

# All College Assembly Meeting

February 2, 2009

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. TC103A, L240

Terry Cargan, Chair of the Executive Committee, called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the October 6, 2008 and December 1, 2008 minutes. ***A motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2008 was made by Eugene Wintner and seconded by Ann Grandmaison. All members voted in favor. A motion to approve the minutes of December 1, 2008 was made by Eugene Wintner and seconded by Ann Grandmaison. All members voted in favor.***

## **David Hartleb spoke to the Assembly about the college's budget.**

- On January 28, 2009 Governor Deval Patrick made two specific announcements that were significant to Northern Essex. First, he exercised his 9c powers to further cut the budget for our current fiscal year, which is in effect until June 30<sup>th</sup>. We received a \$1.2 million cut in October and now, because the state revenue is not at the level they expected, he will be taking another cut. The amount of money allocated in this round of cuts equals about \$139,000 for NECC. President Hartleb will be meeting with the college's Cabinet members about ways to make this latest cut.
- The second action the Governor took was to announce the proposed budget for fiscal year 2010, which starts July 1. This budget contains an additional 16% cut for state and community colleges. The Governor did not include any line items or budget formulas in this budget. A sum of money is being held by the Department of Education, which will be allocated to state institutions of higher learning at a later date. We hope that this process will be a fair and equal process.
- Briefly this news means NECC will suffer about a \$3 million cut. In order to address a large cut like that, President Hartleb stated that we, as a college, need to discuss this. We should pull back and talk about the college's vision and our strategic plan, and how can they guide us through this process. Or, maybe a change in the strategic plan needs to be made, although the President would not want to do this. He thought these cuts would be permanent. Therefore, we need to think about the long-term, and to think creatively about how we can sustain ourselves better. We need to have cabinet meetings and other meetings about approaches we might take.
- President Hartleb then asked if there were any questions:
  - Eugene Wintner asked is there any possibility that the federal legislation will wind up with more money down the road that will be allocated to NECC? Yes, President Hartleb said, there is a possibility.
  - Linda Shea asked what impact student growth will be having on our budget. The President stated that the growth will increase our revenue and decrease the deficit and that is positive but that it is too early to predict what is going to happen this fall. He is sure that some growth will be helpful.

## **Lane Glenn provided an update on Achieving the Dream.**

Good things continue to happen since we have been involved in Achieving the Dream. We spent our first year looking at success data and trying to determine ways to improve student success. We implemented some strategies and continue to do so.

- The data committee looked into what happens to students the first year they attend classes. In the fall '09 they will be also looking into when our students withdraw from their classes in that semester and why. Also, another topic will be looking into how to connect developmental courses with the college courses.
  - One group working with student success and math has opened a math lab in the Spurk Building.
  - One group will be looking into expanding online advising services and online portfolio.
  
- We have recast our KPI's, which means that we used to have 10 and now we have 5. These KPI's are all tied to Achieving the Dream and the Academic Master Plan.
  
- Another topic the Achieving the Dream committees are addressing is what big things can we do to further our success.
  - We are spending more time with our high school partners, early placement testing for juniors and seniors and looking at ways to align the curriculum to earn credits before they attend classes here.
  - One item we have noticed is if a student comes to NECC with 15 credits already earned, they tend to stay in school. What might we do to help them earn those 15 credits?
  - In addition, the advising department will be looking at policies at this institution and why a large number students drop from classes due to grades/marks. Are our policies too lenient or too harsh? Many of our students placed in developmental courses do not take them when they come to NECC. If the student does not take their developmental course, what will happen to them later? ? Will loosening up our policies encourage students to stay, or should we enforce the policies we have now more rigidly?
  
- These are some of the items being discussed, worked on. Lane asked if there were any questions. He then thanked everyone for their ongoing participation.

### **Jim Murphy, Judith Kamber, and Jeff Bickford spoke about the process that will lead to the 2010 NEASC report.**

- Jim Murphy began the discussion by saying that this affords us the opportunity to look at what we do and find out where we are going. The latter is particularly challenging because we don't know what the state of our budget will be.

Discussions about NEASC will be on what drives us as a college; creative thinking will be our source of inspiration. Ultimately, the focus of the entire report is an examination of how everything we do contributes or impedes what happens in the classroom.

- Judith Kamber spoke about how hard it is to ask someone for support when they are just working so hard at this time. The NEASC self-study has to be done, and it is an important part of our appreciation of each other.
- Jeff Bickford talked about a BLOG he has put together for the NEASC process. The web address is [www.betablog.necc.mass.edu](http://www.betablog.necc.mass.edu) . We will be using blogs and wikis, which will allow faculty and staff to help with this project. The original web was a place to present information but not interact with it. Web 2.0 is now interactive so we can use blogs for brainstorming discussions involving contributors and an editor/moderator. A wiki is for a group project in which the document continually changes; everyone is an editor.

Judith reviewed the website blog on NEASC at the meeting. She showed the Standards and Resources page, NECC Presentations. On the right side of the page is a list of the different standards. "How To" on the blog provides basic information.

**Terry Cargan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**A motion to end the meeting was made by Mary Chatigny and seconded by Abby Thomas. All members voted in favor.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:50.