

CRAFTON COUNCIL
Minutes
October 27, 2009

- Present: Gloria Harrison, Matthew Lee, Candace Leonard, Cheryl Marshall, Catherine Pace Pequeno, Scott Rippy, Moises Valencia, Rebecca Warren Marlatt
- Guests: Accreditation Team Members Kathy Lehner, Superintendent/President, Mendocino College and Dr. Chris Myers, Former Director Institutional Research & Planning

A special meeting of Crafton Council was held to meet with the Accreditation Team.

Ms. Lehner stated that she was amazed and impressed with the amount of work CHC has completed. She explained that the purpose of today's visit is to verify that CHC is doing what we stated in the Follow-Up Report.

Discussion took place and it was explained that Crafton Council was first formed to address accreditation issues. Since then, there has been much discussion and a retreat to define the function and role of the Council. It was agreed by the Council that its purpose should be to provide information, facilitate communication, and function as a clearing house for shared-governance issues. A draft of the recommendation was sent to the Management Team, Academic Senate, Classified Senate, and Student Senate for input and the council is now waiting for feedback. It was also noted that this committee has increased communication on campus and has recommended the establishment of an Accreditation Committee and Outcomes Committee.

- Ms. Lehner asked how faculty reacted to SLOs and Program Review.

Scott Rippy explained that faculty are getting over being angry and resentful and are doing well in writing their SLOs. A lot of faculty are seeing the use and sense of SLOs.

Moises Valencia stated he is now seeing SLOs on Course Outlines.

- Ms. Lehner addressed the topic of committee participation.

Candace Leonard stated that participation among classified staff has greatly improved. Classified staff feel they are being listened to and their opinions are valued. Candace also pointed out that because of work commitments, it is often difficult for classified staff to attend meetings. The Classified Senate meets monthly and there is a spot on their agenda for committee reports. Because they only meet monthly, sometimes information is sent thru e-mail.

Moises Valencia reported that students participate on a lot of committees and are committed, ask questions and actively participate and attend scheduled meetings. The Student Senate communicates to students thru their Newsletter/Newspaper on a website which is updated monthly. The Student Senate is developing their own website which will be updated weekly with minutes, agendas, etc. They also have AS Days twice a month to inform students about senate and campus information. Moises also explained that instructors are very good about letting the student senate make announcements and some instructors will allow the senate to post announcements on Blackboard.

- Dr. Myers asked if there were any major hurdles in what CHC is trying to accomplish.

Scott stated nothing that isn't unforeseen—illness that might postpone but not prevent.

Rebecca stated that getting a researcher hired is needed.

Catherine agreed stating that Planning and Program Review is very difficult without research data.

- Regarding the Data element, it was asked if CHC feels they are getting support from the District.

Gloria Harrison stated that some of the delay is because the District started with Sungard and then went to Collegis. Collegis was bought out by Sungard and so the district decided to leave Sungard and to its own thing. The district has taken a long time working on ERIS. The District is also centralizing computing services.

Matthew Lee pointed out that CHC has a good relationship with the SBVC researcher which is an advantage.

- Kathy Lerner asked about Distance Education.

Catherine believes there is has been more cooperation and discussion about what CHC can do to make DE better. She believes that when DE was addressed in the Accreditation Report, it changed attitudes. The committee is taking more ownership of quality of on-line information.

Cheryl Marshall senses faculty are more willing to coach and give feedback to each other.

- Kathy Lehner asked if work on SLOs has helped the process?

Catherine believes it has because Curriculum now requires SLOs before approving courses.

Matthew Lee pointed out that this group also had a retreat to visit changes.

- Kathy Lehner stated she heard from managers that people were stunned by the letter from the Accrediting Commission.

Gloria Harrison stated that we have received lots of questions from students. She was contacted by a student from Redlands High School who is going to write an article about our probation--it has been a topic of discussion at all levels.

Scott stated that at first there was almost a state of depression and then a feeling they are wrong and we are better than that.

Moises feels it has created a sense of urgency in a positive way.

Candace believes classified reaction was similar to faculty. A meeting was held to discuss what classified employees can do to help and they had a great turnout for the meeting.

Catherine feels that accreditation isn't the focus of the changes being made—we are working on what we need to do. If we do things that will make us a good strong institution, accreditation will happen.

- Kathy Lehner asked about planning processes and how they will help when we don't have resources.

Rebecca stated that we will have a clearer idea of where we are going with our institution and that will help in where we want to go.

Catherine stated the lack of resources has been a topic of conversation in Planning and Program Review.

Cheryl Marshall stated that using a rubric has helped us as committee members to be more consistent.

- Ms. Lehner asked if there was anything the committee would like to share.

Catherine stated that while she was not happy about what happened with Accreditation, she believes it has been good for CHC--we have changed fundamentally as a campus.

Rebecca stated that as a newcomer, it seems people have really come together and Matthew Lee has taught us so much.

Gloria feels that the commission was harsh and it has created a lot of work and an impression of this campus that is not true. It has affected our relationship as a campus with the Board of Trustees and the new chancellor. While we have come together as a campus it takes more energy and effort, especially at a time when we are short on staff. It has been a tremendous commitment to meet weekly to get to point that you see now.

Kathy Lehner agreed with Gloria on the harshness of the Accrediting Commission's recommendations. Because CHC has not completed the work requested, it is her guess that the probationary status won't change.

Dr. Lee stated it has been his belief all along that CHC could not change the probationary status but CHC will move forward until all the recommendations are resolved.

Moises stated that he is very proud to be a student at CHC and a part of this process.