

Columbia College Chicago
College Council Minutes
Oct. 2, 2009
10am until noon; 8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash
Submitted by Sandra Allen

1. The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Kevin Fuller at 10:12am.
2. Announcements
 - Art & Material Conservation Major – Kevin read President Carter’s decision from May 09 on the status of the major, noting that over the summer, sufficient changes had been made to enlist support from Louise Love. The proposal currently awaits President Carter’s decision.
 - Refreshments at monthly College Council meetings -- Due to the present economic situation, food for Council members at monthly meetings will be discontinued. Beverages will be provided.
 - Availability of Standing Committee Reports -- Kevin suggested Standing Committees provide copies of only those materials critical to the meeting’s agenda and action items from committees. Routine reports will be available to the Council on the website.
 - President’s Climate Commitment announcement – Kevin reported that President Carter recently signed the President’s Climate Commitment, joining approximately 600 college and university presidents exercising leadership in modeling ways to achieve climate neutrality. Alicia recognized Kevin Fuller for his initiative to partner with the Green Town Conference. Alicia asked those interested in serving on the Campus Sustainability Task Force to notify her.
 - Wayne Tukes outlined the Faculty/Staff Scholarship initiative to provide scholarships to Columbia Students. He asked faculty and staff to contribute. Information will be distributed electronically. Contributions may be made on-line.
 - Jessica Valerio reported on student involvement in a college-wide campaign in late September and mid-October to rally and lobby legislators in Springfield, Ill. to support MAP funding. Additional information is available on the SGA website.
 - Louis Silverstein requested members of the Council to participate in the Die-In on campus on Oct. 7. The event marks the 8th anniversary of the war in Afghanistan.
 - Howard Schlossberg (CCFO Vice President) representing Tom Nowracki (CCFO President) reported nominations for the Faculty Senate By-laws Committee had closed. Notification of the Senate vote will be forthcoming.
 - Kimo Williams asked the record to reflect there is no correlation between MAP Funding and expenditures on the war in Afghanistan.
 - Louise Love announced the day and time for the first Academic Affairs Forum.
 - Thom Clark, representing the Community Media Workshop introduced the 2010 Media Guide.
3. Minutes
 - Jeff Abel motioned that the May 2009 minutes be approved. Elio Laturio seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. Introductions
 - Members introduced themselves to the Council.
5. Chair’s statement
 - Kevin read an excerpt from the from the Chair’s statement, directing members to the website for the complete version.
6. Secretary’s statement and website update
 - Sandra Allen reported information is now current on the website and will be updated regularly.

7. Council procedures

- Parliamentarian Dan Jordon reviewed Council procedures. Information is available on the website.

8. Reports

a. Provost and Deans

Provost Steve Kapelke introduced Susan Marcus, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Steve reported that the Board of Trustees approved the revised Tenure document. He recognized the committee members who developed the tenure document, and the Pageen Quinn, for their work. He also recognized the visiting artists-in-residence for the 2009/10 academic year. Steve reminded the Council of the joint Columbia/ELIA Symposium in April 2010. The theme is "Claiming Creativity".

There were no Curriculum Committee reports.

b. Vice President of Student Affairs

Mark Kelly gave updates on student registration, noting a decline of 2.7% overall. He compared year-over-year enrollment for undergraduate and graduate students. Nine departments declined 10%. Enrollment of African American freshman increased 10%, driven by the availability of scholarship funds. Mark noted increased competition among regional colleges and universities, and the crisis of affordability as major contributors to the enrollment decline. Mark also challenged the College community to partner to drive enrollment to meet the competition, noting a decline in retention rates.

He recognized the work of the Admissions staff in continuing its cost effective, efficient recruitment initiatives. He noted significant improvements in student communications, stating 90% of all students now enroll in 17 newsletters available campus-wide.

c. Vice President of Campus Environment

Alicia Berg explained cuts to the capitol budget and reported on the deployment of funds for immediate and multi-year projects, including security enhancements and sprinkler projects. The Media Production Center is on-time and under-budget, she said.

Questions and comments for items a, b and c.

