

ACADEMIC SENATE ATTENDANCE & MINUTES
18th October 2011

Adjunct Faculty

Sue Ellen Warren EXC
Leah Pate X

Behavioral & Social Sciences

Firestone, Randy X
Gold, Christina X
Moen, Michelle X
Widman, Lance X
Wynne, Michael X

Business

Siddiqui, Junaid X
Lau, Philip S X
VACANT

Counseling

Jackson, Brenda
Pajo, Christina X
Sabio, Sabra
Vaughn, Dexter X
Key, Ken

Fine Arts

Ahmadpour, Ali X
Bloomberg, Randall X
Crossman, Mark
Schultz, Patrick X
Wells, Chris X

Health Sciences & Athletics

Hazell, Tom X
Colunga, Mina X
Baily, Kim X
Holt, Kelly X
VACANT

Humanities

Isaacs, Brent X
Marcoux, Pete EXC
McLaughlin, Kate X
Halonon, Briita X
Simon, Jenny X

Industry & Technology

Gebert, Pat X

Hofmann, Ed EXC

MacPherson, Lee X
Winfree, Merriel X
Marston, Doug

Learning Resources Unit

Striepe, Claudia X
Ichinaga, Moon X

Mathematical Sciences

Bateman, Michael X
Hamza Hamza X
Sheynshteyn, Arkadiy X
Taylor, Susan X
VACANT

Natural Sciences

Doucette, Pete
Herzig, Chuck X
Jimenez, Miguel X
Palos Teresa X
VACANT

Academic Affairs & SCA

Arce, Francisco X
Nishime, Jeanie X
Lee, Claudia
Lam, Karen

ECC CEC Members

Evans, Jerome
Norton, Tom X
Panski, Saul
Pratt, Estina
Halligan, Chris
Odanaka, Michael

Assoc. Students Org.

Asher, Rebekka
Valdez, Cindy X

Ex- Officio Positions

Shadish, Elizabeth X

Guests, Dean's Rep, Visitors:

Regina Smith, Carolyn Pineda, Irene Graff,

Unless noted otherwise, all page numbers refer to the packet used during the meeting, not the current packet you are reading now.

The fourth Academic Senate meeting of the Fall 2011 semester was called to order by Academic Senate President Gold at 12:35pm.

Approval of last Minutes:

The minutes of the October 4th meeting were approved, subject to two amendments: pg.7 change year to **semester**, and pg. 8 change responsibility to **repeatability**.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Academic Senate President's report – Christina Gold (henceforth CG)

- CG reminded all of the **Outstanding Adjunct Award** offered by the Academic Senate. Nominations require a 1 to 2 page letter from the nominator. CG noted that with the decrease in classes and poor economic situation, this is one positive thing faculty can do for their adjunct colleagues.
- CG reminded all that **Sabbatical applications** are due 10/28/2011.
- CG reported on the **Board meeting of October 17th** which revolved mainly around contract negotiations, with many passionate speakers talking on for the interests of faculty and students. CG said there was good representation. Other matters discussed were how faculty sabbaticals can benefit students, and the proposal to reduce the counselors working year from 12 to 10 months. CG reported that a handout [see Trustee Handbook handout] culled from the CCLC Trustee handbook had been distributed to the Board members at the meeting. Dr. Fallo had included chapter 22 “Board/CEO Relationships”, and CG had included chapter 26 “Employee participation in Decision-Making” and chapter 27 “Faculty Participation in District and College Governance.”
- CG noted that the **mid-term Accreditation Report** has been signed and sent. CG said she had made several revisions to certain portions of the report and noticed that some of the more powerful language had been removed, but was reasonably satisfied that the meaning re: governance remained intact. CG had wanted to ensure that the Academic Senate views were represented. CG said that she and Dr. Nishime had worked together. Mr. Widman asked if there was a need for a supplementary statement, and CG felt it was not needed. It was noted that the final report will be on the web and CG will supply the link when it is ready.
- **College Council**. [see pp. 13 of packet for the minutes of the October 3rd meeting] Another smoking survey is to be sent out. There was also some discussion on out-of-state/international travel for faculty and the history of this issue.
- The **ASO passed a resolution** [see pg.14 of packet] in favor of increasing the Winter session from 50 to 75 sections, noting that data on student success and retention supports this, and noting that ECC has the funds to support this .
- **Council of Deans** featured a lengthy discussion of field trips and noted a general lack of understanding across campus of relevant policies.
- CG noted that the **Hiring Prioritization process** is underway. About 30 requests for positions will be evaluated, but it appears that hiring will be scaled back to 12 to 15 positions; reasons being declining enrollments, and HR not wanting to advertise and then cancel positions.

