

**New College Institute
Academic Affairs Committee Minutes
October 8, 2009
11::00 a.m.**

Attendance:

Mr. Mark Heath, Senator Roscoe Reynolds, and Mr. Rob Spilman. Dr. Eugene Trani participated electronically.

Also present were **Dr. Barry M. Dorsey**, NCI Executive Director; **Mr. Charles Guthridge**, Public Affairs Consultant; **Mr. Morgan Guthridge**, Public Affairs Consultant; **Mr. Charles Toothman**, NCI Fiscal and Human Resources Administrator; **Ms. Greer Saunders**, Assistant Attorney General; and **Ms. Melanie Ingram**, NCI Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Mark Heath called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Ingram called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

The minutes of the July 23, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

Discussion of Possible Improvements in Certain Degree Programs

Dr. Dorsey pointed out that student enrollment in NCI degree programs tends to fluctuate depending on various factors. Sometimes the pool of available students (i.e., students with the requisite degree to be able to enroll in an NCI program) suddenly declines. Sometimes a decision not to enroll is related to personal reasons (loss of job, family commitments that make enrolling impossible, etc.). Sometimes there is a disconnect between the courses taken in a program at the lower division level and those required in the major at the upper division level.

For numerous reasons, enrollment in NCI programs generally ranges from 5 students to over 30. (There can be multiple cohorts of a program that actually result in total enrollment being much higher than 30.) If NCI is not investing in a program, then the institution can be satisfied with a lower enrollment. But if NCI is investing a significant amount of its scarce resources in a program, then it should, within a reasonable period of time, expect a reasonable return on its investment.

The Committee reviewed and discussed programs currently on NCI staff's "watch list." If enrollment does not improve by the second semester of the current 2009 – 10 academic year, these programs could be targeted for closing next year (2010 – 11) when NCI resources are likely to be even more "stretched" than they are at present. Dr. Dorsey will report the status of the programs at the Committee's January, 2010 meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.