

FACULTY SENATE
February 28, 2006
3 - 5 pm, Sesnon House

Present: Marcy Alancraig, Toni Alderson, Rebecca Arnesty, Jennifer Cass, Virginia Coe, James Durland, Paul Harvell, Steve Hodges, Susan Hoisington, Sue Holt, Janis Keyser, Adela Najarro, Dorothy Nunn, Rory O'Brien, Sylvia Winder (substituting for Georg Romero), Randa Roland, Dan Rothwell, Barbara Schultz-Perez, Deborah Shulman, Topsy Smalley

Liaison: Dale Attias, John Govsky, Renee Kilmer, Diego James Navarro

Guests: Janus Blume, Wanda Garner, Julie Hanks, Clayta Ross, Jim Weckler

1.0 Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm.

2.0 Minutes

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of February 14, 2006, subject to corrections.

3.0 President's Report – Rory O'Brien

Rory reported from the most recent CPC meeting that, as expected during the winter and spring, college funding for next year remains unclear. The Governor's proposal clearly favors community colleges – offering a substantial COLA for the system (not salaries) and equalization, but we have yet to see what the legislature will do. It appears that the COLA and equalization will cover Cabrillo's structural deficit. Increases in health care costs are difficult to anticipate, given that we may leave our JPA for a larger pool of districts. For every one percentage point increase to faculty salaries that may emerge from contract negotiations, we can expect to add \$500,000 to college spending. Enrollment appears to be holding steady relative to last year. Actual growth in FTES is not expected this year.

Rory reminded the Senate that the Sesnon House is not available for the March 14 meeting, which will likely be held off-campus at the Britannia Arms.

4.0 Liaison Reports

4.1 Watsonville Center Report – Diego James Navarro

Diego reported that the Watsonville Center is proceeding with program planning, including addressing expansion matters. These include a plan to purchase the library site and to establish a new program, possibly mechanical engineering.

3.3 Vice President's Report – Renee Kilmer

Renee noted that 70 census reports have not yet been submitted, representing 4% of all sections. She has asked the Deans to speak to each instructor with reports outstanding. This is a matter that can be addressed by the senators who plan to draft a "Best Practices" report. Other ways to reduce this problem, such as publication of the names of these instructors, were mentioned and rejected.

Renee encouraged faculty to drop students who appeared to have stopped attending because reinstating them after census, if appropriate, is not difficult. Permanent rosters will be distributed tomorrow.

Renee described new approaches that she and A&R are developing to facilitate enrollment record-keeping. It is now possible for instructors to add students who neglected to submit their add slips to A&R during the add period and who they have been attending class consistently. Instructors simply add the student's name and ID number to the permanent roster, copy that form, and submit the copy to their dean. This process replaces the petition process, which has been cumbersome for these students and for A&R staff. In addition, there is a plan for online grading that is expected to be implemented sometime next year.

Renee announced that the cabinet decided to fund a fourth new faculty position (for ECE, based on last fall's prioritization process).

Brian King, Manuel Osorio and Renee have been meeting with UCSC admissions officials to increase the number of Cabrillo students and transfers to UCSC. The plan resulting from these discussions is now in legal review, in readiness for a formal Memorandum of Understanding. The plan includes facilitating a larger number of Cabrillo students by targeting all those high school applicants (across the state) to UCSC who are not ready for UC given their high school transcripts. Letters from UCSC would inform these students that they might consider starting at Cabrillo, with the promise of admission to UCSC as juniors should they succeed in the appropriate courses. UCSC has agreed to reserve some housing slots for Cabrillo transfers. In addition, Wanda Garner, Joann Panzardi, and Sue Tappero have completed an agreement for Cabrillo engineering students heading to UCSC's engineering program.

5.0 Information Items

5.1 Classified Staff Recognition Week – Janus Blume, SEIU

Rory introduced Janus Blume and distributed a copy of Section 88270 of the Ed Code, addressing Classified School Employee Week, a mandatory appreciation period that community colleges have each spring. Janus reminded the Senate that the practice had been suspended during the budget crunch of 2003. During that period there was attrition of staff without replacement. Since then, staff numbers have recovered, but some offices are still understaffed.

Janus suggested that faculty take the opportunity to recognize their staff. She noted that SEIU members especially appreciate food, fun, and time away from the office. Pegi Ard and others are planning a number of activities for Staff Recognition Day. Senators discussed how they can participate. Steve Hodges recalled that in a previous year there was some substituting by faculty for staff. James Durland and Susan Hoisington agreed to pursue ideas and coordinate with Pegi. Rory and Steve suggested that senators brainstorm by email. Sylvia suggested that CCFIT would like to coordinate with the Senate on the matter.

5.2 Basic Skills – Jim Weckler

Jim reported that he has met with the directors of Adult Ed in Santa Cruz and Watsonville to better coordinate our programs in basic skills, specifically ESL. One concern is what Cabrillo's starting levels are or should be. For example, we have students who enter with fourth-grade skills in their native language. Should we start at that level?

Jim also noted that Santa Cruz Adult Ed is short of ESL instructors, while Watsonville Adult Ed wants to facilitate transfer of their students to Cabrillo.

AB 2053, to amend the Ed Code, was presented to the legislation Feb. 15. It would make the provision of remedial instruction the exclusive responsibility of the community colleges. Marcy mentioned that such a bill has been attempted before, and that UC and CSU faculty are not interested in teaching remedial courses.

The Senate role will support revisions to basic skills curriculum. Jennifer noted that math basic skills instructors tend to learn by doing, and suggested that staff development for basic skills instructors could be valuable.

Renee noted that we might consider rebuilding basic skills around learning communities, focused on integrated learning of several basic skills at one time. Julie Hanks reminded senators of the Gateway experience of several years ago, when remedial students took a coordinated block of courses with interdisciplinary approaches and extensive student support. Retention and success rates were substantially higher than in routine basic skills courses.

5.3 Adjunct Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence

Paul Harvell reported that the Awards Committee proposes a new award, as part of All-College Day activities, in recognition of excellence by adjunct faculty. Brian King and the Board are supportive. Rory distributed the award proposal. Paul explained that any adjunct faculty, not just classroom teachers, may be nominated. By contrast, the Floyd Younger award for teaching excellence applies only to classroom teachers and has always been awarded to full-time faculty.

The remaining discussion focused on the CCFT Council vote on the proposal February 27. John Govsky reported that the council voted against the proposal because it was not restricted to classroom teachers. Sylvia Winder reported that the vote outcome was due to a misunderstanding of the proposal. She stated that no one from the Awards Committee was able to attend the council meeting and explain the proposal. There was some dispute about whether the council vote was unanimous. John stated that adjunct faculty want an award that strictly parallels the Floyd Younger award. Sue Holt wondered why an exclusionary award would be preferred and asked that division senators poll their adjuncts on the subject.

There appears to be insufficient time for Senate consideration of the matter prior to deadlines to implement it this spring.

6.0 Adjournment

It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 5:07 pm.