2012 Evaluation Visit

March 19-22, 2012

Interviewee: Sarah Leon Guerrero

Interviewer(s): Dr. Jannett Jackson, Victoria Rosario, Dr. Ian Walton, and Dr. Roger Welt

Venue: TC#1210

Other Participants: Department Chairs

1. What questions were you asked?
2. What responses did you give to these questions? (In italics)

A lengthy discussion ensured which addressed the following:

* The decision making process in regards to communication. I shared that for the most part, my department provides input to issues concerning us and that as a whole, we can pose questions to admin. I gave an example that the president had asked if we would consider opening a day care on campus. We said, “NO!” Also, the four faculty will be meeting with the architectural team to discuss plans for the renovation of bldg. 200.
* Regarding all the improvements on campus, was faculty included in the planning stage. I did not answer as I was not included in the recent renovations.
* Do the changes drive or support improvements? I answered “both.”
* The budget, specifically student lab fees. I was the exception to this issue as I, along with one other DC, receive our share of lab fees. I explained the process and shared that the former DC was aggressive and persistent. Through her guidance, I am now able to receive funds for the cosmetology department, as well. A comment was made about those who scream the loudest get results!
* How effective is participatory governance? It was explained that so far this process is working and it has evolved into what it is today.

3. What things did the team want to see or find out about your program, dept. or unit?

* They commented on the largest departments in regards to student completers but did not ask any questions.

4. What issues did they raise?

* Recommendations from the group regarding ways to improve communication and the budget process.

5. What did you not expect from this line of questioning?

* The format in which they conducted this meeting was different. The team did not direct the discussion. They opened the floor for discussion and developed questions from the topics raised. Because the DCs led the discussion we addressed the topics we were prepared for, namely the budget, communication, and participatory governance.

6. What questions were you unable to answer? None.

7. What thoughts or suggestions do you have as a result of your interview experience?

* I was glad to have had the opportunity to participate in this process, it was informal and non-intimidating. I was impressed at how the team addressed us individually by our first names which put us at ease. My only suggestion is to have the team visit the department, but I realize they were on a tight timeline, so I understand.

I attended the first forum and I liked the way it was conducted. The forum did not begin with the team asking questions, they allowed the audience to share and express their thoughts. Questions were raised as a follow up to the remarks from the audience.

I was surprised at one question. A faculty shared that she was very grateful for the mentoring program at GCC. It helped her navigate through GCC and also provided her with advice and guidance from a seasoned faculty. I immediately shared that PDRC facilitated the mentoring component. I was surprised when I was asked why professional development days were eliminated. I responded by explaining that it was removed from the contract and we are now offering more opportunities throughout the year for faculty to attend workshops. Although, I did mention that attendance at these workshops was sparse and PDRC is looking at options to address this.