

**Central Texas College  
Faculty Senate Minutes  
Friday, October 17, 2008, 9:00 am  
Nursing/Science Building 150, Room 1075**

**I. Call to Order**

**A. Welcome-** President Delores Williams called the meeting to order.

**B. Introduction of Guest Speaker- Dr. James Anderson**

**II. Guest Speaker- Dr. Constance Staley— “Mission: Possible Teaching Strategies to Help First-Year Students Realize Their Potential”**

•Dr. Staley has lived with her family in Colorado Springs and taught Speech for 32 years.

•She believes in using all sensory modalities and using activities rather than just lecturing to engage the interest of the students. After faculty members completed a short survey, Constance had those faculty members stand in a different portion of the room, depending on whether their best learning modality was visual, auditory, kinesthetic, or reading/writing.

•After she was granted tenure, Dr. Staley took a three year leave-of-absence to work in private industry to learn more about the skills students needed to be successful.

•She has written the books Teaching College Success and 50 Ways to Leave Your Lectern.

•A freshman seminar class was invited to her family’s home for breakfast, where they played piano, sang, and laughed. One student said he “never felt so supported by an adult my entire life.” These same students are now in her graduate seminars.

•Members of the younger generation are supposed to be adept at multi-tasking, but they actually miss some important information.

•Some youngsters have not focused on goals for their lives. They have to experience success in order to know their potential, but some have low self-esteem because they have been told that they cannot succeed.

•Some students offer excuses (“not a morning person,” “school is not fun,” “rather be at work,” “get along with Sam Adams”—alcohol) for not being interested in school.

•“Helicopter parents” hover and then swoop in to rescue their children.

•About 30 percent of students in one survey said that they were happy to do just enough to get by.

•Today’s students use a lot of technology: computers, blogs, pod-casting, and gaming. 98.1% were cell-phone users.

•Because of immaturity, some youngsters are more likely to commit suicide and engage in binge drinking.

•To achieve in life, students must (1) have a goal or dream to which they aspire, (2) be willing to work hard to achieve that dream, and (3) achieve that

goal and be happy. Students want skip the “work hard” stage; the college classes we teach are that “work hard” stage.

- Most students falsely believe that they have already reached their potential. 70% of college freshman believe that they are above average or in the top 10%.

- Some students do not know their potential. But one study found that students who did poorly overestimated how well they performed, while those who did well underestimated how well they did. As American Idol judge Simon Cowell said: “Self-knowledge is far more important than self-confidence.”

- Dr. Staley also looked at several theories of intelligence identified by Carol Dweck.

- Many students do not know how to realize their potential.

- Many students do understand and relate to discovering which VARK (Visual, Auditory, Reading/Writing, Kinesthetic) modality works best when they study.

- Many students procrastinate because they can’t prioritize or suffer from perfectionism.

- Some students figure out the system, and realize they can get-by with not doing homework. Usually, only 20-30% will have completed assigned readings.

- Some students are overwhelmed because they have so many choices. They develop “analysis paralysis.” A foreign student who was asked to choose one of 31 ice cream flavors said, “Too many choices. I will not choose.”

- Students sitting in the back of the room are six times more likely to fail. But if the teacher waits until after the Mid-Term to move those students to the front, it is already too late to change their orientation.

- Teachers who are friendly and show enthusiasm for their subject matter are more likely to relate to and engage their students.

- Some students think college courses compartmentalize learning, but insightful students understand that there is a “circle of learning” and all subjects relate to each other. By using “metacognition,” students can think about their thinking and learn about their learning.

- Sometimes, when students rank what they believe is most important in their lives, they realize that they are spending time on things that they believe are not important.

- Teachers should “teach by design, not default.” Teachers should be creative, but they should try to use different modalities (visual, auditory, reading/writing, kinesthetic) to reach different kinds of learners.

- Teachers should ask themselves, “Am I engaged and enthusiastic? Do I care?”

- Dr. Staley says that sometimes she is asked why she travels so much and why she writes so much. Those people do not understand what teachers do. As Andrew Carnegie phrased it, “My heart is in the work.”

### **III. Roll Call of members present (Shane Simon reporting)**

*[Members signed-in as they entered room 1075 for the Dr. Constance Staley Workshop]*

### **IV. Approval of Minutes of the September 26, 2008 Meeting**

- Gordon Bacon moved that the September Minutes be approved. They were approved unanimously.

### **V. Officer Reports**

#### **A. President’s Report (Delores Williams) - Board of Trustees’ Meeting**

- Negotiations are continuing on the HR 400 Policy, overload compensation for full-time faculty.
- Board of Trustees Meeting Report, October 16, 2008:
  - The CTC Board approved the 2008 Financial Report and September 08 Interim Financial Statement & Investment Report.
  - Board Document #164 Rev.2- updated (deleted “American Educational Complex” name for CTC).
  - Rescind Board Document #154 Permanent Scholarship Fund (was before the CTC Foundation)
  - Participation in Killeen Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #2 and appoint a Director to the anticipated TIRZ Board.
  - Bill Alexander showed the news clip prepared by Channel 10 on the Wounded Warrior Scholarship Program.
  - Next Board Meeting is November 20, 2008.

#### **B. Treasurer’s Report (Bob Shea reporting)**

- Account balance: \$2,831.<sup>90</sup>
- We have 78 Full-time faculty members and 30 part-time faculty members.
- The Treasurer will provide a proposed budget to the Executive Committee before our next meeting.

### **VI. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Faculty Affairs & Issues/Executive Committee- (Jenny Shotwell reporting)**

- The Faculty Affairs/Executive Committee is continuing to discuss our

response to HR Policy 400.

**B. Professional Development Committee-(Suzanne Morales-Vale reporting)**

- The Professional Development Committee is looking at faculty members' evaluations of our annual Fall Pre-Service.

**C. Social Committee- (Les Ledger reporting)**

- Les praised the refreshments provided by the Hospitality Department.
- The committee continues to plan for the annual Peer Appreciation Banquet on April 17, 2009.

**D. Elections and Awards Committee – (Renee Henry reporting)**

- The Piper Professor nomination paperwork has been received and the committee is seeking a nominee.

**VII. Old Business**

**A.** The new college success course has four sections that will run in the Spring 2009 semester.

**B.** The Bookstore Committee has not met.

**C.** HR Policy 400- Department Chairs met as a group and faculty met on October 1 to discuss the proposal.

**VIII. Announcements**

- **Next meeting** is on November 21, 2008 at 8:00 am in Building 152, in the Starlight Conference Room.

**IX. Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.