Shared Governance Task Force Holds Meeting

The Task Force on Shared Governance held its first meeting on June 30 to discuss the responsibilities of the committee, the definition and best practices of shared governance, and an expected timeline for the committee.

Acting President Harvey Kesselman stated that the charge of the task force is to actively engage faculty leaders, staff, administrators and board members in a discussion of the definition and best practices of shared governance as they relate to Stockton University; assess the state of shared governance at Stockton and develop recommendations to strengthen it, creating opportunities for joint planning and effort; and develop a strategy for making and communicating decisions with all of our constituents, including students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, the community at large and other University supporters.

The task force members include: Acting President Kesselman (ex-officio); Dr. Susan Davenport, interim provost & executive vice president (co-chair); Mady Deininger ’80, chair person of the Board of Trustees (ex-officio); Curtis Bashaw, board of trustee (co-chair); Matthew Butenhoff, assistant supervisor of building repairs (CWA President); Patricia W. Collins, secretarial assistant; Dr. Judy Copeland, associate professor of Writing; Jessica Grullon ’09, graduate enrollment counselor and events coordinator; Dr. Lisa Honaker, dean of the School of Arts & Humanities; Brian Jackson, chief of staff; Dr. Rodger Jackson, professor of Philosophy; Dr. Patricia McGinnis, professor of Physical Therapy; Dr. Pedro Santana, dean of students; and Maryam Sarhan, student trustee.

During the first meeting, task force members recognized the importance of being transparent to the Stockton community and the public. The task force will be active throughout the academic year and will begin to work on two important tasks: first, to clearly define the term shared governance and understand its role on Stockton’s campus; and second, to revisit the University’s Mission Statement.

The committee discussed and provided their views on what shared governance meant. A subcommittee, composed of Dr. Jackson, Dr. Honaker, Sarhan, Dr. Santana and Dr. Copeland was formed, to develop working definitions.

“Defining shared governance is only the first stage of the committee’s work. Ultimately, our goal is to recommend ways to strengthen shared governance at Stockton. I think the creation of this task force is a very positive move toward promoting a culture of mutual trust, respect and understanding among faculty, staff, administrators and board members,” Dr. Copeland said.

For more information about the task force and additional resources regarding shared governance, click here.
Documentary Wins Awards in Various Film Festivals Worldwide

The documentary film, “Drawing Against Oblivion,” which was shot in part on Stockton’s campus, has received worldwide acclaim, winning various awards at film festivals. The film documents the creation of Manfred Bockelmann’s series of works by the same name.

Final Frame, an international film crew based in Munich, Germany, shadowed Bockelmann for 18 months as he worked on the project, which includes more than 100 large portraits, all in charcoal on burlap. The film crew came to Stockton to film the meeting of Bockelmann and Dr. Murray Kohn, who was the first to teach Holocaust Studies at the University.

In April 2014, Dr. Marion Hussong, professor of Literature and Holocaust/Genocide Studies, surprised Dr. Kohn with Bockelmann’s portrait of Dr. Kohn’s sister, Ida Rebecca, who was killed in the Holocaust. Bockelmann is Dr. Hussong’s uncle.

Scenes shot on campus featuring Gail Rosenthal and Dr. Kohn receiving his sister’s portrait are an integral part of the documentary film.

“The film is a unique memorial project remembering the six million Jews who were murdered, including 1.5 million children. The film remembers the victims as individuals and this has created a personal link between the film and the victims of the Holocaust,” said Rosenthal, director of the Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.

Faculty Present at Why the Humanities Matter Summer Institute

Stockton hosted Why the Humanities Matter Summer Institute on the University’s main campus from July 13-16. Dr. Adalaine Holton, associate professor of Literature, organized the four-day institute for middle school and high school teachers.

Participants explored the importance of literature, culture and the arts to the social and political issues that shape the world. The institute was designed for educators to gain practical lesson plans, classroom activities and student project ideas that support the Common Core Standards in speaking, reading and writing. The workshops were facilitated by Stockton faculty members from different disciplines.

“We wanted to bring English and Social Studies teachers together to either explore new content areas or reinvigorate interest in familiar content areas,” Dr. Holton explained.

During the session, “Dissent in America,” Dr. John O’Hara, assistant professor of First Year Studies Program, addressed how the arts and literature have inspired, supported, and sustained U.S. social movements past and present. Dr. Sharon Ann Musher, associate professor of Historical Studies, ran the session, “Slavery and American Memory,” which explored broader concepts such as freedom, slavery, history and memory. Dr. Musher incorporated narratives from slaves during the workshop to emphasize critical reading as a Common Core skill.

Participants had a chance to learn about abolitionists, runaway slaves, Underground Railroad conductors, and slave catchers during the “7 Steps to Freedom” walking tour in Salem, N.J. Dr. Michelle Craig McDonald, interim assistant provost and associate professor of Atlantic History, facilitated the field trip with special guest speaker Wendel White, Distinguished Professor of Art. Participants received a lesson plan centered on the walking tour designed to teach listening, reading and writing skills.

