Pierce Council  
April 8, 2011

Present: President Birge, Scott Ansevin-Allen, Bill Beardslee, Joel Begin, Doug Challenger, Jim Earle, Janet Gongaju, Rob Hannings, Bob Lawson, Diane Monico, Kim Mooney, Kyle Mulcahy, Adam Stahl, Paul Tedder, Judy Tomlinson

Absent: Rich Abel, Jed Donelan (sabbatical), Bob Goodby (teaching), Allan Rachlin

The Service Recognition sub-committee met again and they shared a handout with the group. They strongly believe that years of service milestones should be publicly recognized. At the same time they were aware of the costs associated with the previous luncheon and distribution of gifts. This is why they have recommended that this be held during the Fall Forum. It is a time when most people are able to gather from both the CGPS and Rindge campuses. Rather than gifts such as candy dishes, lamps or vases, the committee felt that a certificate would be well received. The sub-committee suggested that graphic arts students be asked to design these certificates. A few felt that recognizing these milestones may extend the Fall Forum too long or that important messages may be forgotten, especially during the first year when recognition is given to those that were missed in prior years. A discussion was held on how to streamline this process. Dr. Birge will meet with Richard Marshall and Sharon Burke to discuss this added expense to the Institutional Budget Committee. He will report back to the Council when it reconvenes in the fall.

Allan Rachlin added an item to the agenda concerning sports teams travel schedule prior to spring break. In his absence, Doug Challenger shared Allan’s concerns with the group. Allan felt strongly that student athletes should not be dismissed early for spring break. It sends the wrong message about academic rigor and attendance. Questions were raised about attendance policies which are set by individual instructors. Generally speaking, most students lose points after missing 2-3 classes per semester. It was pointed out that there wasn’t anyone representing athletics. However, most student athletes tend to have higher grades and are overall more conscientious about make-up work. One person asked that we not focus on student athletes but all students such as service club members that depart early. The question was raised about why people were leaving early. For some it had to do with cheaper flights, while sometimes other schools may be setting the schedules and a variety of other reasons. Another person wanted to know about the consequences for faculty members that cancel classes and leave early. It became apparent that this issue will need to be revisited next semester.

Pierce Council elections need to be conducted again. A timeline was laid out that has the elections ending prior to the Rindge final exam schedule. Hopefully this will encourage a greater participation in the election process. The following individuals have fulfilled their maximum of 2 consecutive terms and must step down:

Bob Lawson representing the Rindge Faculty
Rob Hannings representing the Non-Exempt Staff

These others have served 1 term and may stand for re-election if they choose to (and win re-election):

Richard Abel representing CGPS
Scott Ansevin-Allen representing Exempt Staff
Doug Challenger and Bob Goodby representing Rindge Faculty
Paul Tedder representing Non-Exempt Staff

One member asked about the composition of membership as Rindge seems to be heavily favored. Currently there are three members elected from CGPS: 1 must be a faculty member; 1 can be a faculty or staff member and 1 is a graduate student. When compared to student head count it breaks down to approximately 1295 Rindge students and 900 CGPS students. If we convert that to full-time enrollment (FTE) the margin is even
greater. The report that established the Pierce Council will be reviewed. Membership can be discussed by next year’s Pierce Council.

The Pierce Council response to the Identity Forums was discussed at the last meeting. Through emails the response that Doug Challenger crafted had minor edits and then was sent on to Richard Marshall and the Strategic Planning Committee. Kim Mooney felt that Patricia Garrity and the Marketing team could use this document as well. She also felt the document should be shared with the entire community as they were all part of the Identity Forums. Posting this on eRaven or on the Pierce Council webpages was suggested. However, one member cautioned that the wording would not be flattering if it were to get outside the University. Outsiders would not understand the 2-year process that produced this document. After much debate, it was decided to remove the section on “What Did We Learn From the Forums.” Since the process was recorded in monthly minutes and already posted to the website this section did not need to be included in the posts.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50PM.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Rank.