

**BLINN COLLEGE
COUNCIL OF DIVISIONS
Minutes, Regular Meeting, August 25, 2009
Hilton Hotel, South 40, College Station, Texas**

Present: Mark A. Wilkening, Larry Campbell, Jennifer Garcia, Jean Ricciardello, Sue Slowey, Ron Hammond, Bill Nix, David A. Corkran, Rick Church, Linda Bow, Thena Parrott, Ken French, Brandon Franke, Katherine Wickes, Deborah Vavra, Karen May, H. F. Poehlmann, John Schaffer, Robert Grande, Linda R. Richards, Dwight Bohlmeier, Dennis Utley, Greg Phillips, Doug Pierce, Randal C. Hoppens, Sonia Valdez, Nancy, Wright, Blanche Brick, Marcelo Bussiki, Jane Haggard, Sandra Chumchal, Linda Flynn, Martha Kline, Mary Barnes-Tilley

Old Business:

Item 1: Call to Order, Introduction, and Minutes

Mary Barnes-Tilley called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m and passed out a few copies of the agenda and other items that had been previously e-mailed to those in attendance. She introduced new Assistant Division Chairs. Mary Barnes-Tilley noted that the April 17 minutes needed the Brenham Division Chairs and Assistant Division Chairs added. No other changes forthcoming, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Item 2: Subcommittee for Distance Education Standards

Mary Barnes-Tilley called on Blanche Brick, chair for the subcommittee for Distance Education Standards, to report. Blanche Brick reported that the subcommittee to recommend changes to the Distance Education Standards met three (3) times over the summer. This committee was formed to review and recommend changes to the standards. Blanche Brick went over the six (6) recommended changes or clarifications. She made a motion to accept the recommendations as presented with a second from Nancy Wright. She also reported that the second task for this subcommittee was to recommend how distance education courses would be assigned. This would be done at a later date as the subcommittee did not complete this task.

Comment from Marcelo Bussiki: After what we've heard from Dr. Holt regarding the expected growth of Distance Education classes, the Dean of Distance Education should be a part of the discussion as to how to assign the courses. It was also noted that the Standards Committee may need to be invited to discuss the recommended changes.

There was no other Old Business

New Business:

Item 1: Update of Council of Divisions web page

Mary Barnes-Tilley reported that she would be working on getting the web page updated with new division chairs, assistant division chairs, and their numbers. She expressed appreciation to those who sent items for updating the page.

Item 2: Faculty Titles

Mary Barnes-Tilley reported that Dr. Holt has told her that the Council of Divisions needs to make a faculty title recommendation soon;; otherwise, the executive council would put something in place. Mary Barnes-Tilley met with Karen Anglin who recommended that three (3) members of Faculty Senate and three (3) members of Council of Divisions form a committee to discuss a joint proposal. Marcelo Bussiki commented that he thought the issue of faculty titles had already been addressed in a previous committee. Mary Barnes-Tilley reviewed the history of faculty title recommendations, including the committee chaired by Blanche Brick. She reported that at that time, the Faculty Senate and the Council of Divisions could not agree on the recommendations. Marcello recommended that the recommendations and minutes be reviewed. Mary Barnes-Tilley posed the question: Do we want a committee? How do we proceed? Thena Parrott recommended that we 1) review the minutes and former recommendation by Blanche's committee. 2) Nominate three (3) people to work with Faculty Senate. Bob Grande asked: When do you want the comments from this group that will be meeting with the faculty senate? Mary Barnes-Tilley clarified that we would need them by September 11 and send the three (3) nominations to the Faculty Senate before the September 18 meeting. After some discussion, Thena made an amendment to clarify that we would wait until after the September 18 meeting and review the previous minutes and recommendations before sending our three (3)

nominees to discuss a recommendation with the Faculty Senate. Greg Phillips said that the committee recommendation had not been agreed upon by the Council of Divisions. Marcelo Bussiki asked that we include the minutes from the minute in the review papers so that we would know for sure if the recommendation had been tabled or agreed upon. The motion was seconded by Ken French.

Item 3: Rotation of Division Chair

Mary Barnes-Tilley reported that Dr. Holt has requested the Council of Divisions to make a recommendation for Rotation of Division Chairs. It was mentioned that some of the past discussions included a five (5) or six (6) year initial term with a renewal for a smaller term. Blanche Brick noted that in previous discussions concern was expressed that smaller divisions may have difficulty with the rotation. Other previous comments by Mary Barnes-Tilley was that there is a huge learning curve. Blanche Brick commented that part of consideration should be that faculty may lose power as currently, division chairs can take on more roles for advocacy for the faculty. It was noted that the administration needed to look at the entire structure and consider that there are no deans in the divisions. Doug Pierce asked if we were given a choice to not rotate division chairs.

Mary Barnes-Tilley posed the question: Do we want to do a response first then recommendation? Bob Grande suggested that we investigate years of service in each division as well as research other community colleges. Mary Barnes-Tilley posed the question: Do we want a committee? Greg Phillips reported that the Faculty Senate canvassed faculty, and they were interested in rotation. They were not interested in rotating all at once to keep institutional memory. It was suggested that two (2) or three (3) a year in rotation with an opportunity given to the division chairs to have a second term after five (5) years. Greg Phillips also reported that it was found that most other junior colleges were rotating. Marcelo asked the question as to whether or not Dr. Holt could come and explain his thoughts on rotating faculty. Mary Barnes-Tilley reported that the Faculty Senate is discussing the same issues. Mary Barnes-Tilley clarified that it seems as if the Council of Divisions wants a fact-finding mission with a response to the Executive Council. She further stated that we can have Dr. Holt or Dr. LaCour address the group, but we still need to come up with a recommendation. Mary Barnes-Tilley stated that we had not given a response yet, and we needed to give one. Bob Grande asked if Dr. Holt was amenable and agreeable to discuss this with the Council of Divisions.

Mary Barnes-Tilley posed the question: Do we have a motion for a committee? John Schaffer commented that he had not seen a job description. It may be that we need to remind the president of innovation that had taken place at the division chair level since he did not have institutional memory. Blanche Brick made a motion to form a committee. Motion stated that a committee be formed to accomplish the following: 1) Obtain a job description; 2) List history of changes that have been made at the division level; 3) Fact finding and a proposal. Marcelo Bussiki seconded the motion.

Mary Barnes-Tilley asked who would like to be on the committee? The following volunteered: Marcelo Bussiki, Blanche Brick, Larry Campbell, Jennifer Garcia, Doug Pierce, and Greg Phillips. Marcelo Bussiki stated that he wants to know the official institutional position on the rotation of division chairs.

Doug Pierce proposed we adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen May
Assistant Division Chair
Applied Sciences