



College Council

Minutes

October 17, 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); 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); Payton Eaton (Center Student Representative); Grant Kaster (CTE Instructor); Robbin Schincke (Centers); 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:** Desryan Jenson reported that the MCC Faculty Senate will hold a meeting at the end of October. He noted that items of business will include voting on the new faculty handbook, discussing what questions should be included in the online course evaluation software, and discussion about whether there is leeway for faculty to decide whether to hold classes on snow days.
- 3) **State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC):** Ewan Magie shared highlights from the October 6 SFAC meeting.
 - a) Chancellor Garcia noted that the System will be working on a new strategic plan (the current plan expires in 2025).
 - b) DEI work is healthy in Colorado and in the System. However, equity gaps still exist between white and non-white populations and need improvement.
 - c) Overall, System college enrollment is good, but some rural colleges are still struggling. The largest enrollment increase is in concurrent enrollment.
 - d) Faculty burnout will be one of the areas SFAC will be addressing.
 - e) Faculty shared some concerns about Colorado Online @ during the SFAC meeting. Ewan noted that several issues need to be addressed and improved.
- 4) **Student Government Association (SGA):** Felipe Antonio, SGA President was not present. Gary Dukes reported the following:
 - a) In honor of Día de los Muertos, an Ofrenda will be created in the Student Center. Students, faculty, and staff are welcome to participate in honoring deceased loved ones.
 - b) A Trick or Treat Trail around the Fort Morgan campus will be open to the public on October 31.
 - c) SGA will be providing Thanksgiving baskets to students in need.

- 5) **State Student Advisory Council (SSAC):** Miriam Camacho, SSAC Representative, was not present.
- 6) **Colorado Online @:**
 - a) Deborah Coates provided the following updates:
 - i) CO Online courses did close two days after classes started.
 - ii) Some CO Online courses started before their D2L shells were available.
 - iii) The CCCS sectionizer placed concurrent enrollment students from the same high schools in different courses instead of in the same section, which is a problem. Tracy Schneider noted that there is a process to get high school students placed in the same section, but it takes a specific request to the System to manually move the students.
 - iv) The ability of each System college to offer Colorado Online courses is based on historical enrollment in the classes. This makes it hard to offer a new course unless the opportunity is given through a wild card selection process, or the course is needed to create a full-time faculty load. The Rural College Consortium Vice Presidents are communicating with the System about the issue.
 - b) Gary Dukes noted that MCC students taking Colorado Online courses through CCD were put on registration holds due to CCD's vaccination requirement. Work is being done to resolve this matter.
- 7) **Fall Semester 2024 Calendar Approval:** Deborah Coates presented the Fall Semester 2024 Calendar for approval. Jennifer Thistle noted that the semester is listed as ending on a Thursday instead of a Friday and Spring Break is listed as ending on a Saturday instead of a Sunday. Deb will fix these items. Deb noted that spring semester 2025 starts a week later than usual because of needing to align with System calendars. Curt Freed wondered if this might mean that MCC's commencement will fall on the same day as some of the high schools' ceremonies. Joe Bowman noted that the dates of the high school commencement ceremonies vary. *Bill Miller made a motion to approve the Fall Semester 2024 Calendar with the corrections noted by Jennifer Thistle. Connie Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
- 8) **First Year Experience Program:** Connie Mitchell shared that she and Chris Lasegue began planning a First Year Experience program over the summer and have started implementing it this fall. Ewan Magie has joined the planning process. They continue to modify the program as they try various approaches. Gary Dukes shared that recent data analysis shows that students who participated in MCC's Summer Bridge program have higher G.P.A.s and persist in their education at higher rates. Connie noted that they are considering turning the First Year Experience program into a required AAA course covered by scholarship funding. Curt Freed noted that there are challenges with fitting a one-credit class into degree curriculums but sees it as a good financial investment to make the class free for students. He suggested creating a timeline for developing an AAA course. Bill Miller noted that getting curriculum changes approved for every program would be a time-consuming process. Curt shared that CCCS is looking at bringing on extra workforce to help shorten the time for curriculum/program approvals. Deborah Coates wondered if the class could be rolled out to some, but not all programs. Curt noted that other approaches could include adding it as an admissions requirement instead of a degree requirement or doing it as a non-credit/optional program that is incentivized. Deb noted she doesn't believe this class, if required as a part of degree/certificate programs, could be implemented by Fall 2024, since catalog changes are due in February 2024 for Fall Semester. Connie Mitchell expressed that she doesn't feel the First Year Experience program is developed fully enough to create a class by Fall 2024, but she is excited to keep developing it.

9) **Member comments:**

- a) Curt Freed shared that MCC will be holding a Thanksgiving meal for employees. Edwards Market is available to provide turkey, ham, and additional sides, as well. The College Council supported having most of the meal catered, especially since the sink in Founders will be unusable pending major sewer line repairs. The event will be scheduled for November 21. Staff will be invited to bring some potluck items, including dessert. Student workers and Instructors are invited to attend.
- b) Curt Freed noted that MCC will be resubmitting an offer to purchase a property in Wray (a former Texaco station) that has become available again. The college previously submitted an offer, but another entity's bid was accepted first. That company's contract fell through.
- c) MCC is continuing conversation with the Town of Bennett to find a location for a Bennett Center. Staff will be visiting a new potential site.
- d) The Veterans Plaza at the MCC Fort Morgan campus will be dedicated November 10 at 10:00 a.m.

10) **Non-voting members:** No comments.

11) **Other:**

- a) Deborah Coates shared about Weekend College and noted that enrollment is growing. MCC received a \$25K Lumina grant. These funds will be used to help promote Weekend College and the Return to Earn and Finish What You Started programs. Funds have also been designated to provide \$100 stipends for Weekend College students to help them with miscellaneous expenses. Any leftover money will be used to help stock the MCC Food Pantry.
- b) Curt Freed mentioned that there is an ongoing need for food pantry items to help meet food insecurity needs. Gary Dukes noted that the recent food drive conducted by SGA wasn't as successful as hoped and additional donations are welcomed.

12) **Adjournment/Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2023.

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