Brandon Arts Council Meeting
Minutes 11/12/09

Members present: Alex Ambrioso, Chris Gunn, Dr. Earl Paul, LaFran Reddin, Jeremy Bullian, Reg Poling, Lauretta O’Dell and Dr. Carlos Soto

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Paul, in the absence of Professor Hardin. Dr. Paul asked everyone to introduce themselves, eight members were in attendance.

Reference was made to the previous meeting and our charge as the newly formed Brandon Campus Arts Council. Our charge is to “Bring the Arts to the HCC-Brandon Campus”, by involving the entire HCC-Brandon campus community and our surrounding communities. We want to commit to driving more people to the Brandon Campus. We saw from the attendance at our Brandon Fall Festival in November of last year that our community will come if we let them know what’s going on at our campus.

As the discussion continued “Around the Horn” members of the Council voiced their concerns. From past experiences attendance and participation from our students, faculty and staff was very minimal. The question was asked how we can get more participation and better attendance at our scheduled events. Also another question was posed to the group, “what kind of event could we hold that would draw more people to the event”?

One, member stated that maybe we could get a famous person to come speak at our campus; another suggestion was to survey the student body with specific questions as to what kind of event they would like to see take place on our campus. Dr. Paul advised of the SGA’s plans to start sponsoring field trips for students to the various exhibits in the immediate area and that there are other projects being scheduled that will help to increase the Art awareness of our Brandon students.

After much discussion, the most favored suggestion was to hold a film festival and photo competition with our students competing, by writing, editing and taking photos for the festival. As all ideas were expounded on, it was clear though, that we would roll with the “Film and Photo Festival” idea, as soon as possible. The committee will rally to include the entire Brandon family to produce a “Film and Photo Festival”, which would include faculty involvement, as their disciplines in injected into the students’ end products, i.e. photos, writings, etc. It was discussed for the possible
target date to be in the month of April. It was noted that if start planning now the event would be a success. All present agreed.

Another initiative discussed in the presence of Dr. Soto was the proposal of establishing a “Cooperative Artistic Fellowship Agreement” with our sister HCC Campuses. The ventures would entail productions being performed on the Brandon Campus as well as on the originating campus. The Brandon campus would assist in advertisement and any other needed assistance to get the word out to our surrounding communities about an upcoming production. Again with our main objective, “to increase the participation and attendance of our inter HCC-community and our surrounding communities to all of our Artistic events, is our major focus for the Brandon campus as well as for our sister campuses.

In closing, it was decided that we would start a dialogue with the Ybor Campus. Dr. Paul will contact the Art Production Directors on the Ybor campus for their thoughts, in the meantime we will move forward with the planning our project. The Council has the full support of Dr. Soto, our Campus President.

All hearts and minds clear the meeting was adjourned.

LaFran Reddin, Note Taker 11/12/09