

Faculty Senate Minutes

Tuesday, April 22 2008

Attendance: Eva Acosta, Winnie Baer, David Balogh, Janus Blume, Jennifer Cass, Virginia Coe, Jean Gallagher-Heil, John Govsky, Paul Harvell, Renee Kilmer, Beth Regardz, Brian Legakis, Diego Navarro, Francine Van Meter, Consuelo Espana, Jonathan Saad, Topsy Smalley, Mark DeSmet, Dave Reynolds, Mary Ellen Sullivan, Steve Hodges, Rory O'Brien, Dan Rothwell,

Visitors: Michelle Chao, Stephanie Stainback, Maya Bendotoff, Cheryl Barkey, Jennifer Lee, JoAnn Panzardi, Leslie Cheung, Ismael Cruz, Eric Hoffman

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm

2.0 Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of April 8. Motion passed.

3.0 Reports

President

Steve reported back from the recent statewide Academic Senate Spring Plenary session in San Francisco. He commented that schools across the state were talking about budget issues, and that there was a lot of interest in textbook prices, and conversation about the negative impact of third-party testing and how it is a disguised attack on faculty primacy in the area of curriculum. As part of Steve's report, he announced that there had been a request for funding to support the upcoming Transfer Lunch. Winnie described the event and answered questions about the event. It was moved and seconded to fund the event in the amount of \$500. Motion passed.

Vice-President

Rory provided additional detail about the plenary session. End-of-the-year party planning continues. The Senate is following up on earlier ideas to fund a 'Staff Tribute Tree' in honor of Staff Appreciation Day. Possible locations and types of trees and plaques were discussed. The decisions will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Secretary

Topsy (substituting for Georg) reported that Georg had updated the Senate roster and website.

Treasurer

Paul kicked off the Spring Senate Membership drive. Senate dues for members are \$9/tenthly for full time faculty and lower for adjunct faculty. Dues fund many Senate activities including events, meeting refreshments, and scholarships. Paul distributed lists of faculty that are not currently members, organized by divisions, and handed them out to the division representatives. Steve commented that, as far as he knew, the record for the number of faculty personally signed up by any individual during a membership drive was seven, and he challenged others to beat his record.

CCFT

John reported that he had returned from the recent statewide faculty union meeting in Oakland. At that meeting he, and other conference attendees were stuck in an elevator for 40 minutes and rescued by the Oakland Fire Department.. Senators wondered if a video of the event would be posted online. On a more serious note, John reported that the union had met and decided on an official position of not supporting any layoffs as part of budget reductions.

CCEU

Janis reported that CCEU is concerned about the proposal to lay off 2.8 full-time equivalent staff members. In particular, they are concerned about the process, or lack thereof, that was used to plan for budget reductions and how various component budget reduction targets were determined, and that there was not enough 'global thinking.' She announced that the official position of the union was to not support any layoffs as part of the budget reduction process.

Watsonville

Mark reported that there would be a mentoring conference on Friday at Watsonville from 6-9pm in room 4380.

ASCC

John reported that the Student Senate is concerned about the reduction of important services to students that will happen as a consequence of budget reductions.

VPI

Renee reported that substantive changes have been happening statewide regarding Distance Education, and that our application for online degrees would likely be approved soon. She will provide an update at the next meeting. Also we are waiting to hear about our new Liberal Arts and Sciences degree—right now we are waiting to hear back about our application and approval is expected soon. The Basic Skills action plan was submitted. There have been some glitches (not unexpected) with the switchover to CurricUNET (from Fiesta.) As part of the process of the submission of a new course, the course must be "launched." This doesn't happen automatically, and if the person working on this course forgot this step, the course wouldn't work through or regular process. A parallel process will be used for this 'left behind' curriculum, and the online documentation will be improved, and it is being investigated to see if this part of the process can be automated.

5.0 Information Items

5.1 ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

The agenda was re-ordered to allow Brad Krein, Academic Council chair, to deliver a brief report in advance of the next agenda item. He reported out of the committee.

4.0 Action Items

4.1 BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Senate discussed some background information regarding the budget situation. This was followed by a detailed discussion of the proposal to reduce funding to the Children's Center by about half (from \$500K/year to \$250K/year) and the resulting reduction in 3 full time children's center teachers (one of which has already found a position as a full time instructor in the ECE department) and 1 office specialist. Ismael Cruz,

a children's center teacher who would be laid off as a result of this proposal encouraged us to support the union position and provided his perspective on the situation. He commented that the Children's Center only had about a month to come up with budget-reduction proposals, that Instruction was making cuts \$100K larger than the college had set as a target, that the Children's Center had been lacking in stable leadership (having 5 directors in the last 3 years), that their Dean was out on sick leave, and thus was missing an important advocate, and that the staff that they would be losing were the majority of the bilingual staff and faculty. Eric Hoffman, Program Coordinator for the Children's Center provided some additional perspectives. He stated that there are some differences of opinion from the Children's Center staff and faculty, and that they have been working on plans for reorganization (due to the ongoing expense to the college) for a long time. Specifically, discussions had been ongoing for two years, and the budget issues only accelerated the process. The recent budget crisis has hastened the process, but was not the original impetus. Eric stated that he was considering a 'bridge proposal' that would use some of the Center's reserve fund to provide a temporary one-year position for one of the faculty. Eric stated that the majority opinion from the Children's Center was that the program needed to shrink in order to best preserve the long term health of the program. He commented that the Children's Center was aware that the expense of the program would eventually become an issue ten years ago, and that they had considered rejecting the funds to build the Baskin Child Care Center or delay the opening of the center until additional funds to create an endowment to help fund the operating costs could have been raised. Michelle Choa, a community Montessori teacher, gave testimony to the importance of the Children's Center, telling her personal story of how the center cured her daughter of autism. Cheryl Barkey commented that she was concerned that a proper process for program reduction had not been followed in the case of the Children's Center, that there was a great need for bilingual and bicultural services on campus and that that need would only increase in the future, and raised concerns about how categorically funded programs would be dealt with during the expected ongoing budget cuts. Jean commented that Sheila B. Anderson, the Interim Director of the Children's Center had been a great leader. Other Children's Center and ECE faculty that were present concurred.

6.0 Announcements and Open Forum

The Transfer Lunch on Thursday, May 8th from 1:00-2:30 pm on the Sesnon Lawn is coming up—flyers were distributed to the senators to announce in their classes to encourage students who are transferring, but not graduating, to attend. Senators were also encouraged to attend.

7.0 Adjourn