



## College Council

### Minutes

September 19, 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); Ewan Magie (SFAC); Troy McKie (APT Instructional Staff); Bill Miller (Faculty Division Chair – CTE); Robbin Schincke (Centers); 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:** Felipe Antonio (SGA Rep); Payton Eaton (Center Student Representative); Marsha Jesse (Classified Staff); Grant Kaster (CTE Instructor); Connie Mitchell (Faculty Division Chair – Gen Ed)

#### **Non-Voting Members**

**Present:** Dr. Curt Freed (President); Becky Geltz (Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Planning); Ariella Gonzales-Vondy (Director of Communications, Marketing, & Recruitment)

**Non-Voting Members Absent:** Jane Fries (Assistant to the President)

- 1) **Call to Order/Welcome:** Curt Freed called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. He welcomed Gary Dukes and Deborah Coates to the Council.
- 2) **Faculty Senate:** Desryan Jenson noted that George O'Clair is now serving as Faculty Senate Vice President. The Faculty Senate met August 25, 2023. During their meeting they received an update on State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC) activities. They also shared positive stories of collaboration (e.g., Title III grant activities), discussed the AWP faculty evaluation process, and the new course evaluation software through Watermark.
- 3) **State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC):** Ewan Magie shared that SFAC met in early September.
  - a) Ewan gave an update on the work that he, Christiane Olivo, and Curt Freed have been doing as part of a subcommittee creating a draft Board Policy (BP) and System Procedure (SP) on faculty shared governance. The draft will be sent to several stakeholder groups for review, including Faculty Senates, Deans, Vice Presidents, and Presidents. It will also be reviewed by the CCCS legal department before the policies are presented to the State Board and Chancellor for final approval. Ewan noted that policies may be created in the future relating to staff and student shared governance. Curt Freed noted that he would have preferred one shared governance policy that is inclusive of all employee groups and students.
  - b) The Colorado Online project continues to roll out, with more courses added this fall. Several issues relating to this transition are being addressed, such as instructor inconvenience fees and course enrollment caps. Curt Freed noted that a few Fall Semester Colorado Online courses got off to a rocky start with some students not having instructors or access to classes for a while. Curt also shared that CCCS has been discussing the practice of setting initial course enrollment caps higher than the intended enrollment at census date, with the assumption that several students will drop the course. Tracy Schneider noted that she learned that there is a manual process at the CCCS level so that students within high schools can be placed in the same course

- section. She shared that MCC staff can work with John Schmahl at the System to address this issue.
- c) The Rural College Consortium (RCC) is different than Colorado Online, which offers asynchronous courses. The RCC offers synchronous classes among the seven rural colleges and plans to roll out additional courses in Spring 2024. One of the purposes of the RCC is to promote financial stability for rural colleges.
  - d) Chancellor Garcia reported to SFAC that enrollment is trending upward in Fall 2023. Efforts continue to enhance enrollment of non-traditional student populations.
- 4) **Student Government Association (SGA):** Felipe Antonio, SGA President was not present to provide an update. Gary Dukes reported that SGA has a full slate of officers in place. They are currently conducting a food drive for the student food pantry and are planning a Halloween-related event.
  - 5) **State Student Advisory Council (SSAC):** Miriam Camacho is the new SSAC representative.
  - 6) **Colorado Online:** Gary Dukes noted that there were some registration glitches that affected financial aid processing. Some school districts expressed concern about the increase in fees relating to Colorado Online courses. Gary referenced the sectionizer issue (when students from the same high school were placed in different sections). He also shared that a student was moved from a full semester course to a more compressed course timeframe. Deb Coates added that one frustration was that the last date to add a Colorado Online class was two days after the class began. Bill Miller asked whom MCC students should contact if Colorado Online instructors outside of MCC are not responsive. Deb noted that the complaint should go to the college from where the course initiates. Troy McKie shared that there is a 24-7 help desk that students can contact. If the help desk cannot address them matter, the personnel are supposed to build a ticket and send it to the home college, but it does not always work well. Troy noted that MCC staff can assist with contacting the home college if the help desk process has not been successful.
  - 7) **Rural College Consortium:** Curt Freed noted that there is a CCCS grant application in motion to fund a scheduler to work with the Rural College Consortium classes. A Rural College Summit will be held October 25, 2023, at Pueblo Community College. The focus will be on serving adult learners in a Weekend College format.
  - 8) **HR Office Update:** Curt Freed noted that Julie Beydler left the Director of Human Resources position to pursue a career that allowed her to spend more time with her children. She was replaced by L.J. DeWitt, who left to be a fulltime caregiver for her husband who has serious health problems. Several staff are working to cover the bases in the absence of HR staff. Some interviews have been conducted/scheduled to fill the Director of HR and HR Generalist positions. Staff is also working to keep candidates moving through the application process, as there are some incomplete applications for a few of the currently advertised positions. Tracy Schneider has been helping with HR-related matters. Susan Clough is working out of the HR office space and monitoring emails that come to the general HR email address. Chloe Hirschfeld has been helping keep things moving in Applicant Pro. Tracy Schneider expressed thanks to Jessica Trusty and Sandy Johnson for their help with payroll. Curt expressed thanks to Debbie Fowler, who has helped process FLAC since Beth Carpenter's resignation.
  - 9) **Strategic Plan:** Curt Freed noted that MCC's Strategic Plan is due for an update. Curt will meet with Becky Geltz to discuss how to approach the planning. Curt noted that the SBCCOE is also redoing its

Five-year Strategic Plan. Curt noted that MCC's plan should dovetail with the System's plan. He noted that MCC's plan likely doesn't need a complete overhaul.

- 10) **College Council Vacancy:** The Business Division Chair position is currently vacant. Curt Freed will visit with Deb Coates about options to fill this role.
- 11) **Campus Grounds Upgrades:** Curt noted that the campus grounds are looking sharp after upgrades to landscaping and sidewalks over the summer. A Veterans Plaza has also been added.
- 12) **Capital Development Committee (CDC) Visit:** The CDC visited the Fort Morgan campus on September 15, 2023. Curt gave a presentation to the Committee, which was followed by a campus tour. The CDC is the legislative body that determines whether MCC will receive funding for capitol development projects, such as a new Science and Technology building. They also approve spending authority, which they did in order for MCC to spend funds to build the Center for Skilled Trades and Technology building.
- 13) **Other:**
  - a) Robbin Schincke noted that Bill Miller and Deb Coates did a wonderful job representing MCC at the August Lunch & Learn at May Farms in Byers.
  - b) Bill Miller shared that FarmBox representatives from Denver gave presentations to MCC classes and took a campus tour. Bill noted that the FarmBox representatives extended an invitation to tour their facility in Denver and see their farm in Salida. MCC will receive its own FarmBox in the coming months. Bill noted that MCC faculty from several disciplines will collaborate on education relating to the FarmBox.
- 14) **Adjournment/Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2023.

Minutes by Jane Fries, College Council Recorder/Assistant to the President (content derived from WebEx recording)