

Midlands Technical College
Student Advisory Board
General Meeting I-Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Beltline Student Center, Room 108

- A. Meeting Call to Order at 4:08 p.m. by Kathryn Chronister, SAB President
- B. In attendance: Eric Bell (SAB Multicultural Rep), Edward Chan (proposed Club Advisor, faculty), Bill Hamilton (student), Jennifer Webber (student), Rebekah Whitton (AmeriCorp Vista Rep), Catalina Fortner (student), James Farmer (student), Deneen Donaldson (student), Michael Hart (student), Shayne Patterson (student), Katie Steuer (guest), Patricia Buff (student), Patti Davis (student), Steve Bouiver (student), Frankie Carpenter (student), Melva Rodgers (Human Services Rep), Jan Jake (faculty), Floyd Bowles (faculty, proposed Club Advisor), Kathryn Chronister (SAB President, MLT Club), Sandi Oliver (VPSDS), Mary Holloway (AVPSDS), Vanessa Brown (Director, Student Life), and Mary Beth Russell (Coordinator, Student Life, SAB advisor)
- C. Special Presentations
- a. Brief Overview of SAB format and how meetings are run by Mary Beth Russell and Vanessa Brown. Questions: Mary Beth Russell, advisor, russellm@midlandstech.edu
 - b. Presentation by AmeriCorps VISTA, Rebekah Whitton. Rebekah shared information about the Volunteer Fair on the Airport Campus, September 17th from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. in the Airport Student Center Breezeway. She also recommended that students sign up with the “Volunteer Solutions Website” to track their volunteer experiences. <http://volunteer.united-e-way.org/mtc>. Questions: Rebekah Whitton, whittonr@midlandstech.edu, 822.7058
- D. College Updates
- a. Sandi Oliver, Vice President for Student Development Services, gave a college update. See detailed update written below minutes.
- E. New Business
- a. Bill Hamilton and other representatives from the proposed MTC IT Enthusiast Club presented to the group on their organization objectives. Their purpose is to share information about current and future computer technology and to offer members an opportunity to demo techniques.
 - b. Frankie Carpenter from the proposed ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education) organization presented to their organization objectives. Their purpose is to promote engineering and engineering technology education in the Midlands of South Carolina, and provide additional opportunities for contact with local engineers, to support and encourage new engineering and engineering technology and students at Midlands Technical College.
- F. Upcoming Events
- a. Back to School Bash, Next Tuesday (9/15) on AC in the Student Center Breezeway, Next Thursday (9/17) on BC on the Student Center back patio, both are from 12:00-2:00

G. Club Reports

- a. The National Technical Honor Society has adopted a kindergarten class. If you are interested in donating supplies contact Shayne Patterson at shaynepatterson@hotmail.com
- b. The African American Student Organization is in search of a chess teacher. This person would need to be available on a Sunday afternoon to work with about 12 youth to teach chess. Contact Ivory Johnson, johnsoni@midlandstech.edu

H. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 14, 2009, ASC 100, 4:00 p.m.

VP STUDENT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

September 9, 2009

State Budget Cuts and College Services

- Higher education and state agencies sustained significant state budget cuts in 2008-09 due to lower than projected state revenues, and these budget reductions are continuing into 2009-2010. An additional 4 percent reduction was announced by the State Budget and Control Board this month, adding 4 percent to the 20 percent reduction experienced in the 2008-09 year. The state now funds less than 13 percent of the total college budget. Economic stimulus funds have helped offset non-recurring expenses such as equipment purchases and infrastructure improvements.
- To accommodate shortfalls, the college has delayed hiring, re-engineered processes, increased faculty teaching load and reduced contract staff hours thereby increasing staff load. In some cases, service hours had to be reduced due to the decrease in staff coverage. The primary goals were (1) to preserve quality educational programs and services for students; (2) to maintain reasonable tuition; and (3) to continue to grow programs and services in a manner which most effectively meets the needs of our local community.
- 2009-10 tuition increased 5 percent and is still approximately one third the cost of the University of South Carolina.

