



College Council

Minutes

February 20, 2024, 3:30 p.m. via WebEx

Voting Members

Present: Dr. Deborah Coates (VP of Instruction); Dr. Gary Dukes (VP of Student Services); 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); Su Wright (Gen Ed Instructor)

Voting Members Absent: Grant Kaster (CTE Instructor); Bill Miller (Faculty Division Chair – CTE); Robbin Schincke (Centers)

Non-Voting Members

Present: Dr. Curt Freed (President); Jane Fries (Assistant to the President); Becky Geltz (Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Planning); Ariella Gonzales-Vondy (Director of Communications, Marketing, & Recruitment); ShiLyn Provencio (Director of Human Resources)

Non-Voting Members Absent: Susan Clough (Director of Development)

- 1) **Call to Order/Welcome:** Curt Freed called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.
- 2) **Updates:**
 - a) **Faculty Senate:** Desryan Jenson reported that the Faculty Senate is working on getting approval of a revised Faculty Handbook. There will be time allotted at the next regular faculty meeting to address questions about the proposed revisions.
 - b) **State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC):**
 - i) Ewan Magie reported that the State Board Policy 2-50 on shared governance was approved.
 - ii) BP/SP 3-20 relating to Faculty Due Process will be undergoing review.
 - iii) Ewan is involved in a project addressing faculty morale and retention. It will involve surveying faculty across the System in Spring 24 and Fall 24 and examining the cost to institutions when there is turnover.
 - iv) State funding projections for CCCS are currently not looking as strong this year.
 - c) **Student Government Association (SGA):** There is currently no SGA representative since the SGA President (Felipe Antonio) graduated at the end of Fall Semester. Gary Dukes reported that Rebecca (Becky) Watson, the new Student Life Coordinator, started February 5. The Student Life Department/SGA held a Valentine's Day event February 14. A beach-themed "pre-spring break" event is being planned for March 7, and a Saint Patrick's Day event for March 18. Becky is hoping to provide consistent weekly events. She is also strategizing how to best operate the food pantry.
 - d) **State Student Advisory Council (SSAC):** There is currently no representative, as the person formerly in the role (Miriam Camacho) decided to focus more on her education.

e) **Colorado Online @/Rural College Consortium:**

i) **Colorado Online:**

- (1) Deb Coates reported:
 - (a) Challenges continue with CO Online, but more processes are being established.
 - (b) There are some timetable issues with the book vendor. The vendor wants information twelve weeks in advance, but CO Online courses aren't sectionized until four days before the semester starts.
 - (c) CO Online courses closed two days after the start of classes, which is different than MCC's drop/add window.
 - (d) Deb expressed thanks to Lynelle Phillips and Vanessa Pursley for their grace in dealing with many scheduling challenges.
 - (e) There will be around two dozen CO Online courses assigned to MCC for Summer Semester. Five dozen CO Online courses are assigned to MCC for Fall Semester.
- (2) Curt Freed asked College Council for additional input on their experiences with CO Online.
 - (a) Troy McKie noted that some faculty utilize software that is unique to their institution. This means if an MCC student is taking courses through another college, it makes it difficult to support them because MCC staff may not be familiar with the software or even be able to access it. Troy anticipates that there will be software standardization over time.
 - (b) Gary Dukes noted that 30-40 students were registered in a course, but they weren't assigned to a section initially. Gary shared that some students were dropped for various reasons that MCC had no control over and had to be re-registered.
 - (c) Jennifer Thistle shared that better communication is needed about textbook requirements.
 - (d) Ewan Magie noted that it has been a struggle to receive clear and consistent communication through all levels of those involved with CO Online.
 - (e) Christiane Olivo noted that MCC students prefer the "small school touch." The CO Online sectionizer is supposed to put MCC students with MCC instructors, but many of them are placed in classes with instructors from all over the System. She has heard that some of these instructors aren't responsive to MCC students. Christiane said that there should be standardized teaching expectations (e.g., response time to students) and a way to evaluate the teaching.
 - (f) Deb Coates noted that Colorado Online has not yet determined how to conduct course evaluations.
- (3) Curt Freed noted that the System conducted a survey with faculty and students during Fall Semester regarding their experiences with CO Online. Curt shared that the survey results indicated that most people had good experiences. He will share the survey results with College Council.
- (4) Curt Freed wondered if Open Educational Resources (OER) would help minimize cost to students and address some of the textbook ordering challenges. Christiane Olivo noted that college librarians are supportive of OER, but the Disciplines still have the choice to select their preferred textbook resources.
- (5) Curt Freed noted that the State Board approved funding for YuJa accessibility checker software that will scan and report on how accessible digital course content is in D2L. They also approved funding to modify the D2L contract so D2L can be integrated with EAB/Navigate. Curt hopes this upgrade will help colleges monitor student progress more effectively.

