Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for February 27, 2013 – 2:00 p.m. – SS209

Present: Gross, Israelson (Chair), Schmall, Supalla, Tweeten, Vrieze, Engelmeyer (Guest), Kingsbury (Recorder)

ITEM 1 (F & A) Advisory Committee Members Survey Question Feedback – Gross announced he plans to share the advisory committee survey questions with the Program Leaders. Israelson responded he had received no concerns from the faculty, and supported the idea of sharing with the Program Leaders. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 2 (F) Marketing – Israelson reported he had a conversation with Weber about the concerns expressed by the faculty relating to marketing, but questioned if there might be a better process for sharing such concerns. Israelson noted that waiting for a concern to be brought through Faculty Senate and then FSGC often results in a delay of over a month. Gross agreed and suggested several other avenues for faculty to express their concerns: Program Leader/Division Coordinator (PL/DC) meetings, through Academic Deans, or meeting directly with the Marketing Department. Gross added that often budget restraints are a factor in a marketing plan, hence the necessity to discuss with the Marketing Department. Tweeten agreed that faculty aren’t experts in marketing or aware of all the budget implications; hence need the Marketing Department’s expertise. Tweeten added that often the perception of faculty is RCTC’s marketing is too generic, and faculty are interested in marketing specific programs, especially those with declining enrollment. Gross stated a couple of meetings are scheduled in the next few weeks (PL/DC monthly meeting and a meeting to assess program annual review data to identify programs that need attention because of low enrollment indicators), and suggested those two meetings are opportunities for faculty to express their thoughts. ACTION: Israelson will notify faculty that several opportunities exists for faculty to share their thoughts on marketing, and Gross will follow-up with Weber and articulate the concerns being expressed through him by the faculty.

ITEM 3 (F) Advanced Notice of Meetings – Israelson reported that the faculty shared concerns with the short timelines recently being provided to them by Administration (i.e. course schedule and IPP training). Gross responded that part of the IPP timeline was related to adding last minute functionality in the IPP website and confusion regarding whether some departments were separate or combined, but also noted that Administration could make improvement in communicating such timelines. Gross suggested establishing a campus-wide calendar that could include significant dates/timelines. It was also suggested that a Staff Development breakout session could also be used for training. ACTION: Gross will share the need for improved communication with Cabinet members at an upcoming leadership meeting.

ITEM 4 (A) Staff Development Day Feedback – Everyone stated preliminary informal conversations with faculty and staff reflect positive feedback about the February Staff Development Day. In addition, Supalla stated Doug Knowlton indicated he also came away from the day with information that he plans to follow-up on at the system office (specifically the need to improve the DARS Report readability). ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (A) Updates
   a) Faculty/Dean Staffing – Supalla provided an update on the faculty searches, and also reported the two permanent academic dean searches will include open forums. ACTION: Information Only.
   b) Facilities/Safety – Schmall provided a brief update on the Stadium, CTECH, and Workforce Co-Location projects. In addition, Schmall reported the Safety Committee is reviewing the number and locations of access doors into the buildings and plans to bring forward a recommendation to reduce the number of doors unlocked to ensure a safer environment for both students and employees. Tweeten expressed her appreciation with the Facilities Department as it relates to the improved lighting in the Art Hall building. ACTION: Information Only.
   c) Presidential Search – Israelson shared faculty concerns with the limited number of finalists in the pool and the quality of those candidates, noting RCTC is an extraordinary higher educational institution, and deserves an extraordinary president. Gross agreed, adding, “What we can do as members of the community is use the readily available feedback process and have faith that the feedback will be heard.” Israelson and the faculty agreed that it was not appropriate to rush to judgment, but rather to trust in the process. ACTION: Information Only.

Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 26, 2013 – 2:00 p.m. – SS209