



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION
MEMORANDUM

To: Christopher Cartwright
From: Michael Summers
Subject: Senate Issues
Date: November 30, 2007

Please consider this communication an official response to the several issues that you have shared with me in your capacity as Chair of the College Faculty Senate.

September 17, 2007: Computer Competencies

I have charged Dr. Schaffer with assembling a team of faculty and staff to develop a set of recommendations that relate to computer competencies for incoming students, students that enroll in online courses, and graduates. I would expect that the Faculty Senate will be asked to assist in identifying faculty to serve on the committee charged with making the recommendations. The committee will be established before the end of this fall semester and commence its work in January 2008.

October 4, 2007: "Assistant to the Dean" Issues

I will engage the academic deans and provosts in a discussion over the next couple of weeks regarding the recommendations made by the Senate committee. While I do not think that complete consistency among all faculty with release time to assist the dean is possible, I think some improvements can be made. I don't agree with some of the other recommendations from the subcommittee but I'm interested in seeing what the deans and provosts have to say. I'll get back to you following their input.

October 9, 2007: Adjunct Teaching Loads

While current VCCS policy (3.0.5) just defines adjunct faculty as "employed to teach less than a normal faculty load . . .," it also requires that "each college shall develop and implement a management system for adjunct faculty including recruitment, orientation, compensation, supervision, and evaluation." (3.4.3)

In our Adjunct Faculty Handbook under "Personnel Policies and Procedures, (page 9-10) we have the following:

"Maximum Teaching Credit Hours

No adjunct faculty member will be assigned more than the equivalent of 11.9 credit hours for regular session and 7.9 credit hours for summer session without prior approval from the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. Exceptions to the credit hour maximums must be recommended and approved by the appropriate academic dean and the provost before submission to the vice president."

All this said, my sense is that our present system is working. I do approve all the exceptions that are submitted to me by the provosts. I am told that without these exceptions we would turn away hundreds of students each academic term.

November 6, 2007: Student Conduct

I agree with the recommendation that we engage faculty in a discussion regarding student conduct. I am requesting that you solicit 8-10 teaching faculty to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee that will convene in January 2008 to start work on the development of policy and procedures that better address how we handle disruptive students. I will ask that 3-4 administrators also serve on the committee.

November 11, 2007 Release Time for Senate Chairs

At this point in time, I cannot support the Senate's request as described in your email. While I acknowledge that the workload has increased for those who are active in the Senate, the workload has also increased for the other governance committees and we are not considering any release time for those individuals. Perhaps the Senate might look around at other institution's faculty governance systems to see how "compensation" is handled in order to make their case?

I regret the delay in getting this official response back to you but my schedule has been a bit hectic lately. Let me know if you need any further clarification on these issues.

An issue that I would like to raise with the Senate has to do with the revised adjunct faculty evaluation system that was approved by the Senate back in November 2005. As you may recall, we decided not to implement this system due to the impending SACS work (see attached memorandum), and since then we haven't done anything because the process was viewed as impractical from the academic deans' perspective. Before I start looking at the new system again, I would like to have a preliminary conversation with the Senate. Please let me know what you think.

Copy: Dr. Lonnie Schaffer Dr. Diann Holt
 Dr. Tyjaun Lee Dr. Valarie Evans
 Mr. Mike Williams