

**MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE ASSEMBLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2012
MEMBERS PRESENT**

DEANS: M. Brinson, M. Conners

ASST.DEANS/DEPARTMENT CHAIRS/DIRECTORS/ADMINISTRATORS:

M. Foley, N. Heller, S. Larkin, L. Lederer, K. Pearle, C. Quigley, M. Reid, T. Sabol

FACULTY: J. Altman, S. Biswas, E. Christensen, J. Constantino, E. Daidone, L. Nagarajan, U. Narayanan, N. Picioccio, J. Saborido, E. Schatz, E. Shur, S. Zale

STUDENTS: N. Amin, S. Arooj, F. Bahary, W. Brooks, D. Fade, M. Giles, D. Gillet, R. Kenney, J. Silverman

SUPPORT STAFF: B. Roa, W. Rodriguez

TASK FORCE CHAIRS:

Academic Standards: C. Stickler

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities: E. Daidone

Bylaws: E. Schatz

Campus Diversity: T. Young

Curriculum: S. Zale

Educational Resources: N. Picioccio

GUESTS: N. Berger, R. Cole, D. Drost, P. Farrett, K. Hays, D. Lipton, A. Moss, M. Nester, J. Nickerson, A. Picardo, G. Reynolds, C. Rutkowski

PARLIAMENTARIAN: J. Kruszewski

MEMBERS ABSENT

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

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS/DIRECTORS/ADMINISTRATORS: R. Roy*

FACULTY: C. Bowers*, N. Dhanda*, V. Kanwal*, C. Pean*, C. Reilly*

STUDENTS: H. Cadet*, J. Camacho*, R. Rivera*, L. Serzan*

SUPPORT STAFF: A. Giles*, M. Hilton*, R. Nunez*

*Excused

With a quorum present, Theresa Orosz called the February regular meeting of the College Assembly to order on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 2:10 p.m. in the Rose M. Channing Danzis Amphitheater, L'Hommedieu Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes:

Mov: J. Saborido Sec: S. Biswas

Minutes are accepted as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REPORTS OF THE STANDING TASK FORCES

A. Academic Standards – Dr. Craig Stickler

No Report

B. Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities - Professor Elaine Weir-Daidone, Chair

Charge:

Explore methods for increasing campus awareness of disability services and an increased understanding and sensitivity to disability issues. Make appropriate recommendations.

Recommendation:

The Task Force on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities recommends that facilities assess and address sidewalk grade issues at several parts of the Edison Campus. Specifically, the slope from Lot#3 to the entrance of the College Center, the slope of the walkway from the Handicapped Parking in front of Crabiel Hall to the bookstore and the slope of the walkway leading from Edison Hall to Crabiel Hall.

Rationale:

Concerns have been raised from students and faculty regarding the ease of traveling on campus given these slope issues. Particular concern exists if using the HP parking in the visitor Lot# 3 and traveling to the College Center. Similarly, concerns exist for students attempting to travel from classes in Edison Hall to Crabiel Hall and in traveling from parking in the HP spots in front of Crabiel Hall to the College Bookstore.

Motion to accept recommendation:

Mov: E. Schatz Sec: N. Picioccio

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Vote on recommendation:

App: Unanimous Opp: 0 Abs: 0
Motion passes.

Charge:

Explore methods for increasing campus awareness of disability services and an increased understanding and sensitivity to disability issues. Make appropriate recommendations.

Recommendation:

The Task Force on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities recommends that the circle with parking in front of the College Center be converted to Handicapped Parking with dual signs that allow for usage for other events and purposes, as needed by the College community.

Rationale:

Concerns have been raised by students, faculty, staff, and visitors who need to utilize handicapped parking and need to access the College Center. Last year, the Task Force on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities brought a recommendation to the College Assembly for approval to expand parking in Lot#16. This recommendation was rejected by the College Assembly due to the projected expenses of the project. Difficulties accessing the College Center still remain, however. On October 20, 2011 the Task Force on Accessibility met with the College Police to discuss handicap parking issues. The conversion of the circle to include Handicapped Parking spots was discussed in detail. This recommendation is made with their support. Signage exists that allows for the conversion of the lot to alternate parking as needed and is currently in use at other institutions. The Police are not concerned about added traffic to the front of the College Center, as many buildings on campus currently have Handicapped Parking access in front of them. There are also no known fire and evacuation issues to be considered.

This addition will allow for access to the main floor of the College Center and easy access to the Performing Arts Center, Cafeteria and the Student Activities Office rather than parking behind the building and needing to travel through the length of the building and accessing the elevator.

