Meeting opened and was called to order at 2:30 p.m. in 110/112.

Mitch Pietras, President, began the session by asking for approval of the minutes from our last meeting, and a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded, and a unanimous vote was passed.

Mitch announced Myra Vergani, Chair of Online Studies, as our special guest and turned the meeting over to her. Myra explained that she was a voice for us as faculty, as she is our liaison between faculty and the IT department. If something is broken, we still need to call D2L, but she will help us build a bridge fixing the gap in communication between faculty and IT.

She encourages all faculty to attend at least one training of the Version 10.2 training for D2L out between now and May. There are currently 20 sessions; check your e-mails. She will also be coordinating trainings with D2L and will be assessing quality within courses with the help of the e-mentor team. She encourages us to use the Faculty Innovation Center.

Faculty pointed out that we want the server to have the fastest system possible, above all the bells and whistles to service students the best. There still is no help available on the weekend by D2L to faculty. Although other LMS platforms have been explored, D2L seems to be the most supported. She concluded by encouraging us to roll over our summer shells now.

Treasurer’s Report: Vickie Brown gave the Treasurer’s Report indicating that $475.69 is available in one account and that $536.84 remains in the other. We are still accepting voluntary dues at $10.00. A motion was made to accept the report, it was seconded, and it was unanimously approved to accept the report as stated.

Dustin Weeks spoke about the Faculty Senate Reorganization proposal that was moved into the Bylaws phase, reiterating that attendance by Senators would be required, appointments would need to be confirmed by the Senate, and a quorum is a simple majority of those present.

Since we are undergoing elections now, there will need to be a transition plan, if this Reorg is elected and adopted, whoever is voted in now in April would become President and Vice President of the new reorg Senate in the Fall. We will now be voting to revise the Bylaws, which have to be out for faculty to view for 30 days. The new Bylaws, if approved, would take effect on August 1. We still have to do elections under our current Bylaws because these won’t be voted on until May. A MOTION was made to accept the changes to the Bylaws pending a faculty-wide vote, the motion was seconded, with no discussion, and the vote was approved unanimously.

Mike Flota spoke about the Continuing Contract Pilot to remind faculty that at the last meeting we voted to pass an extension of the Pilot to include promotion for those who want to opt in. Dr. Vitale has so far agreed with that proposal with the stipulation that faculty who are turned down under the current Portfolio system would be able to opt in to the Pilot in the Spring for an expedited round of the Pilot, just to provide more documentation to the at large College committee with the administrators to
A MOTION was made to accept Dr. Vitale's stipulation for the extension of the Continuing Contract and Promotion Pilot plan. The Motion was seconded, and discussion occurred regarding whether faculty currently have a chance for someone who is denied to have a re-look, and yes, the Portfolio system does allow for the faculty to appeal to the administrators’ committee. This new proposed way suggested by Dr. Vitale would just allow administrators to have another set of documentation to review in making their decision. Mitch encouraged the Pilot to put forward the full plan online under the FS website so that all faculty could view. The motion passed unanimously.

Charlene Latimer spoke about the Academic Integrity Committee’s work on developing an Honor Pledge and an Honor Code, which could be added to our Student Handbook. These have been taken to Teaching and Learning to approve, and a survey is being sent via e-mail to get faculty input into academic integrity issues and enforcement thereof. We want to develop an institution-wide plan to address academic dishonesty which would hold students and those who see it accountable. We want this to be integrated into the culture at DSC. We want faculty feedback so that when we say, “This is what DSC is all about, we can all agree with it.” Comments were made about whether we’ll define what, “nor will I tolerate anyone who does,” under the Pledge. Charlene says that yes, that would need to be looked at.

Charlene also discussed Awards; there will be a list coming out describing what awards are possible. Please nominate your fellow faculty who you feel are deserving. Look for an e-mail about nominations needed.

Barry Gibson spoke about Nominations for President and Vice President. At the start of the meeting, only Mitch Pietras was running for President, and Andrea Reese and Ray Cornelius were running for Vice President. Ray offered to withdraw his name if there was going to be only one person running for President. Then, Faculty started suggesting nominations on the floor, and both Mike Flota and Ray Cornelius were nominated from the floor. Because two more nominations were made for President, and because Mike Flota agreed to run, Ray placed his name back on the ballot so that there would actually be a real election under both categories. Voting begins April 8 and runs for one week; look for e-mails regarding how to vote under Florida Online. Whoever is elected President and Vice President will become the President and VP of the Reorganized Senate, if it passes.

Reports: Mitch discussed that:

- The legislature proposed that continuing contract be possible now only with 5 years of satisfactory service.
- Our Board of Trustees approved by a 7-1 vote to move forward on a tobacco-free policy.
- Mitch has tried to represent us professionally in comments to the news and in all conversations with students, faculty, and employees.
- Cabinet meets tomorrow, April 3.
- Mitch will meet with Dr. Vitale on April 3, also.
- Master Faculty III met last Friday for the first round of presentations, and they were filled with enthusiasm.
- Dr. Vitale has agreed to allow “Senators”, if that reorganization is approved, to flex their office hours for that one day per month that the Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled so that they can attend to represent their schools.
Based on Len Lempel’s discussion with Dr. Eaton about SPD funding needs, and his subsequent letter to her, she has increased funding from 1700$ to 7100$ next year.

Discussions arose about release time, stipends, an office for Faculty Senate possibilities like FS used to have in the past. Mitch said that he would inquiere into that.

Discussion also arose regarding making the President’s Cabinet be comprised of 50% faculty; it was noted that Planning Council is already 50% makeup, but that PC has no real authority. It was decided that making this motion should be brought at another time.

Meeting concluded at 4:05 p.m. and unofficial questions/comments were addressed by the Officers.

The next Faculty Senate Meeting is scheduled at 2:30-4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, in building 110, room 112. We hope to see you there. We will also have a meeting during spring planning; look for the spring planning schedule for details.

sgd