VP Compton Education Center - Saul Panski (SP)

No report.

Curriculum Committee – Jenny Simon (JS)

The Curriculum Committee is trying to get a 6 year cycle for curriculum review. This would mean evaluating approx.. 100 course each semester. JS urged co-operation in this matter.

VP Educational Policies Committee – Merriel Winfree (MW)

MW held off for a first reading and discussion of BP 4020 under New Business.

VP Faculty Development Committee – Briita Halonen (BH) (Co-VP) and Moon Ichinaga (MI) (Co-VP)

Faculty Development has three projects underway.

BH reported on the **Outstanding Adjunct Award** and the **Getting the Job workshop series**. MI reported on the “**California Reads**” project [see pg. 20 of packet] noting that the Committee had sent out a Questionnaire to gauge faculty interest in using the books for classroom activities. It was noted that a chapter from each of the three titles had been placed on ERes. In reply to a question from Dr. Shadish, MI said that these chapters were only available to faculty at this time, but the issue could be revisited if faculty were to decide to use the books for class activities. Dr. Arce offered to help where possible.

VP Finance and Special Projects – Lance Widman (LW)

LW noted that December 13th was the date set for a reassessment and update on the California State income. LW felt the picture looked bleak, but that revenues could pick up. LW recommended that faculty take Program Review very seriously and link planning to budgeting. LW reminded all not to forget technology needs – hardware, software and support.

VP Legal – Chris Wells (CW)

CW echoed the reminder to get everything into Plan Builder. CW noted that a number of bills had been signed by the Governor [see pg. 23 of packet], mentioning in particular **AB 131 “The Dream Act”**, noting that this was likely to be challenged; **SB 650 “The College Promise partnership Act”**, which involves the Long Beach area, and noting that its impact on ECC would need to be investigated; and **AB 743 “Common assessment System”**; and **AB 1056** which is intended to help students gain access to transcripts.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Basic Skills Advisory Committee – Basic Skills Report.

[see pp31-41 of packet] A Basic Skills Action Plan [see chart pg. 31 of packet] was presented by Arturo Martinez (Math) and Elise Geraghty (Hum) They noted that they had less funding to work with than in 2008-09.

This was followed by the Basic Skills Report which focused on the five most effective interventions. Among these were: to spend the majority of the basic Skills funding on Writing Center tutors, and the counselor intervention program in the Math Division. For both these initiatives lots of professional development is needed for the tutors and counselors. Dr. Arce noted that the report highlighted best practices in teaching basic skills students and that he was pleased with the work that had been done.

NEW BUSINESS

BP and AP 4020 Program, Curriculum and Course Development. (First Reading) – Merriel Winfree (MW)

[see pp. 42-43 of packet] Explanation: A minor change to edit Program Review to a 4 year cycle, and to add CTE as a 2 year cycle. The Academic Senate had already agreed to the change to a 4 year Program Review cycle.

Mr. Ahmadapour asked when Program Review had changed and who had initiated the change? CG replied that this had happened 1 ½ years ago at a recommendation from the Accreditation Committee. Mr. Wells said it should not mean more work for faculty as it should be a continuous flow. Mr. Ahmadapour disagreed. He felt that, what with SLO’s, Program Review, and Accreditation, there WAS more work for faculty and faculty should demand more money. CG said that this was an issue for a different forum like the Federation. Ms. Taylor felt there was more work in committing it all to paper, but noted that we have

been doing the work all along. MW noted that for Industry and technology, updating every 2 years is important because of changes in the field. Dr. Simon noted that the trend was moving to annual updates.

AP 4260 Prerequisites and Co-requisites – Merriel Winfree (MW)

[see pp. 44-62 of packet] Explanation: This is not a first reading, but a general discussion regarding possible changes before the procedures are drafted. The policy is being changed in response to major Title 5 changes.

CG noted that several Deans are taking the lead on this issue, especially Dean Lew. They are asking for the Senate's initial guidance. CG gave a little background, noting the need to balance between limiting access and achieving higher rates of student success. The State Senate had discussed the issue of "sacrificing student success" and had asked for Title 5 changes to loosen requirements for developing prerequisites and co-requisites, as reflected in the CCLC template. The fear is, though, that without sufficient prerequisites there may be a decline in the academic rigor of programs/courses. Currently we can rely on Content Review if we wish to establish prerequisites or co-requisites

Pg. 53 of packet shows AP 4260 which gives the current procedure on this issue. This will be undergoing changes, and CG noted that she had added some comments in the margins for discussion. Mr.