Motion to accept recommendation:

Mov: M. Foley Sec: J. Constantino

Discussion followed. Donald Drost, Executive Director of Facilities Management stated that in the past the College Center circle was open with handicap parking spaces and 15 minute parking spaces. He noted that it was closed because there were numerous Meeting of the College Assembly – February 2, 2012

traffic accidents from vehicles using the circle to make u-turns. He stated that situation made it unsafe and a hazard not only for people with disabilities, but also for students, faculty and staff because people tend to congregate outside of the College Center.

Concern was expressed that the recommendation for additional handicap parking in Lot 16 which was not approved by the College Assembly last year was rejected due to the cost. It was stressed that the College does not reject a recommendation because of cost. Overall safety and security concerns are considered along with viable alternatives in order to ensure that the situation is not made potentially worse for students, faculty and staff. It was stated that handicap parking was recently expanded between Chambers Hall and Edison Hall and the Instructional Resource Center and handicap parking is available behind the College Center.

Discussion continued regarding differences between Lot 13 in front of Edison Hall and the College Center circle. It was stated that the College Center circle is much smaller than Lot 13 and is a huge gathering zone for people being picked up and dropped off. The addition of handicap spaces would be dangerous to faculty, students, and staff because of the traffic and congestion.

It was noted that capital funds are spent regularly to expand handicap spaces and that the issue is looked at on a continual basis and that the number of handicap parking spaces on campus exceeds the minimum number that are required.

Vote on recommendation:

App: 12 Opp: 10 Abs: 6

Motion passes.

Charge:

Working with the Educational Resources Task Force, conduct an assessment on the "state of affairs" regarding technology, online coursework guidelines, and textbook acquisitions as they pertain to students with disabilities.

Report:

The Task Forces on Accessibilities for Persons with Disabilities and the Educational Resources held a very lengthy meeting to discuss the charge. It is a very complicated charge in that it involves acquisition of not only textbooks but all software and hardware that's used on campus. As a result of our joint meeting, it was decided that we need more time to delve into this issues of textbook acquisitions, software and hardware purchases and also of on-line courses. Our plan is to conduct a campus-wide needs assessment and questionnaire about this issue. Also, to consult with the Board of Trustees in terms of policy issues that might be relevant and to determine whether or not a permanent committee might need to be established to address these issues in Meeting of the College Assembly – February 2, 2012

addition to examining the accessibility of our current on-line courses and developing universal standards for new classes. The two task forces are going to continue to work together to make progress on this charge.

C. Bylaws – Professor Emmi Schatz, Chair

Ms. Orosz stated that the Bylaws recommendations that were presented as reports at the December meeting were removed from today's agenda and would be presented and voted on at the March meeting.

D. Campus Diversity - Professor Tracy Young, Chair

No Report

G. Curriculum - Dr. Steven Zale, Chair

RDG 070: Reading 070 RDG 009 Bridge
New Course

Motion to accept recommendation:

Mov: N. Picioccio Sec: S. Larkin

Vote on recommendations:

App: Unanimous Opp: 0 Abs: 0

Motion passes.

H. Educational Resources - Professor Nicholas Picioccio, Chair

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Professor Jeremy Nickerson, Chair for the Second Chair-Elect Nominations Committee of the College Assembly stated that a nominating committee comprised of Dr. Steven Barnhart, Dean Marla Brinson, Professor Alice Picardo, and Dr. Steven Zale was formed to seek nominations for the Second Chair-Elect of the College Assembly. The Second Chair-Elect will be serving in that capacity from April of this year until the end of the academic year. In September 2012, the Second Chair-Elect will transition to the Chair-Elect role, serving in that capacity until assuming the role of Chair in September 2014. The nominations for Second-Chair Elect were announced and are:

Professor Michael Paquette – Department of History and Social Science
Professor Hope-Claire Holbeck – Department of Dental Auxiliaries Education

It was further stated that at the March 1, 2012 College Assembly meeting, nominations will be accepted from the floor. In the interim, individuals intending to nominate themselves or another person should contact Professor Nickerson prior to the meeting

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by e-mail at jnickerson@middlesexcc.edu or at extension 3203, or speak with any of the committee members.

At the April 5, 2012 meeting, the nominees will make a short presentation. In advance of the April meeting, the College Assembly office will send information to the candidates so that they can provide biographical information to the Assembly. The biographical information will be forwarded with the minutes of the March meeting.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

1. The curriculum items that came before the College Assembly at the December 1, 2011 meeting that were approved and signed by Dr. La Perla-Morales and forwarded to the Office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs for implementation were:

SCI 162: Historical Geology: Diamonds, Drilling and Dinosaurs
New Course
Basic Automotive Technology Certificate of Achievement
New Curriculum

2. The following Fast Track curriculum items were approved:

ENG 212: Children's Literature
Change in course description.
FSC 207: Hazardous Materials
Removal of CHM 107 as prerequisite.

3. The next meeting of the College Assembly will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

RECOGNITION AND HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn:

Mov: S. Biswas Sec: S. Larkin

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Orosz
Chair, College Assembly