

**College Advisory Council**  
**Minutes of November 28, 2005 Meeting**  
**Teleconferenced at both campuses: Haverhill E155—Lawrence L240**

**Call to Order**

At 12:15, Terry Cargan, Chair of the Executive Committee, called the meeting to order. She announced that Gerry Morin has agreed to serve as the CAC's Parliamentarian.

**Approval of minutes for March 1, 2004**

Gene Winter made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Gerry Morin. All members voted in favor; the minutes were approved with no discussion.

**Fifth Division and Proposed Charter Changes**

The Chair explained that the Executive Committee was proposing changes to Article VI, Sections 6 & 7. To update processes, the following wording was proposed for Section 6:

**Section 6. Elections:** Members of standing committees shall be elected by secret paper *or electronic* ballot utilizing eligible voter lists. . . . Elected members shall take office May 1st. however, members of the Finance Committee shall take office on the following September 15th. With the exception of the Finance Committee c. . . . Committees are expected to hold their first meeting by the end of May and elect their chair. . . . All ballots shall be decided by a simple majority of those participating. present and voting.

During the discussion about these changes, concerns were raised about ensuring secrecy and smoothing out glitches in the entire election process. It was suggested a task force be formed to address the latter problem. After a debate about the security of paper vs. electronic ballot, it was decided to change the wording of "secret paper or electronic ballot" to "secret ballot." Barbara Stachniewicz made a motion to approve the revised version of Section 6, with the omission of "paper or electronic." The motion was seconded by Francine Pappalardo. The Chair then asked to move the question and vote on the amendment. 28 voted in favor; the rest abstained. The motion carried.

**Section 7. Constituency Groups:** Because Human Services is now a new academic division, the Charter must allow for that area to have representation on Standing Committees. Another change has been a

shift in terminology: “academic area” is now “division.” Therefore, the Executive Committee is proposing the following changes:

Each standing committee of the Council shall consist of the following:

A) Faculty 6 7to be elected by area as follows:

2 members are to be elected by the faculty at–large and 4 5 members by academic area division, 1 from each of the 4 5divisions. academic areas (formerly called divisions).

A third revision proposed for Section 7 would mandate that all newly elected members begin their terms after April elections, with no exceptions for the Finance Committee.

Paul Bevilacqua made a motion to move forward; the motion was seconded by Barbara Stachniewicz.

Paul Bevilacqua made a motion to accept the changes in Section 7 and was seconded by Gerry Morin. More than 2/3 of those present voted in favor, the rest abstained; the motion passes.

### **Faculty At–Large Election**

The Chair stated that the Executive Committee has two vacancies for regular faculty at–large representatives. Barbara Stachniewicz and Melissa Juchniewicz have been filling those positions on an interim basis. Both agreed to have their names placed in nomination. A call for nominations—emailed to faculty last week—also included at–large alternates for the Finance Committee and Student Affairs Committee. No nominations were made.

Ballots were collected by Gene Wintner and Sue Grolnic. Election Results (tallied after the meeting): Barbara Stachniewicz and Melissa Juchniewicz were elected for at–large positions on the Executive Committee. Carol Wallace—a write–in nomination—was elected to the at–large alternate position on the Student Affairs Committee.

Paul Bevilacqua asked that the revised **College Advisory Council Standing Committee List** be sent out after the election. The Chair stated that it would be sent out; at that time, chairs and members should verify information for their committees and forward any changes that have not been noted to Maggie Lucey.

## Constituency Concerns

### \* **Steve Mathis: Is the work we do honest?**

- Steve's concerns centered on classroom issues that have been the focus of hallway discussions, but have not been raised for public discourse. These issues included whether NECC is indeed changing students' lives. If change implies the ability to compete economically, have we done our job or are we simply passing students on without sufficiently preparing them for the academic and social skills they will need to succeed? Steve feels we've conditioned our students to expect lies and patronization, and this is not fair to them or to NECC's mission.
- Paul Bevilacqua suggested that if people believe this is something that needs to be aired and discussed, we should consider what the appropriate forum might be for that..
- Barbara Stachniewicz mentioned a Teaching and Learning Taskforce or a Brown Bag Lunch.
- Joe LeBlanc voiced support for future discussions, including concerns about how the student evaluation process affects what happens in the classroom.
- Terry Cargan promised that the Executive Committee would pursue venues for future discussions about these issues.

### \* **Frank DeSarro: adopting a community college in New Orleans.**

- Frank would like to see NECC establish a connection in the gulf coast area and find a way to assist a community college there. He will be visiting New Orleans in January and would be glad to gather information at that time and to help any group that might want to sponsor this project.
- Priscilla Bellairs mentioned that a lot of books and libraries were lost and would be interested in helping to resupply books. She suggested that the Executive Committee or a group of the Executive Committee might make a focused effort to determine contacts and find needs, then determine what a next step might be.

- Terry said she would raise it in the next Executive Committee meeting, then contact Frank.

### **Adjournment**

The Chair thanked Jim Hellesen for setting up the meeting, Gerry Morin for his service as the Parliamentarian, and Maggie Lucey for her invaluable assistance.

A motion was made by Barbara Stachniewicz to adjourn, seconded by Gerry Morin, all voted in favor. The CAC meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.