

MINUTES
College Senate Meeting
Friday, March 6, 2009

Attendees: Ed Kingston, Colleen Bishop, Yvonne Carey, Marie Melton, Bill Hurd, Brian Wisniewski, Amy Gillespie, Kris Swanson, Andrew Smith, Rebecca Ward, Terry Clore, Bruce Glassco, Crystal Newell, Allen Duff

The February minutes were approved unanimously.

Status of the Sex Offender Policy

FPA, PASS, and SGA were given the Sex Offender Policy to review. FPA has yet to review it; we have not heard back from the SGA. PASS has reviewed the policy and provided comments. Jennie Patteson's email (attached to the agenda) details PASS' suggestions.

In order to finalize the policy by the end of the semester, we need to have the final edits finished by April.

Smoking Huts

Allen Duff, chairman of the Student Services Committee, presented a proposal for smoking huts to the Senate. Many feel that smoking is out of control on campus. People have to walk through smokers to enter the building, even when people are in compliance with the smoking policy because the smoking areas are right outside the door. The subcommittee proposes purchasing smoking huts (placed 50 ft. from the building). This same proposal was made several years ago and the Board rejected it.

The Subcommittee looked into several options. For one, the Augusta Medical Center is going smoke-free. There is a possibility that we can obtain their bus stops and use them as smoking "huts". Making the campus smoke-free was bandied about but in the end was not an option. Andrew Smith preferred this solution. He asked why the College would provide smoking huts when smoking is clearly unhealthy. He also asked about the possibility of providing a smoking cessation program. Some felt that this would be difficult because the College doesn't have a captive audience.

After much consideration, the committee felt that the best solution is to provide them with a place to go, i.e. smoking huts. There will be two for the main building, one for Dickinson, and one for the new building. Several community colleges currently have smoking huts (BRCC, LFCC, and GCC). The subcommittee spoke with some of these colleges about their programs and their effectiveness. They seem to work well for these schools.

The subcommittee would like to begin a campaign once the huts are in place. They feel this would be the best way to encourage use and compliance. Some asked if there would be penalties for smoking outside the huts. No penalties will be given. Yvonne Carey felt that there isn't enough staff to enforce only smoking in the huts.

The Senate offered several suggestions. One, can the Construction Academy make the smoking huts? If so, Dr. Jackameit has enough money to install the gazebos. Two, research the price of gazebos. \$5000.00 per smoking hut is expensive. Perhaps there are alternatives or lower priced gazebos available. This should be researched before the proposal is presented to the Board. Three, background knowledge on second-hand smoke should be gathered and presented with the proposal. Allen Duff stated that each of these three suggestions will be addressed and looked into by the subcommittee.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3, 2009.

Submitted by,
Crystal Newell