

Auburn Hills Campus Community Assembly
Thursday, November 19, 2015 – 3:15pm-4:15pm, F120
Minutes

Campus President Tim Taylor facilitated the meeting with 13 faculty and staff in attendance.

Announcements/Updates

1. Pest Reporting – Informational

Report any pest problems to the Chief of Campus Facility Operations, Frank Zechmeister, or the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, John Nagalski.

2. Excellence Day – Informational

Dr. Maze recently communicated, via email, the status of Excellence Day activities. Essentially, Excellence Day will be suspended for spring of 2016. During the upcoming year a committee will review current procedures and processes for these awards and determine changes that will make them consistent from campus to campus. The review will include input from employees and research as to how other community colleges recognize employees. A revised system is anticipated to be in place for 2017. In the meantime, each campus will continue to recognize years of service for their Service Award recipients. Retirees eligible for Emeritus status in 2016 will be included for consideration next year along with those eligible in 2017.

3. Campus Conversation (Employee Meetings with the President)

Campus Conversations are going well. In the three sessions held so far President Tim Taylor has met with about 15 people and has gathered great feedback including, for example, the notion that Community Assembly would be better attended if it focused more on discussion and less on informational presentations.

4. Academic Values – Discussion

President Taylor talked about the need for the Board to issue policy statements to serve as direction for administration's development of procedures and guidelines for operating the college. To that end, a broad values document was drafted to serve as a launching point for discussion with the Board in the area of academic direction. It is anticipated that these values, once approved by the Board, could provide a framework for policy development.

The academic values document, consisting of three statements (noted on the next page), has been shared with the College Academic Senate. The Senate has been asked to review and make comment on the values statements. President Taylor initiated discussion with the attendees of the assembly around the three statements.

Proposed Academic Values - DRAFT

- 1) Our curriculum, instructional practices and student services are designed to promote student success and meet community need.
- 2) Our programs and services are designed for those who have the demonstrated aptitude to successfully complete the educational program to which the applicant has applied and to subsequently be employed in a recognized career-pathway.
- 3) The institution will maintain regional accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities.

In general most attendees were supportive of values 1 and 3. Discussion around value statement 2 was centered on access. In particular, there was some concern that student access to college education might be limited by #2. In addition, some members of the committee suggested that the student should be “given the right to fail.” On the other hand, it was pointed out that the federal Department of Education has defined new guidelines around “ability to benefit” and these new guidelines shape federal student aid policies – essentially limiting student access to financial aid. It was also mentioned that the college has done much research and there appears to be a point of readiness where a student can successfully complete a college level course. Often, students who are below this level of readiness fail, become discouraged and drop out—sometimes accumulating a large student load debt. This outcome, many felt, was a disservice to students and felt limiting access might be in the student’s best interest. At the end of the discussion approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the participants were supportive of the values statement, and the others expressed desire to have more discussion around these issues.

5. Scheduling – Discussion

President Taylor initiated discussion about changes to the college’s academic scheduling process. It was noted that the Deans’ Cabinet is discussing new guidelines and procedures aimed at ensuring that the new scheduling process is data-driven, more collaborative, and responsive to student needs. Ideas for developing standardized time frames for class offerings, spreading courses over more days of the week, using program plans to determine course offerings, coordinating class scheduling between disciplines and divisions was discussed and debated. At the end of the discussion most present supported these ideas. Finally, it was noted that many of these ideas likely could not be implemented in the current iteration of scheduling due to the short timeframe but may be considered in the future.

Next Meeting: February 18, 2016, 3:15 pm-4:15 pm, AH:F120

Submitted by Betty Green