Academic Information

- Effective Fall 2009, the **SC Technical College System converted to a 3-degree structure:** Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science. College majors are attached to one of these degrees. All new associate degree students will be admitted under the AA, AS or AAS degree. For example, instead of a student with a major in Marketing being admitted to an Associate Degree in Business, with a major in Marketing, the student will be admitted to an Associate Degree in Applied Science with a major in Marketing.
- MTC is now offering a new Certificate in Nuclear Systems Operation and a New Associate in Occupational Technology (AOT) degree with a major in Nuclear Systems Operation. The AOT degree is a customized associate degree, designed by the student and Engineering Technology Department Chair.

Re-accreditation and the College's Quality Enhancement Plan

- MTC faculty and staff are preparing for **re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)**. The compliance document has been submitted, and the visiting

team will be on campus in October 2009. The committee chair is making a preliminary visit to the campus on September 9-10.

- The visiting SACS team will also assess the college's progress on its **Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)**. The **Quality Enhancement Plan** selected by the college based on student, faculty and staff input, **is The New Student Experience**. Rather than a specific freshman course, student success competencies will be integrated into multiple freshman courses which serve as student learning communities; faculty teaching these courses will participate in faculty learning communities; and students will initially be engaged and introduced to targeted learning competencies through a Pre-Advisement Module. The goal of this QEP is to enhance student success and engagement with the college from the point of college entry. Student progress will be tracked, and outcomes of student success initiatives will be assessed to determine effectiveness and refinements needed.

Student Funding Legislation

- The **2009-2010 Pell grant maximum has been set at \$5350**. The Pell amount has now increased 37 percent over a five-year period and has significantly outpaced rises in MTC tuition. New Pell guidelines have also increased access for populations such as unattended youth, dislocated workers and displaced homemakers.
- The **Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)**, for Pell-eligible students who leave high school with a 3.0 GPA and a "rigorous" program of study has been opened to students in diploma and certificate programs and students who are enrolled at least 6 credit hours. In the past, students had to be in associate or baccalaureate programs and attend college full-time to be eligible for this funding.
- For students who pay tuition out-of-pocket or take out loans, the **Hope Tax Credit has been increased from \$1,800 to \$2,500**.
- In South Carolina, the SC Legislature now has **\$47.5 million in the State budget for Lottery Tuition Assistance for 2009-2010**. In June-July 2009, CHE set the full-time award for Lottery Tuition Assistance at \$900/semester.
- Tuition assistance for SC Guard members is now \$4,500 for the Army National Guard and \$9,000 for the Air National Guard.
- Chapter 33 VA Benefits are now available for qualifying military personnel and their families. The federal government has set up a federal call center to address questions related to this new legislation.

SC State Legislation: The SC Illegal Immigration Act of 2008

- All South Carolina colleges and universities must now require students to verify legal presence in the U.S. prior to enrolling in classes. Colleges can use the FAFSA to screen

legal presence. Students' whose legal presence is not documented on the FAFSA must produce documents such as an SC drivers license after 2002; a birth certificate; a current, valid passport; and other similar documents, which must be reviewed and documented in person by a college residency official.

College Facilities

- The classroom/theatre building on the Harbison Campus will open in January 2010.
- The Lexington Hall expansion for health science and lab classes will open by Fall 2010.
- MTC is constructing a facility in Winnsboro, with funding from Fairfield County and the Department of Commerce. The primary goal is to offer Quick Jobs classes to develop the Fairfield County workforce and stimulate the local economy.
- MTC has submitted plans for an Engineering Technology and Science facility on the Northeast Campus.
- The college is assessing facilities to maximize course and section options for students.

Technology

- *The MTC Student Handbook and Planner* is available online. Students can print *The Planner* as needed.
- Students can sign up for Text Alerts.
- The Change of Academic Major Form is now online.
- Admission documents and student aid verification documents can be tracked through the MTCOnline account.
- The Student Employment Services website has a wide array of job search and employment information.
- FWS timesheets are moving to web-time entry. It is critical that timesheets are entered on time for payment to occur.
- Desire 2 Learn is the new distance learning online system, effective Fall 2009. This software was selected after an extensive search and multiple demonstrations.
- Key college services will be implementing interactive "fill forms" in 2009-2010, so students can make updates online without making extra trips to the college.
- Campus Cruiser e-mail is the official means of college communication. It is essential that students access their e-mail account daily and make sure their mailboxes are not full, so e-mail can be received.

