Hillsborough community College Brandon Campus

Advisory Council Meeting

February 7, 2014 – 10:00 AM

Present: Beth Smith (Chair), Joan Rogers, Gail Anderson, Denise Samide, Randall Rockefeller (vice chair), Nicole Barger, Brandy Espinosa, Chris Hazzi, Masson Nottingham, Edwina Griffin, Dr. Carlos Soto, Hyomin Kim, Sunshine Gibbons, Scott Behrens, Jose Galvis.

Call to order: 10:00 am

Agenda and minute approvals: Mason Nottingham motioned to approve the minutes for the December 6 2013 meeting and Dean Scott Behrens second the motion.

New Business:

Dean Behrens hosted the 2nd annual Science Olympiads at the Brandon Campus. Over 500 students participated and the event was a success. There were about 30 different science events that took place. Dean Behrens mentioned that there will be 13 teams from the Science Olympiads that will be sent to the State Competition in March.

Dean Behrens also shared with us changes with the Prep Education Classes. These changes go into effect this coming fall with the writing, reading and math classes. Meetings have been taking place with all the faculty concerning these changes.

Some of the changes taking place are: Some students will be able to exempt prep classes and be allowed to register into college level courses. The college is looking at how they can advise students to not exempt prep classes that are needed before registering for college level courses. The student For Success Tutoring Lab are preparing to provide extra support to students who decide to go ahead and exempt the prep classes. Additional counselors will be hired to try to convince students not to exempt the prep classes that they will need to further their education. These changes will have a huge impact on some of our biggest areas such as Psychology, speech and Sociology.
Dr. Soto mentioned that the Campus Presidents have met and through the Deans of Student Services they have submitted requests for at least 4 new advisors for the district. The Board of Directors have looked at this situation and have approved possibly hiring 20 new counselors to help students through these new changes. The Board is also looking on how they will fund these new positions.

Dr. Soto showed us some new brochures that will be used as handouts to let the community know what is offered here at the HCC Brandon campus. The brochures are located in Student Services. Dr. Soto encouraged us to hand them out if we are hosting any seminars, High School visits or reaching out to the community.

**The HCC Foundation:** Dr. Nottingham is involved in the HCC Foundation. Dr. Nottingham shared with us how we can get involved by donating funds to help students purchase books. Dr. Nottingham handed out a form from the HCC Foundation listing the different programs that one can donate to and the different methods of donation payments.

Dr. Soto informed us about the Book rental program. The program is an inexpensive way for student’s to have the books for the semester at a really nominal rental fee. Dr. Soto said that this program is becoming very popular due to how expensive the text books are.

**Old Business:** Nicole announced to us that there will be a Women’s Health Fair on March 5, 2014 in the BSSB 1st floor main lobby area. The event will be from 11:30-2:00. There will be different vendors and services offered at this event. The women’s Health Fair should be a success however, Nicole mentioned that some of the problems that have occurred to put these kinds of events together are becoming a little more difficult due to the Liability Insurance that is required in order for venders to even visit our campuses. If the liability insurance is not provided then the event may have to be cancelled all together. Nicole also said that unlike previous year’s Athena Smith may not be able to order the food due to a scheduling conflict for another event that she is coordinating.

**HCC Fitness:** Sunshine Gibbons has been unable to teach the volunteer fitness classes offered to HCC Staff and Faculty due to recent health issues. Dr. Behrens offered to put together a running class to help out.
**AMSA:** Beth McCullough is putting together an event on February 21, 2014. The event is a Health Education Dental Hygiene Program for Middle School Students. The program will take place at the Brandon Head Start location where they will coordinate with different schools who were invited to participate.

**Vita Tax Preparation:** Beth Smith spoke to us about the tax help being offered to the community here at the Brandon Campus. The tax help will be offered through April 1, 2014. The program takes place every Friday from 9 am-12 noon in BHUM 204A. There are IRS certified volunteers that will prepare and file taxes for folks earning less than $57,000. Services are provided for employees at Hillsborough Community College and the community. The college would like to continue to provide the service annually from now on. If you choose to become a volunteer you will earn the certification to become a tax preparer and can work at such places as H&R Block, Liberty, Etc.

**SGA Field Trip:** SGA is sponsoring a field trip to the Florida Aquarium the Tampa History Museum on March 7, 2014 for HCC students. There is a $20.00 deposit due to hold your seat for the bus but will be returned to the student once they show up the morning of the trip. If a student does not show up for the trip the $20.00 will not be refunded. A boxed lunch is included with this field trip. The trip will end around 3:30 p.m. and students are expected to be back on campus by 4:00 p.m.

**AMSA Convention:** HPPO and AMSA Students will be attending the National AMSA Convention in New Orleans. Students will be there from March 6-9, 2014. While at the convention students will be attending different venues such as Clinical Skills Workshops, Private consultations, Simlympics.
**Cyber Café:** Dr. Soto is trying to come up with ways to better utilize the space in the cyber café. Dr. Soto has submitted 2 proposals. Proposal 1 is for the bookstore to take over and sell snacks and drinks and proposal 2 is to try and get Mr. George Creekmur to come back as a food vendor like he did once before. Just like before George would occupy the space Mon-Thurs. after 5:00 p.m., Fridays and Saturday’s for a few hours. Dr. Soto still has not heard who our new cafeteria vendor is going to be.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:15 a.m.**

**Notes taken by:** Gail Simmons-Anderson