

FACULTY SENATE
November 29, 2005
3 - 5 pm, Sesnon House

Present: Marcy Alan Craig, Virginia Coe, James Durland, Paul Harvell, Bill Hill, Steve Hodges, Susan Hoisington, Sue Holt, Jay Jackson, Dorothy Nunn, Rory O'Brien, Georg Romero, Randa Roland, Dan Rothwell, Barbara Shultz-Perez, Christy Vogel
Liaison: Dale Attias, Renee Kilmer, Brad Krein, Diego Navarro, Alex Taurke
Guests: Jennifer Cass, Mark Eastman, Margery Regalado Rodriguez, Francine Van Meter, James Weckler, Bill ? (engineering student)

1.0 Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 3:08 pm.

2.0 Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of November 1 will be considered at the next Senate meeting.

3.0 2006-07 Calendar – Renee Kilmer

Two issues have developed since the Senate approved the 2006-07 calendar. The first four-week summer session starting date proceeds the end of spring terms for both high schools and UCSC. In addition, if Fall 2006 begins after Labor Day, as originally scheduled, there will be insufficient time for faculty to submit grades before the staff go on break for the December holidays. Renee asked the Senate to endorse a one-week delay in the start of the first summer session and a start for Fall 2006 one week before Labor Day.

Steve Hodges noted that the Senate does not decide these issues; rather the Senate can advise Renee and CCFT. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the proposed summer session change. It was moved and seconded to support an earlier start for Fall 2006. The motion failed. It was moved, seconded and carried to endorse a start for Fall 2006 either before or right after Labor Day, with the possibility of a compressed final exams week, to be negotiated between the administration and the unions.

4.0 Officer and Liaison Reports

4.1 Vice President's Report – Steve Hodges

Steve reported elections results – 57 ballots were cast, mostly by email. Rory O'Brien was elected to a second term as President. Marcy Alan Craig and Topsy Smalley were reelected as at-large senators. No other candidate got a majority vote for the third at-large position. A runoff election is currently under way. The proposed changes to the senate constitution were approved.

4.2 CCFT Report – Alex Taurke

On behalf of Michele Rivard, Alex reported that the district is seriously considering leaving the local to join SISC (a consortium of primarily K-12 central California districts) for health care insurance. The district must submit an intent letter to the JPA by the end of the year. CCFT officers are concerned that the stipend may drop to SISC's lowest HMO rate. Meanwhile, current negotiations are focused on potential salary improvement.

4.3 Watsonville Center – Diego Navarro

Diego announced an open house for the Watsonville Center on December 7. Cabrillo will use the event to recruit students.

5.0 Spring 2006 Flex Calendar – Francine Van Meter

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Spring 2006 Flex calendar. Francine announced that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of new faculty presenters.

6.0 Academic Council – Brad Krein

Brad brought two courses forward to the Senate from the Academic Council for multicultural and Area D listing – History 6 and Sociology 3. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve both.

7.0 Transfer Lunch – Marcy Alanraig

Marcy asked for \$250 from the Senate to support and recognize transferring students at the Transfer Lunch. Last year the event's costs were covered entirely by the Student Senate. It was moved, seconded and carried to provide the funds.

Marcy noted that the final draft of the assessment philosophy statement will be placed on the SLO website, once approved. There will be a vote on the final draft by email next week.

8.0 Finals Schedule Discussion

Steve Hodges reported a long list of NAS departments that prefer the existing three-hour final exam schedule to an additional week of regular class meetings. Paul Harvell expressed concern for those adjuncts who had previously reported the difficulties of adjusting to the finals week schedule. A visiting engineering student named Bill noted that his science student colleagues support the three-hour finals schedule. Alex Taurke reported the various respondents who supported his endorsement of the existing system. Paul Harvell noted that no one has solicited a full survey of faculty preference. Dan Rothwell described the information in the senate's previous discussion of this matter as anecdotal. Barbara Schultz-Perez supported the notion of gathering more accurate information.

Steve Hodges moved that we rescind the previous recommendation to the vice president to endorse a change in the existing final exams week. The motion was seconded and carried, with one dissent.

Steve proposed a subcommittee to determine a means to gather more reliable information about faculty preferences regarding the finals schedule. Renee noted that she will host a forum on the topic during Flex Week.

Concern was also expressed about the compressed finals week, due to the Monday Memorial Day holiday. Some senators suggested starting future spring terms one week earlier, so that the semester will end before Memorial Day. Other senators wondered whether the scheduling of finals is predominantly a matter of preferences or of compressed schedules.

Paul Harvell was concerned that the senate's decision-making process needs attention, particularly because the Senate supported the change in finals week unanimously, and today reversed course and supported the existing finals week, almost unanimously. Rory responded that controversial issues should be given further discussion than this matter was given.

9.0 Adjournment

At 5:05 pm, it was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn.