

MINUTES

Yuba College Academic Senate

September 22, 2005

APPROVED

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

Guests: Kitchen, Lowe.

1. The minutes of the September 15 meeting were approved, with one modification: Althausen reminded the Senate of his question whether adjunct instructors could serve as EEO reps on hiring committees. Shivers said they had representation on the EEO committee last year but didn't know if they could sit on a hiring committee. Rubiales will research the issue.
2. As part of his President's report, Rubiales summarized a meeting the previous week with Margie Lewis, President of Cyprus College, who is chair of the Accreditation Team visiting our campus. Rubiales also discussed an interview he had with an Appeal Democrat reporter writing a four-part article on Yuba College. Rubiales said both meetings went well, and that he was able to emphasize the many positive developments currently taking place in the District.
3. As part of her Vice President's report, Nickolson said a number of equivalency requests have been received that are being processed. She also said the social gathering for October 7 has been endorsed by the Senate, YCFA, and the Administration. The gathering will be at Helen's house; all faculty members are invited; details regarding place and time will be distributed to the faculty.
4. Rubiales asked for and received a vote affirming the Senate policy that Senate reps to hiring and evaluation committees should be from outside the academic division of the person being hiring or evaluated. Willson pointed out that this matter should be formally summarized and filed, using the "Academic Senate Policy and Procedure" format. Rubiales will draft the policy.
5. Parsafar summarized his concerns that many Senate committees, especially Faculty Staffing, Sabbatical Leave, Equipment, Educational Resources, and Hiring do not have fair and balanced representation and appropriate rotation of membership. Parsafar proposed an expansion of Senate working committees to insure broad representation of the Divisions. He also emphasized that faculty members should not be serving on Senate Committees year after year.

Because a discussion of all of these committees would be unmanageable, Rubiales asked that Senate discussion focus on the Faculty Staffing Committee, whose work for the 2005-2006 year is just now beginning. Ng said that she supports Parsafar's efforts to reform Faculty Staffing, emphasizing that academic committees should be democratic and representative, reflecting the larger society we live in. She also said that it is a problem that some faculty members have volunteered for committees but have not been selected. Galamba thanked Parsafar for bringing the issue forward—that representation is of course a concern of the Woodland faculty. But he is unsure expanded committees could be filled, given the difficulty we currently have finding enough faculty members to serve. Nickolson said that if a lack of representation from some divisions is an issue, then faculty members from these areas should have volunteered to serve when the Senate sent out a call last year. Nickolson also pointed out that historically the committee has never had the divisional balance being advocated. Willson stated that members of the Staffing Committee are asked to be global in their viewpoint, representing the District, not just a division—which is as it should be. Galamba said that committee members have unique perspectives and information, based in part on their disciplines. Shivers said that the committee appointments should stand as is; that an increase in the size of the committee would make it unwieldy and that perfectly balanced representation is never possible. May agreed with Parsafar concerning representation. He said that of the six committee appointments, none are from the humanities area—that the humanities-science schism common to all academia should be addressed by the Senate by actively recruiting faculty members in a balanced way, not being content with whoever volunteers. Willson made a motion that carried: she asked that a subcommittee be formed to study the Senate policy regarding committee appointments and to make any needed recommendations for change. Rubiales said that both sides of this issue have valid viewpoints, but that it would be too late to change the composition of this year's Faculty Staffing Committee.

The meeting adjourned on that note at 1:00 p.m.

9-23-05 tm