**BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON “THE BRICKS”:**

**MOORPARK COLLEGE ACADEMIC SENATE**

**ACADEMIC COURT OF HONOR**

**Background:**

In 1992 the Academic Senate founded the tradition of the “bricks” as a way of honoring faculty members who have given 25 years of service or more to our students, our college and our community. Their names are inscribed on bronze plaques and placed in the low walled structure to the north of the fountain immediately below the car park. Currently there are 175 plaques in our Court of Honor either mounted on boards on the side walls (58) or imbedded in concrete bricks in the ground (117 – hence “the bricks”).

**Eligibility:**

Initially it was open to faculty who had served 50 semesters or more at Moorpark College, whether as full or part-time employees (summer terms do NOT count – it is the 25 years the award acknowledges). Well before I took it over (2010) this had been extended in two ways. Faculty who then joined the administration were able to count both forms of service towards the 25 years requirement, as seen on the plaque at the side of the courtyard (‘Faculty and Administration Court of Honor’). Also faculty who had served some time at one of our sister colleges, whether as full- or part-time instructors, were able to add these semesters to their total for 25 years. In all cases gaps in service are allowed (maternity leave, emergency leave, a break, etc.)

Classified staff have never been included in the award. Years ago the Classified Senate had their own recognition process that I hear involved planting trees on campus but at present they have no equivalent award.

**Process:**

Originally a call went out to all faculty to declare themselves if eligible every year. There is no list available going back over 25 years that accurately records both part-time as well as full-time employment at our college or the district, so we rely on people coming forward for the award (and not all do).

Initially as the Treasurer, and then when that position lost its release time as the Vice President, I have put out the call about every other year, totaling three times in all (2010, 2013, 2015). We are due to do so again in the Spring or Fall of 2017. It takes about a semester to get all the names in, check them, record how each wants to be recorded on their “brick”, research prices, and place/receive the order.

The bricks are then mounted in the Court of Honor thanks to the generosity of John Sinutko of M&O and the labor of Spencer. Depending on the work load this can take up to a couple of months.

**Numbers:**

These can vary enormously but the numbers do appear to be rising currently.

2009: 12 bricks (?)

2011: 13 bricks (?)

2013: 12 bricks (6 FT and 6 PT)

2015: 23 bricks (16 FT and 7 PT)

**Cost:**

This can also vary enormously because of the fluctuating cost of bronze. Over the four orders I have placed it has risen slowly from about $140 a brick to $182, with tax, shipping, etc. included (but not including the cost of the mounting materials and labor).

Traditionally on behalf of the faculty the Foundation has sponsored the cost of the bronze plaques to an amount of sometimes 50% of the total or of $500 a year.