Steve Kapelke reminded faculty of the role they play in recruitment and retention, recognizing the new student advising initiative.

Rose Economu voiced concerns about space for students to gather and the quality of drinking water available to students in the buildings.

Alicia Berg noted additional student spaces available to this year. She said the student issues about drinking water would be addressed at a future meeting

Shawn Shiflett addressed retention and declining enrollment, noting the comparison with other institutions. Mark Kelly cited statistics in response to Shawn's questions.

Kevin Fuller asked if Columbia is position to recruit from community colleges. Mark responded, and Steve emphasized the importance of educational quality in recruiting and retaining these transfer students. He also noted that all majors may not be transfer-friendly.

Elio Laturio voiced concern about budget cuts in technology.

Peter Insley asked about the loudness of the fire alarms, referring to a request last year for a report on the decibel level. Alica Berg cited safety concerns, but said she will investigate and report.

- d. Chair of Chairperson's Council
Ken Daley reported the Chairs' Council met to discuss revisions to the Faculty Annual Activity Report (FAAR), and also discussed expedited promotion and budget reductions.
- e. CCFO President
Howard Schlossberg (representing Tom Nowracki) reported CCFO had been invited to send a representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education meetings. Pan Pappacosta attended. Howard noted the committee election process is underway.
- f. Part-time Faculty Report – No report.

Questions and comments for items d, e and f.

Randy Albers asked about the rate of response to the evaluation of the Deans. Louise Love reported 100 faculty, 7 chairs and an unknown number of staff have responded to-date. The deadline has been extended to Oct. 16.

Howard Schlossberg asked about updates to the FARR process. Louise reported FAARs for 2009/10 academic year will be available on Oct. 15.

- g. Student Representative
Jessica Valerio reported the Student Government Association Constitution and By-laws was approved. She also referred to the MAP training initiative and to 2 new graduate-student centers, and additional space for students to gather at 916 South Wabash.
- h. Staff Representative – No report.
- i. Graduate Policy Council
Jeff Abel reported the Council met and is reviewing graduate student policies and assistantships.

Questions and comments for items f and h. – There were none.

- 9. Vice-chair Hope Daniels conducted a roll-call of standing committees to determine if they met during the last month.
- 10. Reports to the Council of actionable items from the Standing Committees of the Council – There were none.
- 11. New business.
 - a. Future Council meetings.
Kevin reported the dates for the Executive Committee and College Council meetings.
 - b. Election of new members to Bylaws Committee
Kevin nominated Elio Leturio to continue from 2008/09. Rose nominated Jaafar Aksikas. Louis seconded. Both were unanimously elected. Ken Daley was named to fill the Chair's vacancy on the Committee.
 - c. Discussion of By-laws change to include PFAC representative on Executive Council
Arvis Averette addressed the question, voicing support. Louis moved that a resolution be adopted to charge the By-laws Committee with drafting language to add a P-Fac member to the Committee. Randy seconded. The resolution passed unanimously. Kevin recommended the By-laws Committee be tasked with having the language available for vote at the November meeting.

- d. Examination of academic and student services to evening and Saturday students.

Kevin noted recent concerns with the availability of student services to students who attend night and Saturday courses. Areas of concern include: students in crisis; access to full-time faculty; hours of the learning studio; advising, and student common spaces. Ann Hemenway suggested rearranging the office hours for staff as a remedy. Jessica said the Office of Student Engagement staggers its hours to be available until 8pm. Ken Daley noted some improvements in building hours. Doreen Bartoni supported Ken's statements, noting staff shortages due to budget constraints. Mark said Student Affairs supports investigating areas of concern, and will do fact finding to report to the Council. Louise said she would look into the Learning Studio hours.

- e. Examination of ideal college size – Not discussed.

12. Chair's Council representative to Executive Committee.
Ken Daley nominated Randy Albers. Bruce Sheridan seconded. Randy was elected unanimously.
13. Hope Daniels made motion to charge the Council's leadership with drafting a resolution recognizing President Carter for signing President's Climate Commitment. Alicia seconded; motion passed unanimously.
14. Ann Hemenway made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hope Daniels seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:06pm.