Faculty Senate Response to the WWCC 2010-11 Annual Plan and Operating Budget Preparation

April 13, 2010

Faculty at WWCC has the responsibility to provide engaging, supportive, ethical and relevant learning experiences for students. To maintain and increase the quality of education at WWCC there are issues that the Faculty Senate considers critical. The Faculty Senate asks our administrative colleagues to consider these issues when making budgetary decisions for the 2010-11 year.

Our primary concern is with the retention and addition of highly qualified faculty members. Our overall guiding value is that exceptional teachers are essential for strong education and that we need to preserve the talented and well qualified people currently employed at WWCC, while strategically planning to add more tenure-track full-time faculty whenever possible.

Our current class sizes help faculty members to foster educational excellence. We want to protect this cornerstone of the education that we offer to our students by maintaining and increasing our current numbers of full-time faculty members. In particular we want to emphasize our position that effective instructors are not facilitators but active teachers who understand that quality teaching should never be confused with standardization and quantity.

The Faculty Senate is particularly concerned that increasing the number of adjunct instructors without consideration for long-term creation of tenure-track, full-time faculty members weakens the faculty’s ability to offer services such as committee participation, quality academic advising, and regular office hours. These are all important activities that part-time faculty are not able to participate in, which is why, in the long-term, we need to focus on building a larger core of tenured and full-time faculty.

It is essential that we support additional student services, including the Center for Academic Success. These services help students to achieve their educational goals. The Faculty Senate recognizes that teaching would be more difficult and less rewarding without student support services.

WWCC students demand more use of, and better technology in their learning. We should continue to offer innovative technological approaches to teaching and learning to ensure student success in school, life and in work.

Faculty Senate would like to urge our administrators to use the contingency fund to the fullest extent possible in funding faculty and staff positions. Talented faculty and staff ought to be recruited and maintained.