Meeting of the Faculty Senate Catawba College October 15, 2009 ADM 233

Senators present: Sharon Sullivan (Chair), Julie Chamberlain (Vice Chair), Connie Lowery, Steve McKinzie, Linda Kesler, Erin Dougherty, Margy Stahr, Robin Roberts, Lyn Boulter, Sue Calcagni (Secretary)

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM on Thursday, October 15, 2009.

Old Business:

- Minutes of the meeting on 10/1/09 were approved as written.
- The 2010-2011 Calendar has us beginning classes a day earlier than was approved by the faculty as it was determined by the Provost's office that we didn't need 3 days for orientation.
- The J/May term subcommittee presented two calendar options for consideration along with an updated version of the rationale for a short term.
 - One calendar option was for 13 week fall and spring semesters and the other for 14 week fall and spring semesters. Both had a J-term in between.
 - Both calendars reduce contact hours as compared to the current calendar, but only slightly.
 - Items of discussion included:
 - Loss of Easter Monday will this create a travel issue?
 - Convocation before classes begin will students even come?
 - 14 week calendar places graduation one week later than current calendar
 - 13 week calendar places graduation at the same time as current calendar
 - Will J-term count toward academic eligibility?
 - o If so, when would J-term grades be due?
 - What kind of grading with J-term courses employ?
 - After much discussion of both calendars, there were 8 votes to proceed with the
 13 week calendar and 2 for the 14 week calendar.
 - The updated rationale is focused on a J-term (as are the calendar options)
 - Concern was raised regarding whether May would remain an option for faculty that would find that time-frame more fitting with the courses they would offer (e.g., Biology).
 - The subcommittee was very open to this possibility both for faculty to have this
 option and for students to use this option as their "J-term" requirement if it were
 to be required.
 - Due to time constraints, Senate members will be asked to reply to an email regarding other aspects of the J-term (faculty participation, student participation) so that the subcommittee will have this information as they proceed with the "nuts & bolts" of the proposal.

New Business:

- A concern from the faculty regarding the calendar:
 - Did the Senate vote to align our calendar with that of the school system to not start before August 25th?

- At one point, the Senate did agree to try to align the calendars but did not guarantee it.
- Also, the legislature may be about to eliminate the rule that schools cannot start until after August 25, so that may no longer be an issue.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Calcagni