommendation from the Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities Task Force and the Educational Resources Task Force to convene a committee/work group to issues related to accessibility and technology was not signed as it was felt that there are established committees and departments (such as ATAC and Project Connections) already in place that can address and assess technology issues as they pertain to students with disabilities.

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4. The recommendation from the Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and the Educational Resources Task Force to expand the availability of services of the Assistive Technology Lab was not signed; however the department is

encouraged to pursue outside grant funding to augment existing coverage and staffing.

5. Copies of two reports are available to the College Assembly. The first report is mandated by the Assembly Bylaws; it is a list of job title, division and department name changes. The Chair of the College Assembly provides written notification of these changes on the first scheduled Assembly meeting subsequent to receiving that notification. The current Assembly Bylaws already contain those changes.
6. The second report is a summary of recommendations and curriculum matters, which came before the Assembly in 2011-2012. They were approved and signed by the President, and forwarded to the appropriate offices for implementation. This report is also available on the College Assembly website.
7. The next meeting of the College Assembly will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

#### **RECOGNITION AND HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn:

Mov: N. Picioccio    Sec: C. Quigley

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeremy Nickerson  
Chair, College Assembly

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