



College Council

Minutes

November 21, 2023, 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); Bill Miller (Faculty Division Chair – CTE); Connie Mitchell (Faculty Division Chair – Gen Ed); ShiLyn Provencio (Director of Human Resources); Robbin Schincke (Centers); Tracy Schneider (VP of Administration and Finance); Sally Shawcroft (APT Student Services Staff); Dr. Jennifer Thistle (Faculty Division Chair – Health Occupations); Su Wright (Gen Ed Instructor)

Voting Members Absent: Felipe Antonio (SGA Representative); Miriam Camacho (SSAC Representative); Grant Kaster (CTE Instructor); Michelle Uhrick (APT Admin & Finance Staff)

Non-Voting Members

Present: Dr. Curt Freed (President); Jane Fries (Assistant to the President); Becky Geltz (Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Planning)

Non-Voting Members Absent: Susan Clough (Director of Development); Ariella Gonzales-Vondy (Director of Communications, Marketing, & Recruitment)

- 1) **Call to Order/Welcome:** Curt Freed called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.
- 2) **Faculty Senate:**
 - a) Desryan Jenson reported that the Faculty Senate met recently and had productive conversation.
 - b) Desryan inquired during the College Council meeting about the procedures for holding remote classes when the campus is closed for weather, etc. He noted that faculty believe there are equitable ways to offer classes with a combination of Zoom and class recordings. Deb Coates shared that she believes the best approach is to not have classes on “snow days” since not all students would have internet access. Curt Freed noted he feels staff should not be required to work from home on snow days since personal situations differ. Desryan inquired about asynchronous content that could be viewed on a different day. Deb noted that having students access the content after the fact is fine, but due dates would need to be pushed back, as well. Connie Mitchell inquired what would happen if classes were cancelled the week of finals. Deb noted there would be options depending on when the closure happens during finals week. She stated that, if necessary, grades could also be determined based on students’ work prior to the final if the final couldn’t be rescheduled.
- 3) **State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC):**
 - a) Colorado Online:
 - i) Ewan Magie reported that Colorado Online enrollment will likely double from fall to spring semester.
 - ii) A Colorado Online Faculty Summit will be held December 8, 2023. Ewan will be participating in the meeting.
 - iii) SFAC is endeavoring to facilitate communication between the System and online faculty.
 - iv) CCCS is continuing to make efforts to resolve Colorado Online challenges that arise.
 - v) Colorado Online will begin providing stipends for state Discipline Chairs for the additional work relating to transitioning to Colorado Online courses.

- vi) Kathy Frisbie noted that clearer communication about the nuts and bolts relating to Colorado Online implementation is needed.
 - vii) Curt Freed noted that CCCS Presidents recently discussed Colorado Online. He expressed that only including a few Presidents on the Steering Committee has left other Presidents lacking information that affects their campuses.
 - b) A Board Policy and System Procedure are being written regarding shared governance. Ewan noted that the purpose of this work is to enhance trust and promote working together to achieve shared outcomes.
 - c) State funding for higher education is still subject to several variables.
 - d) The next SFAC meeting is scheduled for December 1. One of the agenda topics will be discussing the rural/suburban instructor pay differences.
 - e) Sonia Brown, Programs and Curriculum Manager at CCCS discussed the course approval process. There may be another 2:2 faculty meeting in the spring (one was held in the fall). These meetings allow for discipline-specific discussions among community college faculty.
- 4) **Student Government Association (SGA):** Felipe Antonio, SGA President was not present due to a class schedule conflict. Gary Dukes provided the following update based on a written report submitted by Felipe.
- a) All SGA Officer positions are full:
 - i) President: Felipe Antonio
 - ii) Vice President: Yarely Uribe
 - iii) Secretary: Jesse Del Leon
 - iv) Treasurer: Brenda Meza
 - v) SSAC Rep: Miriam Camacho
 - b) Events:
 - i) A pizza party was held to celebrate the October MCC Food Bank Drive. Seventy-five people participated.
 - ii) SGA partnered with MCC staff to set up and decorate a tree for the Vision of Trees event.
 - iii) SGA offered a Friendsgiving event November 20 in Founders Room from 5-7 p.m. for student clubs to come together for a meal. Twenty-five people participated.
 - iv) Club activities have included:
 - (1) The STEM Club had a stargazing event with chili and hot chocolate. Eight people participated.
 - (2) The Multicultural Club held a Dia De Los Muertos event, which included a tamale luncheon. Ninety people participated.
 - (3) SNA and HOSA are conducting fundraisers.
 - v) Thanksgiving baskets were given to eight students in need.
- 5) **State Student Advisory Council (SSAC):** Miriam Camacho, SSAC Representative, was not present.
- 6) **Colorado Online @/Rural College Consortium:**
- a) Deborah Coates provided the following updates:
 - i) Colorado Online continues to create challenges. Staff is working on getting classes built.
 - ii) The Rural College Consortium Steering Committee (Presidents) and Vice Presidents will be meeting with Linda Lujan on November 29. Curt Freed noted that members of the Consortium met during the Rural College Summit in Pueblo. He said that it is important to continue to include Vice Presidents in the conversations with the Presidents.