Ahmadapour suggested we take this back to our departments for discussion and review. Mr. Wells felt we would be setting students up for failure if they were testing in at basic skills level and we were not requiring them to take the necessary preparatory classes. Ms. Taylor agreed, saying that we have all had the frustration of dealing with ill- prepared students. She felt that student success could be achieved through proper course sequencing. Ms. Baily noted that the Nursing Program had seen success with their prerequisite course on dosage calculation. She said that the failure rate has dropped since the inception of this class mixing dosage calculation and math skills. Mr. Wells noted a contributing factor was the dearth of adult school classes, and that those students were coming directly to the colleges. Ms. Halonen felt that good outcomes could be achieved with a combination of co-requisites and strong student guidance, noting that better outcomes resulted from interventions when/if students fell below a certain level. Ms. Holt felt that this should be a discussion in each Division hinging on evaluation of data and content review. Dr. Simon said that faculty needed more information on where students tested on English etc. before the start of classes, and said that looking at statistical analysis and mandates was imperative for setting prerequisites especially for transfer course. Mr. Wells asked if establishing prerequisites would not make students stay longer at ECC, and would this cut down on our success rates? Ms. Graf noted that yes, statistics showed the longer the stay the lower the placing. Mr. Wells said it was a vicious cycle. Dr. Simon noted that acceleration options were being sought, especially in Math. Dr. Arce said we should have more discussion focused around data, and we should also look at the data contained in the Poppy Copy., though this was admittedly focused more on Basic Skills, but it contained teaching practices that lead to student success. Mr. Wells was of the opinion that there was too much information available and that a distillation of the information was needed. Dr. Arce said that there was a report that Dr. Spor had shared but this was a controversial topic with conflicting opinions. He asked Ms. Graf to gather some data and studies. Dr. Arce said this had been a good discussion, and he felt more discussion was needed that was focused around data. This discussion will now move to the Curriculum Committee, and Dr. Simon will bring back their recommendations. Mr. Ahmadapour said that the Division Curriculum representatives should also raise the topic in the Divisions and get feedback. Mr. Wells said this was also an issue to raise in Program Review.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Discussion of Senate Purpose and Functioning – Christina Gold (CG)

CG reminded all that the Academic Senate, at the last meeting, had conducted a quick self-survey using Clickers and it was apparent from the results that many senators did not understand the Senate purpose. CG noted that the purpose was included in writing in each packet.

CG then turned the meeting over to Mr. Ahmadapour who had long wanted to talk on Senate effectiveness. Mr. Ahmadapour began by saying he had brought up these feeling before and had found agreement, but had seen no changes.

Mr. Ahmadapour felt there were so many issues the Senate could get involved in, like technology, office sizes, Sabbaticals, Study Abroad programs, and we should pursue them until the issues were resolved as they provided the grounding for education. He noted that these issues come to the floor and get commented on but were never followed through. He felt it is our responsibility to get into these issues that affect the lives of teachers. He felt the Academic Senate is working too quickly and in too formal a manner to get results and conclude business, whereas he felt we should move more slowly and look at the consequences of the decisions and actions. He felt the fast pace did not allow us to digest the issues or take them back to our areas for discussion, so we were not really representing our areas.

CS noted that she admired and agreed with Mr. Ahmadapour's passion, noting that the current college committee structure seemed very compartmentalized and there needed to be a central venue to air issues and find assistance. Mr. Wells agreed there should be less formal discussion.

CG noted that the Senate had had retreats at one time, but now did not have the budget. Mr. Wells felt a retreat need not have a cost attached.

Mr. Ahmadapour suggested NOT having the officer reports at every meeting, and only air proposals once a month – this would free up time to share feelings on issues, noting that some issues never made it to the floor. Ms. Pate agreed, saying that adjunct issues never got heard. Ms. Colunga agreed that we need more time to bring issues to our Divisions, and that more Division meetings were needed so that we could be truly representative. Ms. Ichinaga said we are all very busy, but felt the Senate HAD been effective as a body and that some issues were pressing and did not allow us the luxury to respond in a leisurely manner.

CG asked the senators to survey the Divisions and get feedback and ideas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:59pm.

Cs/ecc2011