**Academic Division Meeting**

**Friday, October 12, 2012**

**Room F117-1**

**12:00pm – 2:00pm**

Meeting called to order by Phil Mayer

**DEAN’S REPORT**

* The Early Childhood Accreditation body, NYAEC, is visiting next week, beginning on Monday.
* Following next week’s NAEYC visit is the college wide Accreditation visit from NEASC, October 21-24. Schedules and information will be distributed via email, please note the times and take the opportunity to review the document (which can be found in the library or on our website). The team who helped to create the document did a great job and Dean Branchini would like to thank everyone who has been involved.
* The recent Academic Dean’s Council resulted in some new information.
	+ We have been granted the funds to bring on a new engineering technologies faculty member, to support a transfer relationship with a CCSU degree program.
	+ There has been formal discussion regarding to possibility of using a common calendar for all CONNSCU institutions. The desire is to transition in 2015.
	+ PA 1240 (formallySB40). A matrix has been developed which addresses 3 categories, essentially outlining the criteria to have 1 semesters worth of developmental education. The Regional Readiness center is a concept, not a location, which allows us to work with students here on campus. Our readiness center would be comprised of ourselves, Quinebaug and Manchester.
	+ Accuplacer will no longer play a role in the placement of students into developmental courses; a set of criteria is being established and will be put into place. The advisory committee formed has excellent representation from TRCC.
	+ TAP (Transfer and Articulation Policy) has established 5 pathways, Nursing, Business (Administration), Psychology, Communication and Biology. Ellen Freeman, Rick Bennett, Michael Stutz and James Copeland are working in their respective areas; the person for Psychology is still being decided.

**Problem Based Learning**

Judy Donnelly presented on PBL (Problem Based Learning) which is a style of teaching developed by the New England Board of Higher Education. A series of 3 year projects have led to tested resources and problem solving tactics used for students and instruction. PBL teaches both content and problem solving skills, revolutionary in the STEM areas. More information can be found at pblproject.org – contact Judy for passwords and there are cards/fliers with further information in the Academic Division Office (C-213).

**Center for Teaching- Pamela Carroll**

The Center for Teaching at Three Rivers strives to promote professional practice while supporting each other.

* October 22 – Workshop in effective Classroom Management
* November 9 – The Academic Division meeting will feature a CFT sponsored guest speaker, beginning at Noon.
* December – an informal reflection time will be arranged for faculty to come together and discuss what has/has not worked.

“With rapid change continuing in our system, the CFT will focus on building sense of community and support teaching and learning”.

**Advising and Counseling**

As committee chair, Jenn DeFrance would like to first thank everyone for all that they do to help students and that the advising committee is here to support you. Please be reminded that registration for continuing students begins November 01 and new students begin November 15. Student services has begun an “Road Map to Success” campaign to encourage students to meet with their advisors and plan on having two sessions on October 30 and 31st in the MPR. In an effort to be as up-to-date as possible and streamlined, everything that used to be included in the Advising Binder is now on a Blackboard Shell – which everyone is enrolled in.

**Announcements:**

* The Connecticut State Employee’s Campaign is in full swing. Please see your pledge books and sheets and give to a Charity of your choice.
* There is an Election event being coordinated between Mike Stutz and Phil Mayer on October 18 and October 24. Phil Mayer will be discussing the issues and Mike will be discussing the election Rhetoric
* Reminder that Peter Schiff – Noted Investment Advisor “The Real Fiscal Cliff: How to Spot the Ledge” – will be at TRCC October 18, 2012 – 6:30pm in the Multi-Purpose Room.
* Heidi Zenie – the Health and Wellness Center received a grant for programming. They will be holding “Depression Awareness Week” October 15-28 12-1 pm in the MPR
* Joe Selvaggio- the TAP committee is still receiving comments
* Tuesday October 23, Debate Bingo from 12-2 pm.

Phil would like to give credit to everyone for the smooth meetings. Also a thank you to Nancy Czarzasty for the coffee and Lili Rafeldt, Sandra Jeknavorian and Janet Hagen for the snack.

**Questions/Concerns:**

**Advising- During Phase One advising is there any information we can give to students regarding the upcoming changes due to PA 1240**

* Advise/encourage students to buckle down and work hard to get through the Developmental courses. However, as there has been no definite plans made, direct information can’t be given yet on exactly what to expect.

The next meeting will be on November, 9 2012 at 12:00pm in the MPR. The meeting will begin with our CFT Guest Speaker and an abbreviated Academic Division Meeting will follow at 1:30 until approximately 3 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted – Tia D’Alessandro