

MINUTES
College Senate
Friday, January 26, 2007

Attendees

Tara Atkins-Brady, Kay Bethea, Tracy Cersley, Tom Hyder, Ed Kingston, David Lerman, Martha McKenna, Mahmood Moghimzadeh, Jan Reed, Ben Sergeant, Lynn Seuffert, Jose Torres, Ann Vanischak, Danny Woody

Tracy Cersley opened the meeting at 2:32 p.m. A motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2006 meeting was duly made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Smoking Shelter discussion

Ms. Cersley explained that both the Administrative Services Committee and the Student Services Committee recommended the purchase of three smoking shelters. These shelters (gazebos) would be set up far enough from entrances, but close enough to be convenient. Smoking shelters have been proposed in the past, but the cost has come down considerably [from \$30,000 to approximately \$10,000 (for 3)]. She has spoken with Cheryl Miller at BRCC, who said the smoking shelter had worked great for them and were a good investment. It was also mentioned that perhaps the Construction Academy could build them.

President Friedman has asked for the Senate backing and for the Senate to make the presentation to the College Board.

Ms. Cersley requested discussion on the proposal. The following are points that were made:

1. The main benefit would be to get people away from entrances and reduce cigarette butt trash around the building.
2. The question arose as to how the policy would be enforced. It was felt that if the policy wasn't enforced we would be wasting our money. One suggestion was to fine people who smoke in nonsmoking areas. Ms. Cersley was to see if this would be possible.
3. The group asked what we would call the shelters.
4. It was mentioned that we should also consider locations at Dickinson.

Motion recommending purchase of smoking shelters only if smoking policy is enforced was made, seconded, and unanimously passed. Ms. Cersley will check on questions asked and pass on the Senate's recommendation to the Administrative Services Committee for further work.

Academic Calendar

Ms. Cersley explained that the issue of having either a full week at Thanksgiving or a shorter Thanksgiving break along with a two-day fall break for the 2008-2009 academic calendar was being resolved. A survey to faculty has already been sent.

Update on FPA discussion regarding cell phone usage and standard class absences

Ms. Cersley reported on the FPA's response to the Senate's inquiry into policy on cell phone usage in classrooms. The FPA made the following recommendation:

A statement about cell phones should be included in each syllabus stating they must be turned off or on vibrate only during class time, and the use of laptops should be at each faculty member's discretion as they are appropriate for some classes and a distraction in others. Also, it was agreed that student cell phones should not be used as calculators for exams as they can text message answers to each other.

Update on Student Government Association

Senator Ben Sargeant reported that the Student Government had held their first meeting for the semester on January 25. Over the break, they had split into groups to work on the constitution. At their January 25 meeting, they compiled results and are working on writing the constitution. They plan to present the constitution to the Senate for approval at the Senate's next meeting.

Committee Updates

Administrative Services

The committee will be meeting February 5.

C&I

The committee has not yet met.

Information Technology

No report.

Personnel and Benefits

The committee will meet in February.

Planning and Budgeting

The committee will meet again in late March. Currently they are collecting input and feedback for strategic plan. They will be visiting the Senate, the FPA, and PASS to encourage participation.

Student Services

The committee has not yet met.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.