

M-240

March 31, 2015

Meeting of College Council Volume 42 Number 4

There were present:

Asst. V.P. Basile
Ms. Blauvelt
Ms. Chery
Prof. A. Cohen
Ms. J. Cohen
V.P. Peter Cohen
Prof. Dawson
Prof. Descarfino
Ms. Driscoll
Prof. Farrell
Prof. Ferretti
Dean Fox
Prof. Furay

Prof. Kates
Prof. Lax
Prof. Martin
Mr. Mathews
Prof. McDevitt
Prof. Miranda
Prof. Murphy
Prof. Nicosia
Ms. Palmieri
Mr. Peterson
Prof. Pierre
Prof. Polizzotto
Prof. Repetti

Mr. Robinson
Prof. Rooney
Ms. Schlesinger
Prof. Sokolow
V.P. Suss
Ms. Sutton-Young
Prof. Taras
Prof. Thomas
Prof. Troutt
Prof. Weeks
Prof. Wood
Prof. Yarmish

President Herzek called the meeting to order at 3:07 PM.

I. The minutes of the meetings of November 18, 2014 were approved by acclamation.

II. Reports

A. President's Report

The President began by stating that some of the following data was released at the Spring 2015 Convocation earlier in the semester.

Kingsborough lost 35% of freshman students between Fall 2013 and Fall 2014 who did not return, retaining 65% of the students from Fall to Fall. Over a four-year period the college brings 28% of its students to graduation. 72% do not graduate. Over a six-year period that number rises to 32% of our students graduating.

This Spring our headcount is down approximately 2000, with FTEs down about 1000. This is a long-term function of national high school graduation peaking two years ago, and of a leveling-off at community colleges nationwide. We are doing a great job at Kingsborough, but these numbers will continue to go down, and our funding depends on the number of students we are serving.

At our previous Council meeting we voted to support some new initiatives, and the college has worked hard to realize them:

1. The STEAM Initiative: Summer 2015 will be a very intensive experience for 200 high school graduates, who will share a high-tech, high-energy, motivational hands-on experience including many activities designed by our departments. They will include provided metrocards, textbooks and meals as well.
2. The Summer Intensive Math Boot Camp will serve 400-500 high school graduates in a two-week intensive experience for high-fail Math M1 students. They will hopefully assess at higher levels at the end of the boot camp, and will enter Math M2 by Fall 2015. This is an amazing collaboration between academic departments, support services and many more areas of the campus to achieve both of these initiatives, which will hopefully yield more students and FTEs in the future.
3. Student Success: All incoming freshmen will now be required to enroll in Math, and will remain enrolled in Math until completion. This effort took a lot of work, especially on the part of IT and Asif Hussain. We will stem the leakage of students out of subsequent Math classes, and will not leave any incoming freshman without a seat in Math class. Although upperclassmen may have pent-up demand, we are starting with freshmen so the goal is to complete college-level Math by the end of freshman year. This already exists in terms of English registration for freshmen. A new, more prescriptive advisement model will be set in place, including a personal education plan to help students achieve success. There will be education plan cards distributed to put all this in the students' hands at the outset.
4. Multicultural Center/Student Union: A committee on this issue is being led by Reza Fakhari and Tasheka Sutton-Young. We have hosted 89 activities in the Fall semester both inside and outside classrooms and hosting 8500-plus students. A task force is being formed to develop the vision and mission for this project, and one possible space for the planned student center is the area by the International Hall of Flags. The U-building already contains some components of a Student Union, and so we can try to improve this space, which will also help with the retention of our students.
5. Equity Task Force: The weeklong celebration of diversity called "Kingsborough's Mosaic" is taking place in April. The task force includes defining the meanings of diversity, and bringing together student experiences and perspectives.
6. Distance Education: The college is exploring both fully-online and hybrid classes so that we can increase available options, cutting down the number of times students must come to campus. This may improve their lives and increase retention. Working with Dr. Loretta Taras, we have identified major issues including quality control over existing and proposed courses, the evaluation and observation of instruction, and ADA compliance. There will be a certification process, increased use of KCATT, and we will try to raise outside funding for some of this work. The Instructional Committee is also working on the peer observation form that is used for online and hybrid courses.

In addition, credit is due to Zuleika Clarke and Bill Corrente, who have been the point people on this tremendous STEAM effort. Many additional people have also been

working tremendously hard to make this a reality, and especially Josphine Murphy who has given up prime space in the Library as part of our efforts.

7. The Number of Disputes on Campus is also an issue that is very important to the President. There must be a dozen different cases of conflicts between faculty, staff members, and others in the campus community, and our Chief Diversity Officer is nearly overwhelmed by the number of cases.

We need more developmental training available at the department and staff level to deal with these problems before they reach this uppermost level. We need another Diversity Officer and a Campus Ombudsman to head off escalation in conflicts such as these. The President hopes to lower the number of these issues dramatically over the next year.

The President concluded his remarks.

B. Legislative Committee and Secretary's Report

Prof. Sokolow reminded eligible voters to participate in the ongoing University Faculty Senate election.

He also reminded the College Council Committees to examine their sections in the Council Constitution, as we do every three years, and submit any recommended changes. Also they should craft summaries of their activities over the past three years since the previous assessment cycle in 2012.

Finally, the final Council meeting of 2014-2015 will take place on Thursday May 21 at 3:00 PM in room M146-M147, a change from the usual time and venue.

In the absence of any New Business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sokolow

Michael Sokolow, Secretary