MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
Faculty Advisory Council
MINUTES of the February 19, 2008 MEETING as approved on 4/15/08
Anne Arundel Community College
CADE 219
Arnold, MD

Members Present: Katherine Almquist, Frank Alt, Patricia Alt, Judy Coen, Kathy Corley Murray, Patricia Cossard, Jolly Davis, Jill Irey, Deloris James, Lynn Kerr, Charles Leonard, Linda Martinak, Curt Raney, Lee Richardson, Carla Showacre, Richard Siciliano, Dennis Wenger, Cordell Yee

Guests: John Collins, CUSF

CALL TO ORDER: Curt Raney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Curt reported that Genny Segura, the MHEC FAC liaison, would be out of work for about 6 weeks to allow her to work on an educational project. He also reminded the group that there is no meeting scheduled for March to avoid conflict with spring breaks, the next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2008. Richard Siciliano circulated the membership list for corrections.

MINUTES:
- November 27, 2008: Frank Alt suggested some revisions related to the discussion of shared governance. The sentence concerning the recommendation for closed faculty meetings was corrected to “Revised wording was discussed and FAC is waiting for MHEC opinion”. (Curt Raney would follow up with Cathy Schultz, MHEC counsel, following this meeting, for her opinion.) Diane Davis was present in Kathy Corley Murray’s place. The minutes were approved as amended.
- January 15, 2008: The minutes were amended to include Tony Norcio as attending, and to fill in some areas of question. Frank Alt will word a sentence concerning the textbook discussion and forward it to Jill Irey for insertion. The minutes were approved as amended.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>DISCUSSION</th>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| OLD BUSINESS  
Textbook legislation | Legislation regarding the cost of textbooks was currently being discussed in the State Legislature, and Dr. Lyons (MD Secretary for Higher Education) was expecting a position statement from FAC immediately following this meeting. MHEC would need to take a position quickly and did not wish to do so until FAC had submitted its thoughts to MHEC. Proposed legislation had been previously distributed to FAC members. The proposed bills were complex, covered a wide range of issues, and included some troubling formulaic restrictions. There was concern that enforcement of these restrictions would fall to the faculty members, who would have little or no control over precipitating factors.  
Several FAC members had commented via e-mail prior to this meeting, often focusing on specific phrasing in the proposed legislation. To complete its task at this meeting, Curt Raney suggested that FAC not attempt to deal with all of the issues nor the specific language, but to focus on the portions that were relevant to faculty roles and to make broad policy statements. Other sections would best be addressed by the publishers and retailers.  
To focus the discussion, Curt Raney distributed a working document that addressed key faculty issues. Pat Cossard, CUSF representative to FAC, and John Collins, CUSF President and FAC guest, were able to add perspective from the earlier CUSF discussion of the legislation. FAC intent was to keep the recommendations to MHEC clear and simple, with the expectation that FAC representatives would testify at the legislative hearings the following Thursday, February 21. Since USM/CUSF was already planning to testify, it was suggested that FAC send a representative from another constituency to broaden the scope of the testimony. The community college FAC members wished that | |
their constituency be represented. Richard Siciliano (College of Southern Maryland, a community college), who was well-informed on all aspects of the controversy, would represent FAC.

Curt’s working document suggested four guiding principles:

- Faculty should be informed by the retailers about the options and costs to students prior to adoption of instructional materials
- ISBN numbers should be made available to students who could then search for the best purchasing option
- Faculty should insure that required instructional materials are actually used in the course, and that
- Faculty should not have limits or restrictions on their selection of instructional materials

Following a brief discussion of the first principle, it was decided to hear all four before looking at specifics. As a result, the fourth principle was seen as the overarching one, moved to number one, with the remaining concerns supportive of the first. The thoughtful discussion continued for some time, resulting in a position statement with 6 guiding principles. In concept they are:

- Faculty should have the sole responsibility of assigning instructional materials
- Faculty take the financial impact to the student into consideration when making choices of instructional materials
- Institutional bookstores make pricing information available to faculty in a timely fashion prior to adoption.
- Institutional bookstores make ISBN numbers publicly available in a timely fashion to allow students alternative purchasing options.
- Institutions routinely remind faculty of the importance of carefully selecting instructional materials with regard to relevance to course content and cost.
- Formulaic constraints are inappropriate,
counter-productive and difficult to enforce.

With a clear understanding of FAC consensus to work with, Curt would complete the final revision and forward the document to Dr. Lyons.

There was subsequent discussion concerning the interaction/agreement between CUSF and FAC positions and the strategy for testimony. Richard Siciliano suggested the approach that faculty are very concerned about the cost of instructional materials and agree in principle with the proposed legislation, but feel the formulaic approach should be abandoned. It was noted that Maryland is not the only state taking up this issue. Faculty expressed concern that the publishers and bookstore are not forth-coming with examination copies and pricing information in a timely manner. There was also comment that the legislation addressed only textbook cost when technology costs were not taken into consideration. This may be taken up at a future meeting. Richard Siciliano had researched the AAUP website and found no reference to this issue. He noted that USM has developed a position document that MACC will most likely endorse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW BUSINESS</th>
<th>FAC will send card to Genny Segura wishing her well</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genny Segura</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADJOURNMENT</th>
<th>The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>