

MINUTES

Yuba College Academic Senate
October 20, 2005

Present: Althausen, Correa, Galamba, Heaton, Katanic, May, Nickolson, Rubiales, Schoenherr, Willson.

Absent: Ng, Parsafar, Shivers.

Guests: Lowe, Staffero.

1. The agenda was approved. Minutes from the October 6 meeting were approved. Minutes of the October 13 special meeting have not been distributed.
2. Rubiales encouraged Senators to attend the final accreditation meeting to be held that afternoon in the multi-purpose room. Rubiales also asked and received confirmation of Kathleen Stephens to the Woodland Site Council. Rubiales also reported that the ballot for the adjunct Senate seat election will be distributed next week.
3. Nickolson reported that the committee working on institutional SLO's is preparing recommendations to forward to the Senate. Nickolson also asked if Senators had issues for the committee studying faculty evaluations. One issue discussed was the need for consistency in faculty evaluations from division to division. Another issue is the lack of clerical support for faculty. Such things as student evaluation tabulation, typing of student comments, and completion of paperwork are clerical in nature; more faculty could participate in full-time and adjunct evaluations if clerical help were consistent. Rubiales said he would forward the request to the Vice President of Instruction.
4. The Calendar Committee has been asked to consider several calendar options for the 2006-2007 academic year. It seems the committee is being lobbied to start the Spring 07 semester a week later than customary in order to provide more time for student matriculation. Time for matriculation has been lost due to the new three-year contract with the classified, which closes the campus down the week after New Year's. The options are to begin the semester Monday, January 16 or Monday, January 22 or Monday, January 29. But if the semester begins later than customary, summer session is crowded on the other end of the semester, allowing for a shorter student break and reduced summer enrollments. YCFA is currently distributing a survey to gather faculty opinions on the calendar.
Senators expressed concern that academics may not be driving calendar committee deliberations—that instead the deliberations may be driven by the desires of management or an employee group to negotiate personal calendar preferences.
The Calendar Committee is also discussing alternative calendar issues, such as a four-day instructional week, similar to Sierra College. The Calendar Committee, it was pointed out, is a District Committee but academic calendars should be the purview of the Academic Senate. Further discussion of calendar issues will follow in the weeks ahead.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.