

BLINN COLLEGE
COUNCIL OF DIVISIONS
Minutes, Regular Meeting, September 18, 2009
IVC – Brenham and Bryan

Present

Brenham: Rick Church, Mark Wilkening, Ken French, H. F. Poehlmann, Karen May, Debbi Vavra, Randal Hoppens, Gary Ivy, Greg Phillips, Linda Flynn, Martha Kline, and Mary Barnes-Tilley

Bryan: Thena Parrott, Ron Hammond, Twila Miller, Bill Nix, David Corkran, Katherine Wickes, Jennifer Garcia, Michael Schaefer, Dwight Bohlmeier, Dennis Utley, Nancy Wright, Marcelo Bussiki, John Schaffer, Brandon Franke, Eric Miller, Sue Slowey, Jean Ricciardello

Call to Order, Introduction, and Minutes

Mary Barnes-Tilley called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Brandon Franke recommended a change in the minutes from August 25 in the second page, first paragraph. *Minutes from the minutes* should be changed to *minutes from the meeting*. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Old Business:

Item 1: CD Web Page Update

Mary Barnes-Tilley reported that she would get the CD (Council of Divisions) web page updated soon with the help of Layla Barrett.

Item 2: Distance Education Standards Subcommittee Proposal Update

Mary Barnes-Tilley said that the distance education standards subcommittee proposal had been passed on to Bob Brick for one clarification. As soon as feedback from Bob Brick was received then that would be shared with the Council of Divisions and the standards would be updated.

Item 3: Rotation of Division Chairs – Larry Campbell

Recommendation from this committee was received in the packet prior to the meeting. The proposal of the rotation of division chairs was presented by Greg Phillips in Larry Campbell's absence.

The question was asked as to the reference in the proposal of four deans for approval of a repeated term. Marcelo Bussiki explained that the idea is that the deans with whom that division works the closest will have input on that renewal. Marcelo Bussiki further pointed out that the decision was not made by the dean. Greg Phillips asked whether we should consider throwing out the reference to four deans and just say a panel would be used. Further discussion concerned whether we should consider the use of faculty representatives in this process. Mary Barnes-Tilley asked: Instead of including a faculty member, could the evaluation be a part of the process?

Thena Parrott pointed out that the step of having four deans recommend renewal of a division chair is worthless for technical. Marcelo reiterated that for him it is important that not just one person make a decision about renewing the division chair's contract. Michael Schaefer commented that any issues should have already come up in evaluations. Ron Hammond pointed out that basically we (division

chairs) are on a 1-year contract and extending it now to 5 years. Mary Barnes-Tilley said that she didn't think we sign a contract for division chairs; we only sign one for teaching. Greg Phillips made the comment that this doesn't seem to be that much different than what we are already doing. We are only adding a term limit to it. Marcello Bussiki commented that this is the time to address that one person not decide on renewal of contract. Bill Nix said that most of the schools that were currently rotating division chairs had department heads. They were rotating every 3 to 5 years. He further stated that we are not organized the same way as these schools that are rotating division chairs.

Mary Barnes-Tilley asked if the only concern that we have from this recommendation is # 4 (panel of 4 deans) and, if so, how do we proceed? Brandon Franke asked if human resources had been involved in any of this discussion. He further stated that there have been numerous issues with scheduling dual credit, and there could be confidentiality issues. Katherine Wickes said that there were practicality problems with a rotation plan. Mary Barnes-Tilley asked if we would like to come up with a list of concerns to bring to the Executive Council, and do we need another committee to create the list of concerns.

Marcelo Bussiki asked if the committee would like an overall view of how division chairs feel about this rotation. Bill Nix stated that from a legal standpoint, wouldn't the opening need to be posted. Ron Hammond said that it could be an internal position. Since no action was taken on the proposal from the subcommittee, Mary Barnes-Tilley asked if the council was in agreement to go back to the subcommittee and hash out these issues.

Randy Hoppens made the motion that the council bring forward the proposal to rotate division chairs with a list of concerns attached. Brandon Franke seconded the motion. Mary Barnes-Tilley asked if the Council of Divisions wanted to move forward with a charge of coming up with questions that we would like to ask the administration or develop a list of duties and responsibilities compared to other colleges. Dennis Utley asked if it was possible to put together an impact assessment of the issues that would be faced as well as the cost of such a proposal. Sue Slowey asked if we could invite Dr. Holt to come talk to the Council of Divisions as a group and the motion was amended to invite Dr. Holt to the meeting.

Mary Barnes-Tilley called for a vote on a motion to move forward with the adjusted proposal and list of issues and to invite Dr. Holt to the next meeting. Motion carried.

