

Minutes of the Academic Senate Meeting

Tuesday, April 26th, 2011

Members present: Nancy Schur, Larry Adams, Janet Pessagno, Sunita Lanka, Tony Anderson, Jennifer Fellguth, Chris Moss, Millicent Madrigal, Alejandra Gutierrez, Ann Wright, Liz Estrella, Elsa Brisson. Guests: Suzanne Flannigan, Matthew Escover

1. Call to Order: 3:05
2. Adopted Agenda at start of meeting.
3. Approval of the Minutes 3/22/11 : M/S/Passed
4. Public Comments (non-Senators): Chris informed the senate about the Academic Policy Ad-Hoc Subcommittee's progress in reviewing the Board policies. Besides the policies on Academic Freedom and Wine and Food, several other policies will be coming forward for review. All current Board policies are available on the web, so one can compare the old policies with revisions that will come forward.
5. President's Report: Nancy gave an update on the Plenary Session that she attended (San Francisco April 14 – 16, 2011). Some of the resolutions that went up to voting were the following: Recruitment and Retention of Senate members, Transfer Model Curriculum, Repeatability in Activity Courses, use of Paraprofessionals in Counseling. Many issues at the state level paralleled local concerns. There are more Plenary Sessions coming up in the next one and a half years, and if there is interest in attending, please notify Nancy. Additionally Elsa Brisson will provide a report at the next meeting regarding accreditation topics presented at Plenary.
6. Reports:
 - A) Service Dog Policy: Kathy Noble informed the senate of the work on advising Academic Policies. Appropriate research was done and ADA was up for revisions in February. She elaborated on the service policy and the Federal regulation on the use of dogs as service animals and not comfort animals. The revised policy offered a framework on maintaining academic integrity and allowing individuals with a genuine need to have service animals. Clarifications were sought and made on identifying a pet as a service animal, violation of student rights/responsibilities. If a student has an animal, they should go through DSPPS to obtain documentation that the animal is indeed a service animal. A motion to move the service dog policy to an Action item at the next meeting was approved by the Senate.
 - B) Fundamentals Across Career and Transfer Skills (FACTS): Janet talked about FACTS – a learning community instituted under the Basic Skills Initiative – to equip students to move on to a successful career. Although the concept was great, the recruitment has not been very encouraging. Suggestions for student recruitment and retention were welcome. In the discussion that followed, analogies were drawn between FACTS and the ACE program which was specially geared towards high risk students. Millicent Madrigal suggested that all support service programs (DSPPS, EOP, ACE, FACTS) should come together and coordinate efforts to offer the best help to students.
7. Action Items:

- A) Changes to Hiring Committee: Approved -Nancy's consent to step in as alternate to Economics. Suzanne suggested that it would be helpful to have alternatives, so that in any eventuality the process could move on smoothly without a break.
 - B) It was moved, seconded and passed to receive the updated accreditations timeline with the understanding that it is a fluid document. The Senate continues to endorse the concept of writing teams to gather content, revising for one voice, and scheduling faculty and college wide review. The Senate also requested regular updates to insure that the report is ready, reviewed and filed on time.
 - C) Senate Membership: The membership of Hermelinda Rocha-Tabera, Elsa Brisson and Liz Estrella was approved and they were warmly welcomed by the President and the senate.
 - D) Appoint Nomination Chair (Committee) for Senate Officers: Liz Estrella volunteered to be the nominating Chair and the motion was moved and approved unanimously by the Senate. Nominations were accepted from the floor; additionally anyone interested can nominate himself or herself or another individual via e-mail to Liz. Liz will send out an email to all Senate members.
8. Discussion Items:
- A) Faculty Development Committee: Planned two flex activities before the end of May, specifically to help faculty reach the required hours for flex credit: 1) on email use and 2) on career development. Jennifer volunteered to post all activities on the website. It was agreed upon to develop a policy on what gets approved for flex credit and to have a calendar to help faculty plan in advance. Nancy reaffirmed that the senate was willing to assist the committee.
 - B) Counseling: Tabled as agenda item for the next meeting.
 - C) The rest of the Senate schedule: Nancy announced that we would have two more meetings: May 10th and May 24th
9. Announcements (Senators): The full time faculty hiring process has been completed for one post in the Nursing department, pending Board of Trustee action. There are six positions still in progress. The hope is faculty hiring will be complete by summer.
10. Adjournment: 4:50 pm.