

Yuba Community College District  
**Academic Senate**  
M I N U T E S  
October 18, 2007

**Senators Present:** Rubiales (Chair), Nickolson (Vice Chair), Abele, Althausen, Boren, Canto-Lugo, Galamba, Gomez, Heaton, Kemble, Kitchen, May, Morgan, Willson.

**Guest:** Lowe

1. The meeting was called to order at 12 p.m.
2. President's Report (Rubiales): The College Council, which met on October 16<sup>th</sup>, wants to adopt a new outlook in its in-house and community interactions. Logistical matters like meeting dates, minutes, and housekeeping matters were also discussed.
3. Vice-President's Report (Nickolson): The membership of the Sabbatical Leave Committee has been approved. A contingent of Yuba faculty attended the basic skills regional workshop at Butte College on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The regional workshop reviewed state trends, chancellor office directives, and current literature on basic skills instruction. Brian Condrey will work with the English Department to see how ideas and state resources can be utilized to improve basic writing assistance in the Success Center. Another push will be for the District to hire faculty with training and background in basic skills instruction. Galamba spoke of how the Chancellors Office is pushing to address the needs of students at the level of 8<sup>th</sup> grade math/ 10<sup>th</sup> grade English. More on basic skills instruction and statewide trends in future Senate meetings.
4. Division Senate Reps made reports on what is happening in their areas.  
Language Arts: interviews are scheduled for the Dean position. Program Reviews are taking place in English and Mass Communications. Full-time position requests have been submitted by English, Spanish, ESL, Art, and Library.  
Counseling: a consultant is working with counseling to improve outreach activities, beginning with the formulation of department goals and objectives for high school and community outreach. Butte College has been studied as a model for high school outreach activities. Alan Lowe was asked if the District has any plans to create a Dean-level position for high school outreach. Alan said the answer to that at present is no.  
Social Sciences: the division is grappling with class caps for the high enrollment courses. Discussion has centered on the complicated balancing act involved with caps, including instructional styles, student needs, and District needs.  
Woodland: SLO's and Accreditation are two areas of emphasis. The English Department received 20% more release time for its comp coordinator while a similar request from Math was denied.  
Clear Lake: allocation of bond money for construction is one focus; another is the establishment of a police academy.

5. Nickolson reported that at the last faculty mentoring session, Robert Mathews discussed classroom management issues, while David Farrell highlighted the student code of conduct and discussed cogent student behavior issues.
6. The need for late-starting classes and some issues relative to such courses was discussed. Gomez said that a perennial problem is that students enroll in such classes before pre-req grades are in. Lowe addressed the question of whether a late-starting class could be on the schedule but registration held until later in the semester. Alan believed regulations would prohibit such an arrangement.
7. Kemble wanted a sense of the Senate resolution regarding the Staffing Committee matrix, which determines which full-time positions will be filled and which positions will be denied. The following motion was entertained by the Senate: Resolved, that points should be added to the matrix to reflect an institutional need to hire more basic skills instructors.( Kemble, Gomez)  
Kemble emphasized the need to improve our basic skills instructional needs. Some senators, however, objected to a measure that seemed rushed and out of context. The opinion was expressed that the college needs to address basic skills needs in a holistic manner, not just modify the hiring matrix. The motion was defeated, 6-4, with 2 abstentions.
8. A Senate Forum is planned for Wednesday, October 25 in the Board Room. The topic: the responsibilities of faculty members serving as Senate appointees on District Committees.
9. The next regular Senate Meeting will be held Friday, October 27 at 3pm in the Board Room.