- 7) **Advising Project Update:** Curt Freed noted that MCC must complete a quality improvement project as part of the college's ongoing accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). MCC's proposed project has been approved by the HLC and relates to better defining and enhancing the student advising process. Deborah Coates shared that a survey was sent to staff and faculty to help better understand the various types of advising currently occurring. A group will meet to review the survey results. Gary Dukes noted that a CCSSE survey will be sent to students this spring. There will also be student focus groups to obtain their input. Gary noted that students receive advising from several angles, such as academic advising and advising from student services staff who respond to alerts that a student needs additional support services. Deb noted a tandem effort is needed between faculty and Student Services Staff to create the best advising model. Gary noted that adding career advising is another valuable addition to advising services.
- 8) **HLC Policy Change:** Curt Freed shared that the Higher Learning Commission has issued a policy change on faculty credentialing requirements effective immediately: [HLC Policy Change](#). Curt provided a history of faculty credentialing requirements. The long-standing requirement was to require a master's degree with at least 18 credits in the subject matter being taught for transfer courses. In 2016-17 the HLC started monitoring compliance with these requirements more closely. Colleges could apply for a five-year waiver to come into compliance. During President Kerry Hart's tenure, all the CCCS rural colleges except for MCC applied for and were granted the waiver. Therefore, MCC was expected to meet the credentialing standards by Fall 2018. This resulted in other colleges being able to hire faculty/instructors that MCC could not. Several MCC faculty and instructors obtained additional credits to meet the requirement. MCC implemented a "Master Teacher/High School Facilitator" model, but HLC later stated this would not meet the policy requirements. During the pandemic, the HLC extended the five-year waiver for several more years. The recent HLC announcement indicates that the faculty credentialing policy has changed to create more flexibility at the college level. Kathy Frisbie emphasized that Master's degrees are still required, but the policy allows the college to use someone working on a Master's degree or who has equivalent experience. If a potential faculty/instructor holds a Master's degree that is not in the course content, the institution can decide what is sufficient for the discipline (rather than a rigid 18-credit requirement). MCC must create and use a documented process to determine whether a faculty member is qualified. Jennifer Thistle noted she would like the discipline chairs to be involved in defining MCC's process. Kathy affirmed that HLC requires the college to have evidence that qualified faculty were involved in creating the process.
- 9) **Gun Legislation Summary:** Curt Freed noted that some faculty had questions/concerns following the mention of Colorado Gun Legislation in the October 9, 2023, President's Staff meeting. Curt shared that follow up discussions will be held with Faculty Senate. Curt noted that the reason Angie Gramse (General Counsel) and Greg Busch (Director of Emergency Management) from CCCS were invited to join the October 9 President's Staff meeting is because some new staff had questions about whether guns are allowed on campus. Curt gave an overview of the information Angie and Greg provided:
- a) Prior to 2012, all Colorado higher education institutions prohibited concealed carry guns on campuses except in rare circumstances. This was based on an old Attorney General opinion that said governing boards had the authority to set rules relating to firearms and overlook the Second Amendment, which grants the right to bear arms.
 - b) Around 2010, a student gun advocacy group sued to challenge this prohibition, and the case went all the way to the Colorado Supreme Court. The court ruled that prohibiting concealed carry guns on campus was a violation of the Colorado Concealed Carry Act and the right to bear arms.

- c) In 2012, Colorado higher education institutions updated their policies accordingly. The most recent SBCCOE and CCCS policies are from November 2019: [BP 19-10](#) and [SP 19-10](#). The System policy contains the following language:
“Possession of a weapon is strictly prohibited except where authorized by law. Possession of a weapon is defined in Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S., Title 18, Article 12). The only CCCS employees that are authorized to carry firearms are:
- i) Persons conducting and participating in an approved program of instruction in college curriculum which requires access to such equipment as an integral part of the instructional program;
 - ii) Certified Peace Officers;
 - iii) Persons granted permission at the discretion of the Chancellor or College President for specific purposes; and,
 - iv) Persons carrying a firearm as authorized by law.
- Any concerns about possession of an unauthorized firearm should be reported immediately to College or System security/police, College designee, or local police.”
- d) In 2021, a bill was passed that granted governing boards of institutions the authority to prohibit firearms on campuses. No institutions have exercised this law to date. CCCS is closely monitoring to see if other institutions (particularly the University of Colorado Board of Regents) start applying this law. The concern is that once an institution exercises this law, it gives gun advocacy groups standing to challenge the institution.
- e) In Colorado, 17.5% of the population hold concealed carry permits compared to the national average of 9%.
- f) Employees have the right to protect themselves in the event of a college emergency, but no legal protection is guaranteed.

Curt emphasized that when the topic was discussed in the October 9 President’s Staff meeting, it was purely for informational purposes, not because any change had occurred in policy or practice at MCC or at the System level. Ewan Magie noted that the information raised a question of safety on campus. He wondered whether sharing the information will increase the number of guns on campus. Curt noted that while colleges cannot ask who is practicing concealed carry, it can be assumed that it is occurring at MCC and other campuses. However, according to Greg Busch and Angie Gramse, this has not resulted in any significant safety issue at CCCS colleges over the years.

10) Other:

- a) Curt Freed shared that MCC is under contract to purchase the property at 300 Dexter Street in Wray (a former Texaco station) for \$400K. MCC has obtained environmental reports and building and title inspections. An appraisal is underway. Closing is scheduled for December 19, 2023.
- b) Leadership is exploring options to purchase property from the Town of Bennett.
- c) Bids have closed for construction on the Dahms-Talton Center for Skilled Trades and Technology. Groundbreaking will occur in mid-December.
- d) Jesse Gonzalez will start as the new Registrar on November 27.

11) Member comments: Jennifer Thistle inquired when classes can be offered out of the new Wray location (in particular, Nurse Aide training). Curt Freed said that this is currently unknown, as a facility design plan is yet to be created. Tracy Schneider shared that the hope is to begin offering classes in Fall or Summer of 2024. MCC has extended its lease space at the temporary Wray location through the end of June.

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12) **Non-voting member comments:** Holly Haman-Marcum confirmed that MCC is negotiating use of Hillcrest Care Center in Wray for the Nurse Aide program.

13) **Adjournment/Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2023.

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