

Council of Divisions Meeting

Jan. 13, 2009

Present: Michael Schaeffer, Mary Barnes-Tilley, M. Kline, Brandon Franke, Glenn Phillips, Ken French, Gary Ivy, Mark A. Wilkening, H.F. Poehlmann, Karen May, Ron Hammond, Randal Hoppens, Katherine Wickes, Thena Parrott, Larry Campbell, Linda Bow, David Corkran, Bill Nix, Rick Church, Doug Pierce, Dwight Bohlmeier, Twila Miller, Eric Miller, Blanche Brick, Susan Slowey, Linda R. Richardson, Dennis Utley, Erika DeYoung, Dustin Hill, John Schaffer, Nancy Wright. Bob Brick Presiding

Due to the delayed arrival of Dr. Brick, Mary Barnes-Tilley led the meeting. The minutes were not sent out till late yesterday afternoon, but several had received and read over them. With only one correction, the minutes were approved. Jason Segner attended this meeting in place of Dr. Thena Parrott. Such change will be made on the original copy according to Nancy Wright, Secretary.

It was proposed that the phrase “or approval of division chair” be eliminated from the prerequisite statement in all course description. Due to misleading information from various offices on both campuses, division chairs are having a lot of students sent to them with the misconception that they will waive the stated prerequisites.

Removing this phrase will not prevent division chairs who may wish to waive a prerequisite from doing so. Therefore, the group unofficially approve the suggestion and recommended taking it to the Curriculum Committee next month.

When Dr. Brick arrived, he asked if anyone in the group had any questions for Dr. LaCour. The issue of the Blinn 0101 course came up so Dr. LaCour was invited to speak to this group. She clarified that the statements made by Dr. Holt in the general meeting were the result of much negative feedback about this pilot course this past semester. Much of the feedback suggested cutting the contact hours to 1 rather than 2 and cutting the number of meetings/weeks back considerably. (Dr. Holt mentioned that this course will be required of all new college students at Blinn beginning next fall.) Much discussion ensued. Dr. LaCour said that she has asked Dean Stewart to set up a meeting of people involved as soon as possible to begin work on revision of this course.

No action was taken.

The issue of travel money was brought up by Michael Schaeffer who suggested the amount was insufficient and not changed in a long time. Thena Parrott said that it had not increased from the current \$400 it is now in the 18 years she has been at Blinn. Mr. Schaeffer made a motion that this body ask for an increase to \$500 for faculty and \$750 for chairs. Ken French seconded this motion which passed unanimously. The motion will be forwarded to the Administrative Council by Dr. Brick.

Dr. Brick presented the “Lab Class Load” proposal and gave everyone a handout outlining the details of the proposal. This handout includes comparisons with the top 10 community colleges in Texas (Blinn is #11 and is also included). Currently, instructors reaching classes with labs are

paid at .42 percent of the course. This proposal would move the lab portion pay to .75, more in line with other schools in the top ten.

This proposition is a joint one with the Faculty Council.

Discussion ensued.

Bill Nix stated that Lone Star College (Montgomery Campus) pay on the basis of contact hours for lab-type courses.

One person asked if this proposal would cause a shortfall of faculty, and it was agreed it probably would in the short run.

Another asked if we should aim for a “one-to-one” formula, and Bob Brick said he had informed the Executive Council that this should be a long term goal, but he feels we should move ahead at this point with this proposal even if it might need further tweaking down the line.

He is aiming for implementation in Fall 2009.

Ron Hammond discussed that his faculty already teach overloads and there is a rule that double overloads are not allowed, so this would be a problem for him.

A motion to approve this proposal was made by Ken French.

Changes suggested: Dr. Bussiki asked that the word “studio” be added right after “Lab.”

Bill Nix asked that “Activity course” be designated as the same level as “Lab.”

The proposal was amended by Ken French and seconded by Linda Bow. The vote was as follows:

Aye	13
No	0
Abstain	3

Motion passed.

Doug Pierce motioned that we adjourn. (4:00). Motion was second and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by
Nancy Wright, Secretary