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Faculty Present at Why the Humanities Matter Summer Institute

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On the last day of the institute, Dr. Kristin Jacobson, associate professor of Literature, ran the workshop, “Sustainability and the Humanities,” which explored the concept of American wilderness to uncover the vital roles teachers in the humanities play to foster environmental sustainability. During her presentation, Dr. Jacobson focused on writing skills.

Dr. Holton said the institute went “exceptionally well. We were fortunate to attract such a dynamic and engaged group of teachers.”

“Several teachers mentioned that it’s the best professional development workshop that they have been to,” she said. “They are inspired on one hand, but they are also getting practical lesson plans.”

Dr. Holton said the institute was made possible through 2020 funding from the President’s Office and the support of the School of Arts and Humanities staff. The Southern Regional Institute & Educational Technology Training Center (SRI&ETTC) helped to promote the institute. The institute is scheduled to run again in July 2016.

CSPAN3 Airs Panel Segment with Dr. Michelle Craig McDonald

This past April, Dr. Michelle Craig McDonald, interim assistant provost and associate professor of Atlantic History, participated on a panel titled, “Geographic Taboos: Why the Caribbean Matters to the Teaching of U.S. History” as part of the Organization of American Historians annual meeting in St. Louis, Mo.

CSPAN3, American History TV videotaped the segment, which aired this month. Click here to view.

The panel consisted of professors who teach in different fields, including Caribbean, Atlantic and early North American history.

“We saw this as an opportunity to think about how the Caribbean fits – or doesn’t fit – with the teaching of U.S. History,” explained Dr. McDonald, who has taught courses on early North American and Atlantic world history, as well as museum studies at Stockton. “Historians working on the Caribbean have often felt welcomed, for example, in Latin American history associations – why is it that they have less often found a place among those who study North America?”

The panelists focused on topics ranging from colonization and trade to slavery, race and abolition.

“My role on the panel was to look specifically at the economy of the United States just after we gained our independence,” Dr. McDonald said. “Atlantic history, which is my field of research, explores connections between places around the Atlantic Ocean – North America, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe – and it goes a long way in breaking down traditional ‘national’ or even ‘imperial’ histories by showing that how things worked on the ground are rarely as tidy as they might seem by the boundaries drawn on maps.”

In her forthcoming book, Caffeine Dependence: Coffee and Commerce in Early America, Dr. McDonald shares how coffee is one example of how the U.S. remained tied to a broader system of trade and commerce long after the American Revolution. She said coffee continues to be a significant trade good for the U.S., although the sources of supply are now global, rather than focused in the West Indies.

Broadening what gets included in the teaching of U.S. history can sometimes change “our touchstone moments,” Dr. McDonald explained. “Too often we tend to think of the American Revolution as a huge watershed moment,” she said. “When in fact the early U.S. remained more dependent than independent in many respects.”

Dr. McDonald first developed the idea for this book from her dissertation as a Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan. The book is scheduled to be published with the University of Pennsylvania Press this coming year.
The Office of Service-Learning Welcomes Erin O’Hanlon

Erin O’Hanlon joins the Office of Service-Learning as a program assistant. O’Hanlon served as Stockton’s first Activist-in-Residence during Academic Year 2013-2014, organizing students around gender equity issues on campus.

She also serves as an adjunct instructor in the School of General Studies.

O’Hanlon graduated from Stockton in 1996 with a B.A. in Literature and Language with a concentration in Communications and a master’s degree in Instructional Technology in 2006.

“A little know fact about me is that I regularly read three newspapers per day,” she said. “I am very excited to be part of the team in Service-Learning.”

The Office of Human Resources Welcomes Bart Musitano

Bart Musitano joins the staff of the Office of Human Resources as pension and benefits manager, succeeding Kathy Franzese, who retired on June 30.

He previously worked in health and pensions for 19 years as benefits manager at Atlantic Cape Community College.

He has also served Atlantic Cape as a senior adjunct instructor of United States History for the past 15 years.

Musitano graduated from Stockton in 1993 with a B.A. in Political Science. He is “very happy to be back at Stockton” as a member of the Human Resources team.

Construction Corner: K-Wing Elevator, Restrooms Now Closed

The elevator between H & J wings and the adjacent restrooms have been reopened for public use.

This week, the K-Wing elevator was taken off-line. The upstairs and downstairs restrooms in the K-Wing will be closed during the elevator renovations, which are scheduled to be completed by August 31.

The K-Wing elevator is the last of the five elevators to be upgraded in this phase of the project.

Any questions can be directed to Glenn Brown at Glenn.Brown@stockton.edu or ext. 4888.

Send Us Your News!

We want to know about things going on in the Stockton community. Do you have an unusual hobby? Did one of your co-workers win an award or perform outstanding public service? Births, weddings, graduations and the like are all good things to submit to The Stockton Times. Also, tell us what you think of the new design!

Contact the editor at 609-626-5521 or email StocktonTimes@stockton.edu.

News about distinguished students can now be found at Distinctive Stockton Students. To contribute a news item for the blog, please contact the editor at distinctive@stockton.edu.