

SOCIAL SCIENCES
DIVISION MEETING

February 7, 2006 – 12:30 PM – Room 1H7-HT BLDG

Dr. Yoder opened the meeting with a welcome back to John Hughes who had been in the hospital the previous week and he reported that his wife, Margaret, also hospitalized last week is also home. Nancy Pietroforte was welcomed to 1H13 moving from the Library. Congratulations were offered to Sociology as Dr. Yoder presented the new edition of the Introduction to Sociology textbook with notes and emails on the inside cover including an email from one of our Sociology students here at OCCC.

Dr. Yoder relayed that she had requested 3 replacement faculty positions which would be 1 each of Political Science, Psychology and Sociology. She has requested new positions for Geography and Psychology. Dean's Council will meet tomorrow and it is her understanding a decision will be made at that time. She asked that the Psych faculty and the SOC faculty meet to determine any preferences, specialties, or emphasis such as on community college experience. Job descriptions need to be given to the division office no later than Friday and preferably Thursday to meet Dr. Harrison's Monday, February 13 deadline.

Dr. Yoder introduced Kathy Wullstein from Online Learning who was invited to speak about the WebCT update. Ms. Wullstein related that online classes have increased 20% over the last year. Approximately 50% of the classes are now being taught by adjuncts and this makes their job in Online Learning more difficult as it is not always possible to reach adjunct faculty. With this and other items in mind, a task force is being created to look at issues dealing with online issues such as whether adjuncts should develop their own classes or if there should be a 'master class'; who is responsible for updates, etc.

The updated WebCT will first be used for summer online classes. Training will be held in 2 hour workshops at various times during the day, evenings and Saturdays beginning the week after Spring Break. The Task Force will review the new system and share information with the division. An item up for discussion would be adjuncts teaching from the metropolitan area or from out of town. Dana Glencross is Social Sciences representative on the task force.

Rick Vollmer asked about online classes opening earlier than campus classes. Ms. Wullstein responded that all online classes must open at the same time and the task force will work to determine when that would be. It is confusing to students if some classes are open and others are not. In the future when datatel is integrated with WebCT then faculty will have more control over their classes.

Rick Vollmer suggested that an assessment for students entering online classes would be most helpful as he has students that enroll in his classes and are not computer literate. This subject was discussed and Ms. Wullstein said this is something for the Task Force to discuss along with an assessment for teaching online. Ms. Wullstein stated that the WebCT update, multiple sections of the

same course, and adjunct training would be priorities for the Task Force. She also stated that her department is no longer under Instructional Affairs but now reports to Information and Technology Services.

Dana Tuley Williams reported the Library now has wireless internet. The small study rooms are equipped with this service. Chuck Carselowey announced that the IAPC has an open agenda this semester and any concerns could be brought to the committee. Ray McCullar reported for Retention that names of students not attending classes into the fourth week could be sent to Mary Turner and she would follow up with them.

Branding Campaign has been distributed and one change will be email addresses. On page 3 is one way of alerting people to your email change. Dr. Yoder suggested you wait until maybe mid-June to use this method of changing your email address as the message will go each time you email. She also stated the college phone number would be changed to 682 – OCCC. Jane Carney said her understanding was that this number would go out in advertisement for recruitment but the main number would stay the same. Dr. Yoder will get clarification. The logo will be changing and all faculty will get new business cards and we will have new stationery and envelopes.

Next Steps is Dr. Sechrist plan to move us to a significant community college. The biggest change for us will be in technology. Brown bag lunches with Dr. Riha will be offered on February 14 at 1:30 in CU2 and February 16 at 12:30 in 1X3. Please attend to help improve communication between technology and academic affairs.

Dr. Yoder stated that faculty is asked to participate in the campaign to encourage full and part time students to complete their degrees and graduate from OCCC.

Ray McCullar stated that some students who attend college are not really cut out for it and those students should not be discouraged from pursuing other avenues. We should always think about the best interest of the students.

- Please pick up the hand out on confidentiality as you leave
- The college will participate in disaster drill and serve as immunization site on April 26. It should not disturb classes
- Change in tuition reimbursement to faculty/staff from 6 to 9 hrs per year
- An inauguration for Dr. Sechrist is being planned by the Regents
- Remember Higher Ed day on February 15
- Also the Student Awards Ceremony on April 21
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In closing Dr. Yoder introduced Sam Negus to the faculty. He is teaching History this semester and comes to us from England. His specialty is Southern American History and he will be moving on to Alabama in the Fall.

Wanda Roepke