Suffolk County Community College

Grant Campus

Academic Assembly

10/3/2017

Meeting commenced at 3:38 pm

1. Introduction (Chair of the Assembly Alexander Kasiukov)
2. Approval of the Minutes of May 9, 2017: minutes approved.
3. DACA - work in progress announcement: Executive Committee is working on resolution to support what has been said by our President and Vice-President.
4. Meeting split in two parts: Business and Governance Day Awards
5. Updates from Union: Sean Tvelia:
   1. Developments in Supreme Court: Janus Case similar to Frederick case where non-voting members of unions are forced to pay union dues, and the Janus case disputes that.
   2. Purpose of agency fees: voting members are entitled to certain benefits, which need money to fund them.
   3. Janus Case may not become an issue. Also unions represent faculty because the vast majority voted to be part of a union. Janus represents a “right-to-work” proposal which may ultimately decertify the union.
   4. Another potential attack on unions could be the constitutional convention.
      1. Janet Haff: cost of the constitutional convention.
      2. Sean Tvelia: Each delegate gets $89,000 for participating: the estimated cost would be $389 million.
      3. Maria Alzugaray: what if one person contributes twice the amount, does that person count twice?
      4. Sean Tvelia: One member, one vote.
      5. Will the existing pension be affected?
      6. Sean Tvelia: right now the way it works, it cannot be diminished.
      7. I heard some rumors about health insurance.
      8. Sean Tvelia: big issue in Suffolk County with deficit and healthcare is a factor. That doesn’t hinge on the convention, but depends on the county.
6. Elections:
   1. Election of the Assembly representative on the College-wide Distance Education Committee
      1. Scott Votke: new representative
7. Action Items
   1. Resolution on WWW2 server: about personal websites. The memorandum announced the shutdown of the server where the faculty websites are located concerned some of us who developed our own websites, but all should be concerned.
      1. Presentation on WWW2 server (Professor Davorin Dujmovic) about the benefits of the WWW2 server and sites, especially in terms of faculty public presence on the internet and open web access.
      2. Discussion:
         1. Lynn Liebert Marx: Why does the college want to shut this down?
         2. John Kukowsky: I’ve had that course on the site for almost 20 years: that page is used for all the notes for all my classes, and I do not require a textbook so I am saving students money. My students won’t be able to access the notes, and why is this happening in the middle of the semester, especially when the college several years ago actually encouraged these sites.
         3. Davorin Dujmovic: many faculty might not even realize that they will lose their websites that give information to students in just a few weeks.
         4. Alexander Kasiukov: The WWW2 presence is what marks us as an institution of higher learning on the internet. Immediately upon receiving the news of the impending WWW2 shutdown, I wrote an email to Vice President Paul Beaudin pleading to reverse that decision. Subsequently, Vice President Beaudin and I had several meetings. The line of open communication with administration that opened as a result of those meetings may be at least as important as the progress we reached on the issue of the WWW2 server. The reasons for that decision became clear to me. The web server was mismanaged in the years that it was operational. The administration was concerned because it fell out of compliance with FERPA and the ADA, and possibly copyright law. We are undergoing a cycle of re-accreditation and a non-compliant server puts the outcome of re-accreditation in jeopardy. The contradiction of the need for an open internet server on the one hand, and reaching compliance quickly enough to satisfy re-accreditation requirements on the other, can be resolved by disconnecting the two in time. The best way may be to shutdown the server now, and plan for a compliant server that can be created later after re-accreditation when we have more time to do it right.
         5. Vice President Paul Beaudin: as part of Middle States, we have to be able to demonstrate an authentication system, while Blackboard is not always as attractive as the sites that we have here. A college brief in December of 2016 mandated that Blackboard was to be used for courses. We were audited over the summer and were found to be in violation of ADA. I assured Alex that we would not shut down WWW2 sites in October. We are making a form for any faculty that want a website. These faculty members will get training to get sites that are beautiful and compliant. It has to do with FERPA, ADA, and student authentication.
         6. Jason Ramirez: for curriculum, we need to have votes and proposals visible for the entire College; will this issue be resolved by next week.
         7. The WWW2 is the server hosting personal websites curated by faculty. The governance faculty maintained by Scott Mandia is a separate issue. It won’t come online in the immediate 2-week time, but it is very close to being completed.
         8. Davorin Dujmovic: I would like to resolve the replacement. We would like to be consulted about the content provider.
         9. Lou Roccanova: can we just put a link to our site on the Blackboard site?
         10. Alexander Kasiukov: for now, yes, but in the future
         11. Davorin Dujmovic: Lou is using websites in his classes
         12. Alexander Kasiukov: send me your ideas and your needs and I can integrate it into a coherent picture that I can present to administration. I think that our dialogue with administration is even more important than our problem at hand. Let’s table this discussion.
         13. Suzanne Smaller: are we tabling the resolution or the discussion?
         14. Alexander Kasiukov: we are tabling the discussion. I want to hear concerns in one-on-one conversations to make sure that the new proposed site satisfies those needs.
      3. Vote on resolution: Motion is tabled until next meeting. 1 vote against tabling the resolution.
8. Good of the Assembly:
   1. Ginny Horan: Lynn Liebert Marx wins Governance Award and receives accolades for exemplary service.
   2. Janet Haff: Dr. Maria Reitani is having a coat drive on behalf of the Science Club. Drop off at S 207 or with secretary of S 201.
   3. Michaelann Tostanosky: Art opening curated by John Cyr
   4. John Jerome: Conference on women and manufacturing
   5. Jason Ramirez: Rob Ruiz Leon performing as part of the LatinX celebration. And at 6pm Oct 11th.
   6. Hardship fund donations to Karen Dovell and Liz Spagnola
   7. Danielle DiMauro Brooks: Focus committee assembling human trafficking event date TBA; college see 295 class implementing a red flag campaign around campus to raise awareness about dating violence and they will have a weekly donation drive for SANE
9. Executive Dean’s Forum/Campus Update: Dr. James Keane: Dean Keane’s update was circulated via email.
10. Old Business: none
11. New Business: none
    1. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kate O’Donoghue.