Academic Council
Minutes: 2-24-03 meeting
3:00p.m. To 5:00pm, Room 425
Submitted by Mary Ellen Sullivan


Absent: 1 Rep each from the HASS, NAS & VAPA divisions

I. Call to Order at 3:05

II. Approval of Minutes of 11-4-02 and 12-9-02 meetings

III. Old Business: Information Literacy—Topsy reported on activities of the Information Competency Taskforce, a subcommittee of the Academic Council appointed last Fall.

The Taskforce had two meetings last semester. People in the group have shared a lot of ideas and have investigated various projects that are related, e.g., Steve Hodges' revision of CS 1L (designed, in part, to satisfy the TechTools requirement at CSUMB); the computer skills certificate exam (created by the LADDERS project); development of the performance exam that Steve Larson and others are working on. Topsy also reported that several faculty have spoken with her independently about how important information and computer skills are for their students. And Topsy also reported that faculty at her "Information Age" FlexWeek workshop had expressed similar opinions.

The Taskforce has talked some about needs for diagnostic tools (tools to test student skill levels preparatory to taking certain classes) as well as instruments that would set standards (if you pass this, you are showing that you have the required level of skills and knowledge). The Taskforce has set up a subcommittee charged with coming up with recommended sets of computer skills; unfortunately, that subcommittee hasn't yet met. Given the current campus wide focus on the difficult budget situation, Topsy wanted to check in with the Academic Council as to whether it wanted the Information Competency Taskforce to continue. The consensus was yes.
IV. New Business: General Education Issue brought by Gloria Garing

A subcommittee met last week to discuss the case of a student who is preparing to enter the DH program. The student is currently taking a Humanities course at Gavilan College. Her Cabrillo counselor disallowed the course in the Humanities area because it has a similar title to one of Cabrillo’s Social Science courses. The subcommittee agreed that students should have the same option for Cabrillo degrees, as they do for transfer, which is called “pass-along.” “Pass-along” allows the use of a GE course where the college attended places it on their GE lists. Although the subcommittee was in agreement that the course should be allowed, rather than make a decision in this one case, they decided to bring the larger issue to the whole Academic Council.

Claire pointed out that in the case of CSU and UC GE pass-along we must use the course in the approved area. Jay added that he thought we should be able to use a course where it is placed on an AA/AS list of another community college. The Council approved the use of GE courses taken at another community college to be used in the GE area approved for that college’s GE pattern or for the Cal State University General Education pattern or IGETC. The council further stated that this policy is to be grandfathered for any students currently in the process of completing a degree or completing prerequisites for a Cabrillo program. Mary Ellen noted that allowing courses to be used in this way has been the common practice. The motion to approve was made by Ekua Omosupe and seconded by Jay Jackson. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Items from the Floor—none

VI. The meeting adjourned at 3:30