

MINUTES of the ADJUNCT FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING: March 31, 2005

The Piedmont Virginia Community College Adjunct Faculty Council met on Thursday, March 31, 2005, in the Pace Boardroom at 3:50 PM.

Members present: Allen Ladd (At-Large, Chairman), Linda Boxley (Mathematics and Science), and Jim Respass (Humanities and Social Sciences). Richard Gerken (Continuing Education) was also present.

Members absent: Louise Wawner, (Continuing Education), Ken Beals (At-Large), Carole McIvor (At-Large), Pat Widhram (At-Large), Barbara Heyl (At-Large), Christine Black (At-Large), and I. Savage (At-Large).

The minutes of the March 3, 2005, meeting were approved.

The following items were discussed:

1. Adjunct Pay Scale: The Council is currently polling the other community colleges within the state to determine how many steps are on their respective pay scales and how adjuncts can move up through the steps. Allen Ladd hopes to present a summary of data collected at the next Personnel and Benefits Committee meeting. The Council has proposed reducing the number of steps from 15 to 5 and reducing the numbers of taught hours required for advancing a step from 90 hours to 30 hours. Yvonne Carey has prepared a list of Adjunct Faculty working at PVCC identifying at which rank and step they are employed. Jim Respass also asked that we determine the number of Adjunct Faculty teaching at PVCC, what percentage of classes they teach, and the number of full-time faculty currently teaching at PVCC. He indicated that when we hire and advance Adjuncts at the current scale and expect them to teach so many hours before advancing we are devaluing the teaching of all Faculty, not just the Adjunct Faculty. The Council must continue to pursue being heard at the college level.

2. New Adjunct Faculty Evaluation System: This spring a new evaluation system will be implemented to evaluate Adjunct Faculty. The Council questioned why the only people who are the source of our evaluation (students) are the people whom we are charged to evaluate. We would like to have some additional sort of evaluation that would provide an analysis of our teaching style and our effectiveness in the classroom. Question 32 on the SIR II form asks how the course has helped the student think. Perhaps the student should be asked how the instructor has helped the student think. The new form also allows for written student "additional comments" and states: *Please give these comments to the instructor.* Yet the college intends for these comments to be turned in with the computer forms. The Council questions why there is a deviation and how this process will work. Will this approach invalidate the questionnaire which is set to a national standard?

3. Fall Planning: Volunteers from the Adjunct Faculty are being sought to help plan the fall planning meetings. Input also being sought about what information would be helpful in an Adjunct Faculty Handbook.

4. Medical/health survey: Twenty adjuncts have responded to the survey concerning the need for medical insurance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28, at 3:50 PM.

Minutes prepared by Linda Boxley, Recorder