

FACULTY SENATE
February 14, 2006
3 - 5 pm, Sesnon House

Present: Marcy Alancraig, Toni Alderson, Rebecca Arnesty, Jennifer Cass, Virginia Coe, James Durland, Paul Harvell, Steve Hodges, Sue Holt, Janis Keyser, Adela Najarro, Dorothy Nunn, Rory O'Brien, Georg Romero, Randa Roland, Dan Rothwell, Barbara Schultz-Perez

Liaison: Dale Attias, Leflora Cunningham-Walsh, Michael Mangin

Guests: Gabe Gutierrez, Allison Maxson

1.0 Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm.

2.0 Minutes

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of January 31, 2006, subject to corrections.

3.0 Officers' Reports

3.1 President's Report – Rory O'Brien

Rory described a proposition in the works for a future statewide election which would fix community college fees at \$20 per unit. He note that the statewide Academic Senate has for many years advocated zero fees.

Rory noted that the statewide senate plenary sessions will be held in San Francisco in April – Rory, Steve and Marcy will attend. Faculty are encouraged to consider drafting resolutions for submission there. Resolutions should be submitted to the Senate at its next meeting, February 28.

Rory reported that Deborah Shulman or Dick Griffiths want to serve on a revised basic skills committee to refocus the campus on student preparation. It was noted that Renee Kilmer, Jim Weckler and Wanda Garner support the effort. Leflora offered to find a student to serve on a basic skills committee. Dale Attias and Barbara Schultz Perez volunteered to serve. Marcy asked that the committee include an ESL instructor. It was noted that the initial idea was presented at a recent Instructional Council meeting, when Jim Weckler advocated the formation of a basic skills institute to develop better communication between, and coordination of, campus efforts on behalf of basic skills students.

3.2 Vice President's Report – Steve Hodges

Steve distributed an orientation packet, which he recently updated, to new senators.

3.3 Treasurer's Report – Paul Harvell

Paul described the ways in which the Senate finances are out-of-compliance with IRS rules. We need to establish an organization that is authorized to receive dues, that is clear about who owns the funds and any interest earned. The question of the emergency fund for faculty is of particular concern. Paul will report on his investigations at the next meeting.

4.0 Liaison Reports

4.1 SEIU – Dale Attias

Dale reported that SEIU folks had met with Brian King to express their concerns about staffing the buildings under construction. She noted that Title 5 regulations mandate a staff appreciation event each spring, suspended in 2003 due to budget limitations.

4.2 Student Senate – Leflora Cunningham-Walsh

Leflora mentioned the Student Senate fund-raiser in which candy grams were sold for Valentine's Day and are being delivered in classes today and tomorrow.

Leflora requested that faculty who head committees inform her about meeting times, so that she can assist with finding and assisting students to serve on committees.

4.3 Tech Committee – Georg Romero

Georg reported that the college is on-target for an upgrade of WebCT for summer 2006. In addition, the wireless network originally established by students has been revitalized. Hotspots include the library, amphitheatre, quad, and cafeteria.

5.0 Information Items

5.1 Welcome Back Committee – Allison Maxson

Allison Maxson of the Student Senate described the fund-raiser that will take place tomorrow in the amphitheatre. Lunch will be sold, a DJ will play from 11am to 12:40pm, a band will play from 12:40 to 2pm, and noise levels will be controlled.

5.2 Accreditation – Michael Mangin

Michael distributed a description of progress on the accreditation self-study. Standards committees will complete their reports by June 15, and a complete draft will be ready by August. The report will then be reviewed and edited by the CPC and the Board. The site visit will occur in October 2007. Michael encouraged more faculty participation and noted that the facilities committee lacks faculty representation. He described the three recommendations of the previous accreditation site visit team, noting that we have completed two, beefing up offerings online and at the Watsonville Center. The third involves the extent of staff support.

5.3 Faculty Grants Committee – Dave Schwartz

Dave updated the Senate on the history of faculty grants – their initial endowment and more recent contributions. Interest rate declines in recent years have restricted available funds. While there have been fewer applications, smaller amounts have been requested and therefore more grants have been awarded.

Dave expressed concern about fund-raising and coordination with two other grant programs, Instructional Equipment and Student Senate grants. He proposed that his committee and others brainstorm about funding ideas and communicate better with potential donors. He offered two specific recommendations: 1) maybe the grants should be renamed to attract more funding, and 2) potential awardees may be asked to be available to speak about their work to local public service organizations, such as Rotary.

Dorothy Nunn suggested a Flex week activity for writing on-campus grant applications. There was strong support for a workshop on successful grant-writing tips.

6.0 Action Items – Course Mapping Requests

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the mapping request for the Watsonville Center Math Lab.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the mapping request for Library 203.

7.0 Items from the Floor

7.1 Football Coach – James Durland

James expressed concern about the new football coaching position, which the Senate supported in its deliberations as part of the priority process last fall. He noted that the recently retired football coach, currently serving as football coach in adjunct status, was reported in the Santa Cruz Sentinel to want to continue as head coach for a few years. There was widespread concern that the former coach had done an end-run around the priority process, possibly as a means of creating an assistant coach position. Rory promised to take the Senate's concern to his next meeting with Brian King. Others noted that it is campus policy that a full-time instructor trumps an adjunct instructor for workload assignments, assuming appropriate qualifications.

7.2 Paul Harvell

Paul noted that there is a perception of problems with faculty timeliness in meeting deadlines. These involve submitting census reports and grade rosters, as well as book orders. It is particularly troublesome when our trustees share this view, and fault the faculty for delaying student transfers or putting undue pressure on staff. He noted that timeliness will now be part of the faculty evaluation process in his division. He wondered what the facts are, and Marcy said we need to counter anecdotes with evidence. Virginia suggested that late book orders may be largely due to late assignments of adjunct faculty to sections.

Rory recommended a fact-finding committee. Paul suggested that we call it the Best Practices Committee and he agreed to chair it. Dorothy and Sue volunteered to serve.

Related to the first concern, Paul stated that it is unclear what methods faculty can use to notify students of their grades and under what conditions. Is it legitimate to do so by email or phone message, when such services may be shared by the student with household members?

Rory reported that he is updating the records on Senate committees, their responsibilities, members and schedules. Jennifer mentioned some outdated material on the Senate website and Georg volunteered to share website responsibilities with David Balogh.

8.0 Adjournment

At 5:03 pm, it was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn.