BCCFA Representative Assembly

Minutes of Meeting of October 14, 2008 (in C-314)

Members Present: Andrew Baddish, Joan Cohen, Richard Comerford, George Cronk, Robert Fusco, Mark Goodell (Alternate), Lenore Lerer, Mike Martinez (Admissions & Registration Alternate), Mauro Marzocco, Florence McGovern (Alternate), Jeanie Payne, Lynne Richardson, Joseph Sivo, Kevin Sullivan, Marjorie Webster, Cesarina Viñas (Alternate), Paul Wolfe

BCCFA Executive Committee Officers Present: Peter Helff, President; Alan Kaufman, Vice President; Tobyn De Marco, Secretary; Laurie Hodge, Treasurer; George Cronk, RA Chair

Guests: Jessica Datema (English)

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson George Cronk at 3:55 PM.

2. Review of Minutes: Meetings of April 8, 2008, and September 9, 2008 (emergency meeting). Minutes of both meetings were approved, 15-0-0.

3. Election of RA Chair for 2008-2009. The election was administered by Joan Cohen, Chair of the BCC Nominations & Elections Committee. George Cronk was nominated and was unopposed. Prof. Cohen directed the BCCFA Secretary to enter one vote for Cronk, who was thereby re-elected.

4. BCCFA Treasurer, Laurie Hodge, presented his Treasurer's Report, including a proposed Budget for 2008-2009 and information concerning the constitutionally-required audit being conducted by CPA Ling Van Dyne. Discussion ensued. It was suggested that, in the future, Hodge present a report comparing an upcoming budgetary year with the previous year. Hodge stated that that can be done, and that he would present at the next RA meeting an update of his 2008-2009 Report including the comparative information requested. Richard Comerford commended Hodge for his efforts and stated that he would be looking forward to the expanded Report.

The Treasurer's Report was approved, 19-0-1.
5. Old (or Continuing) Business:

a. There was discussion of the possible "Buy-Out" that has been a matter of interest since Spring 2008. No definitive information was available.

b. BCCFA Executive Committee members reported on the progress of the negotiations on the proposed reorganization of the academic sector of the College.

c. There was general discussion of the "Monitoring Report to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education" that was filed with Middle States by the College on or about October 1, 2008. Various concerns about and viewpoints on "shared governance" at the College were expressed.

d. Academic Advisement requirements for faculty.

   1) Tobyn De Marco reported on the current work of the Advisement Steering Committee. The Committee is in the process of developing a new framework for and new approaches to academic advisement at BCC.

   2) Physical Sciences Representative, Joseph Sivo, discussed the statement on advisement he sent to RA Chair, George Cronk, on or about October 13, 2008, which statement was forwarded by Cronk to the RA email group. That statement contained the following motion:

   "We the members of the representative assembly find the current requirements for faculty members’ duties for academic advisement to be inequitable. The new contract must include an equitable arrangement of advisement duties."

   There was discussion of both the topic and the motion. It was generally agreed that, rather than having a vote on the aforesaid motion immediately, all RA representatives should take the issue back to their constituencies, find out what position said constituencies might want to take on the matter, and then report the results to the RA at its next meeting.

6. New Business:

   Under "New Business," the agenda listed items on "WEX program and requirements" and "ICE course/program." However, Alan Kaufman stated that those items raised mainly academic questions that should be addressed by the Faculty Senate and not by the RA. His view was supported without objection.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Pursuant to the BYLAWS of the BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY ASSOCIATION, Article I, Section 4.