- ii) **Rural College Consortium (RCC):** Deb Coates noted that the rural Vice Presidents meet weekly to collaborate about the Rural College Consortium. CCCS has posted positions for a RCC Scheduler and Director. Ewan Magie shared that during SFAC he learned that there's an issue with some colleges being able to see the full number of students enrolled in a RCC course. They have only been able to see who is enrolled from their school, which has resulted in some classes being cancelled because institutions thought enrollment was low. Deb noted that the Vice Presidents will be discussing this issue.

- 3) **Shared Governance:** Curt Freed referenced the recently approved State Board policy on Shared Governance, noting that he provided a copy to the College Council via email. Curt will also share a copy of the draft System Procedure with the College Council, which goes into more detail than the Board policy. Curt, Christiane Olivo, and Ewan Magie served on the System-wide Committee that created the drafts of the Board Policy and System Procedure on Shared Governance. Ewan Magie noted that the shared governance policy has helped empower faculty to request adequate time to give input on upcoming revisions to state board and system procedures. Ewan shared that some faculty across the System are concerned that the shared governance policy and procedure will be "lip service." He noted that Chancellor Garcia has expressed that he will hold College Presidents accountable for implementing shared governance. Christiane Olivo shared that there needs to be accountability for fostering meaningful shared governance. She noted that the System Policy includes strong language, such as "The Chancellor *directs* each president . . .the rationale behind decisions *shall be* communicated to relevant internal stakeholders . . .pertinent information related to decision making *shall be* communicated." Christiane stated that compared to some of the other colleges, MCC is doing well (e.g., the college has an active Faculty Senate and a College Council). Curt Freed noted that the final language of the BP and SP was broadened to include all employee groups, not just faculty. He shared that the College Council was created in 2020 to be one mechanism for shared governance. Curt noted that it has been a challenge to get students to attend College Council meetings. Jennifer Thistle stated that shared governance means shared responsibility at all levels.

- 4) **College Council Vacancies:**
 - a) Faculty Division Chair (Business)
 - b) CTE Instructor
 - c) SGA Rep
 - d) SSAC Rep
 - e) Regional Center Student

- 5) **Advisory Council Member comments:**
 - a) Jennifer Thistle shared that there will be a Physical Therapist Assistant program accreditation visit June 10-12, 2024.
 - b) Jennifer Thistle noted that the Student Nurse Association will hold a blood drive at MCC on February 26, 2024.

- 6) **Audience Comments:** None

- 7) **Other:**
 - a) Curt Freed shared that he received notice that 45,092 MCC students were impacted by the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) data breach, of which 8,374 had Personally Identifiable Information breached. The CDHE is responsible for notifying those who have been

impacted and will give them credit monitoring options. Curt will send out additional information to the College Council.

- b) Curt reported that System community college enrollment is increasing, especially online.
- c) Curt confirmed that MCC is the only college in the System that conducts drops for non-payment. Gary Dukes noted that instead of dropping students, some colleges put holds on their accounts so they can't register for additional classes.
- d) Connie Mitchell shared that the MCC "First Year Experience" program will be piloted in the fall. It will involve creating learning communities where two cohorts of students enroll in the same three courses together.
- e) Ewan Magie noted that there is a faculty perception across the System that the Colorado Online transition is a "top down" initiative from CCCS, a "big money grab," and that faculty are compelled to implement it despite concerns about quality of instruction and student learning outcomes. Ewan feels there is a communication gap with faculty. Chancellor Garcia has noted that Colorado Online will increase equity and create more access to students. Curt provided additional context, noting that there was a Higher Learning Commission issue with courses offered through CCCOnline, since CCCS is not an accredited body. Transitioning to Colorado Online addresses this concern, since all courses now fall under the colleges' instructional oversight and accreditations. Ewan noted that only 12% of Colorado Online income goes to CCCS, and the rest goes to colleges offering the courses.

- 8) **Adjournment/Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024.

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