

CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING November 17, 2006

Officers present: Jenny Shotwell (President), Dawn Green (President-Elect), Monika Bender (Secretary), Doug Edwards (Webmaster).

Faculty Senate Members present: 45

Call to Order

President Jenny Shotwell called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Speaker

Pam Boivie presented the results of the Transfer Day 2006, which took place on October 31. The event was successful; over 430 students attended and the room was ‘packed’. There were approximately 49 colleges and universities from Texas and from out of state represented. Students’ evaluations showed that students were glad they attended since they received valuable information that will help them choose their future schools. The visiting representatives reported that they were excited and surprised by the high student attendance. Also, students asked good questions and were interested in learning about the different schools. Two faculty members, in particular, supported this event by letting their students out of class early so that they could participate. Pam presented Cynthia White and Les Ledger, the top supporters of the event, with gifts to acknowledge appreciation.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes: The October 2006 minutes were approved, as published.

Treasurer’s Report

Balance Oct 20, 2006	<u>\$2,780.01</u>
Receipts	
Dues	110.00
Total receipts	\$110.00
Disbursements	
Printing	2.50
Total disbursements	\$2.50
Balance Nov 17, 2006	<u>\$2,887.51</u>

Faculty Senate Reorganization - Discussion

For the Faculty Affairs Committee, Suzanne Morales – Vale explained the updated draft of the proposed changes to the structure of the Faculty Senate. Attending members followed along the explanation, with a copy of the document in their hands. A discussion on the floor followed.

Comments/ Questions/Responses:

- The Faculty Senate is all about culture and not about restructuring.
- We should not go forward with the changes or vote on the proposal at this time because there was not enough time or opportunity to think about the changes.
- How did we, as Faculty Senate, decide that we need to be restructured?
- How did the Faculty Affairs Committee get to decide to make structural changes?
- Who decided that we are not effective?
- We are asking whether members want changes; we are not asking to vote on the proposal update.
- At the October meeting, we decided that we will consider restructuring, and the prepared document provides information on the content we are considering.
- There is no reason why we can't try something new and why we couldn't turn back to the current system if we later decide that we prefer the old (current) structure. Some institutions that have tried the Senate have turned back to the Association after finding that the new model did not suit their needs.
- We can take more time to think and to discuss the change.
- We are trying to be coherent; we are trying to be effective. However, we understand that we won't know how the Senate model would work for us unless we try it.
- We should not predict failure or negative outcomes. We need to be open to change; we must be willing to try to improve in spite of structural changes.
- We have about 140 faculty members at CTC. This organization has 88 members who paid fees, but only half of the members are here today.
- Good things happen at CTC. Even though part time faculty does not have a vote, we still need to do PR for the Faculty Senate. Then, we will have strength in numbers.
- How much power do we realistically have with the Faculty Senate?
- We are not where we need to be. However, why not try something different and see if we get results?

Proposal to conclude the discussion: Let us vote on trying the outlined new structure. The proposal was seconded, and the vote was approved to be held at this meeting. The results of the elections will be announced by email.

New Business

For the Spring Semester, the Professional Committee – survey - is considering a *round table discussion with the Chancellor*, in which all faculty members could participate. A paper describing this idea can be obtained from Deba Swan.

Announcements

Dr. Anderson has asked for a volunteer to assume Al Waite's position on the Pension Plan and Trust Committee.

Dave McClure thanked the International Student Services Department and expressed appreciation for library services provided for the “CTC Passport to the World” exhibit.

Mr. McClure also announced that Sheila Steers, the new counselor, will work on the early intervention and retention system. She will help students on academic probation as well as international students.

Jenny Shotwell thanked The Guidance and Counseling Team for providing us with the delicious homemade breakfast.

Adjournment

President Shotwell adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.