MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
Faculty Advisory Council
MINUTES of the April 15, 2008 MEETING
Anne Arundel Community College
CADE 219
Arnold, MD

Members Present: Katherine Almquist, Frank Alt, Patricia Alt, Terry Bridger, Judy Coen, Kathy Corley Murray, Jolly Davis, Jill Irey, Lynn Kerr, Charles Leonard, Linda Martinak, Curt Raney, Carla Showacre, Richard Siciliano, Dennis Wenger,

Guests: Tom Tynan, MHEC Senior Academic Program Manager

CALL TO ORDER: Curt Raney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. Members introduced themselves to each other and to Tom Tynan, who was filling in for Genny Segura.

MINUTES: Minutes of the February 19, 2008 meeting were approved as amended.

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<th>ITEM</th>
<th>DISCUSSION</th>
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<td>MHEC UPDATE</td>
<td>Tom Tynan stepped in for Genny, who would be back for the May meeting. There were no items to report. He shares FAC concern over the textbook issue.</td>
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<td>OLD BUSINESS</td>
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<td>Textbook cost</td>
<td>Frank Alt distributed a University System of Maryland (USM) report referencing HB 1067 and SB 657, the “textbook bills” that had been introduced into the 2008 Legislative session. (FAC had drafted a position paper, to be submitted to Dr. Lyons, at the February meeting.)</td>
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<td>Curt Raney had previously distributed a draft letter describing some best practices for containing textbook costs. Once finalized, this letter would be approved and distributed by MHEC to Maryland institutions. The discussion that followed produced the following points:</td>
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<td>● The letter would be from FAC to MHEC, which would be responsible for determining the distribution list.</td>
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<td>● Purchase of used books and older editions is one cost-containment option.</td>
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However, there was concern about the availability of sufficient quantities. It is believed that publishers may be buying up old editions to remove them from the market. Anne Arundel CC’s mathematics department has agreed to skip an edition cycle, allowing the bookstore to purchase texts ahead to insure adequate stock. The MHEC Student Advisory Council (SAC) is reportedly setting up a used book exchange, and some Maryland campuses have internal resale mechanisms. The possibility of dealing with multiple editions and bundled materials may present some problems.

- While FAC chose to omit any reference to cooperation with publishers in this document, there was discussion surrounding the issue of customized text materials. This format would insure only relevant content was purchased. However, the customized materials have a limited and immediate market value with limited resale potential.
- The use of electronic materials often has an unintended negative impact as these materials are usually printed. When this occurs on campus it is a drain on college resources.

The *Tips for Textbooks* draft document is posted on the FAC website, and Jolly Davis will continue editing based on input from FAC members. One suggestion mentioned was renting textbooks.

There was anticipation that the Legislature would revisit this issue during the 2009 session, and that with the cooperation of outside (non-college-owned, i.e. College Bookstore of America) vendors a palatable bill would be passed. This is a national issue, and at that level, publishers will be impacted. At the state level, faculties and bookstores will feel the impact. Continued FAC action should indicate to the Legislature that faculties are aware of the issue and are working proactively to help resolve it.

Curt will incorporate these points, edit and redistribute the document. Members should contact Jolly with comments and he will bring the document back to the May meeting.

**Shared Governance**

The FAC *Statement on Shared Governance* was revisited with regard to the reference to “private” meetings of various constituencies. It appears (Curt Raney conversation with Catherine Schultz, MHEC legal counsel) that, despite common practice, private meetings to discuss business are a violation of Maryland law to “avoid doing the public’s business behind closed doors”. Because many members
were not aware of the history of this issue, a short summary of the controversies at The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) and Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) was offered to explain why some FAC members felt strongly that faculty must have the right to gather privately. Other members felt the term was at best a “red flag” and at worst, illegal. Richard Siciliano had offered and later withdrew a friendly amendment to rephrase that statement. There was a good deal of discussion surrounding the terms “opportunity” and “right”, and “private”, “closed” and “separate” meetings. A motion to retain the original wording, “opportunity” and “separate”, was passed. Richard will edit the document, and forward to Curt, who will in turn forward it to MHEC.

State Plan for Higher Education (SPHE)

Tom Tynan explained that the SPHE is to be reviewed every four years. There is an informal group discussing preliminary plans, but there are no committees or procedures in place at this time. Members felt strongly that FAC should be represented throughout the process and requested Curt send a letter to the Commission asking for representation. Curt would also be attending the Commission meeting later in the week and would mention this in his report.

In response to a query about the status of the 2004 SPHE, Tom Tynan said that the 2004 SPHE has been implemented. Members noted that FAC had been heavily involved in producing the 2000 SPHE, and did have representation on the 2004 SPHE. Curt will bring this request to the Commission by letter and in person.

PreK-20

Terry Bridger reported that there had been some confusion. FAC believed Dr. Lyons supported FAC representation on this committee, but it does not appear that the committee wishes the same. Apparently there are college faculty appointed, which the committee views as sufficient. Frank Alt mentioned that John Collins (CUSF Chair) had also requested CUSF/FAC representation. At Tom Tynan’s suggestion, Curt will check with Candace Caraco at MHEC. In the meantime, any members interested in serving should contact Curt.

NEW BUSINESS
Commission meetings

There was a discussion of the value of attending routine Commission meetings. FAC presence has political value, serves as a two-way conduit for information, and permits FAC to stay up-to-date with the progress of the SPHE. FAC’s interaction with MHEC had been quite robust in the past, with annual visits with the
Secretary, regular legislative updates, and the ability to serve as a resource for MHEC. This involvement has waned somewhat over the past couple of years, but members are hopeful that it will be reinvigorated. Dr. Lyons appears interested in FAC’s views, and Curt noted that his reports have been well-received by the Commissioners.

| FAC website | Featured Faculty | Dr. Glaser, who has been featured for some time, is retiring. It was decided that the site would feature individual FAC members on a rotating basis. Lynn Kerr would be first, and Richard Siciliano, the webmaster, would be responsible for updates. The feature would include a photo and a short biography. If warranted, a prominent non-FAC individual could also be featured.

Frank Alt commended Rich on the excellent work he does with the website, the membership echoed those sentiments.

Rich will update the site with Lynn’s picture and bio.

| June luncheon | The June meeting will be held on the Wednesday, June 11 at noon, Café Mezzanotte, Rt 2, Arnold, MD (usually place).

| Announcements | MCAPD | The Maryland Consortium for Adjunct Professional Development (MCAPD) will be holding its second annual conference on Saturday, Sept. 27th at CCBC, Catonsville. Information about the conference will be linked to the FAC website. Full-time as well as adjunct faculty are encouraged to submit proposals and to attend if possible.

Elections of FAC officers will take place at the May meeting.

| ADJOURNMENT | The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm

Recording secretary: Judy Coen