An informal show of hands vote was taken at the request of several members as to those in favor of a rotation of division chairs.

Item 4: Faculty Title

Mary Barnes-Tilley provided members of the Council of Divisions with a previous committee report. She asked if the Council of Divisions wanted to discuss it, have a committee to look into it further, or send forward as is.

Mary Barnes-Tilley asked members if they would be best served to simply take what we had originally put together as a starting point to discuss with the Faculty Senate. Three members of the Council of Divisions would meet with Faculty Senate.

Thena Parrott made the comment that the community college has a different structure than a 4-year university; you cannot compare our structure to theirs. Mary Barnes-Tilley asked how do we proceed?

Brandon Franke made a motion that we take the current committee report on faculty titles and send it forward for discussion with faculty senate. Greg Phillips asked what happens when these 2 groups get together. Mary Barnes-Tilley responded that it would come back to the Council of Divisions for a vote. Marcelo Bussiki stated that the representatives needed to know which parts were non-negotiable. Dennis Utley commented that the timeline for moving from one title to the other should be changed. After discussion, Randal Hoppens seconded the motion at which time the vote passed.

Mary Barnes-Tilley said that we need 3 people to serve on this subcommittee. The following volunteered: Katherine Wickes, Marcelo Bussiki, and Ken French.

Robert Grande was added to the subcommittee on September 21, 2009, in order to have the same number of committee members as the Faculty Senate had on their subcommittee.

New Business:

Item 1: Distance Education Assignments of Internet Courses

The committee report was provided to members. The committee to propose how Internet courses would be assigned was chaired by Blanche Brick. The report served as the motion and was seconded by Nancy Wright. Proposal passed.

Item 2: Student Evaluation of Instruction online pilot

Mary Barnes-Tilley reminded attendees of the online pilot for evaluations. She also said that we are moving back to the way we originally evaluated. If a faculty member is on a 2 year contract, only one section of their classes will need to be evaluated. For those teaching more than one course, the maximum number of classes to be evaluated is three. This will cause a 50-70% decrease in evaluations. One year contract holders will be evaluated in all classes.

Item 3: Distance Education Organizational Chart

Mary Barnes-Tilley expressed concern about the organization for distance education and lack of a dean. Sue Slowey seconded the concern and agreed that distance education should report to Academic Affairs. Mary Barnes-Tilley agreed to get clarification from Dr. Holt.

Item 4: VP Brazos County Campuses

Dennis Utley expressed concern that not replacing the Vice President for Brazos Valley campuses is a huge issue for the school and the community. Ron Hammond made a motion that the Council of Divisions send a statement to the executive council expressing our concerns about this issue and other areas of concern and the motion was seconded. Mary Barnes-Tilley suggested that council members send these concerns to her so she could compile them and move forward with them. Ken French asked that emphasis be placed on the fact that our concerns had to do with the restructuring and not personnel. Motion passed.

Item 5: 35-hour Work Week – Blanche Brick

Brandon Franke spoke for Dr. Brick in her absence. He expressed concern about what other divisions were doing to hold their faculty to 35 work hours weekly with so many factors involved: Saturday classes, Internet classes, and Blended classes. He said that it seems like at noon on Friday, the social sciences department was shut down. The question was asked by Brandon if there was any clarification needed as to when office hours could be scheduled. Were they limited to Monday-Friday? General consensus of the group was that there was not a significant problem, and those problems should be dealt with on an individual basis. No action taken.

Item 6: Update of Council of Divisions Constitution

Mary Barnes-Tilley asked for a few volunteers to look over the constitution as it had not been done in awhile. Jean Ricciardello, H. F. Poehlmann, and Karen May volunteered.

Other Business

Michael Schaefer said that with record enrollment, increasing workloads, and amount of revenue generated, something needed to be said about our pay. Mary Barnes-Tilley asked Michael Schaefer to contact Karen Anglin to find out where Faculty Senate is with this same discussion. No action taken.

Mary Barnes-Tilley reminded everyone about the assessment survey. She expressed concern with the e-mail from Dr. Kemper requiring faculty to do the assessment survey. She said that she had responded to that e-mail to both Dr. Kemper and Dr. Sundet that she was concerned that this requirement would cause skewed results. No action taken.

Adjourn

Randy Hoppens made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg Phillips.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Oct 16
- Nov 20
- Jan 11 or 12 (Brenham campus, location and time TBD)
- Feb 19
- March 26 (only if needed)
- April 16

Locations for meetings: Bryan E205B, Brenham BULL136, Schulenburg C-110, Sealy-108

Respectfully submitted,

Karen May