

Yuba College
Academic Senate
M I N U T E S
December 5, 2008

Senators Present: Boren, Buckley, Davidson, Heaton, F.Canto-Lugo, May, Nickolson, Ramsey, Willson.

Guests: Battershell, Burbach, N. Canto-Lugo, Caputo, Heilman, Hsieh, Hulin, S. Jones, A. Lopez, Mathews, Michel, Munoz, Perez, Ranasinghe, Ruiz, Stemmann, Stollberg, Wagener.

1. The meeting, at the home of Larry and Helen, was called to order by President Nickolson at 2:40 p.m.

2. The agenda was approved on a motion by Canto-Lugo, seconded by Boren.

3. The minutes of November 13 and November 20 were approved. (Canto-Lugo/ Buckley)

4. Adrian Lopez and David Perez presented further information on the Diversity Plan, distributing a handout with detailed demographics on the diversity of the District work force and its student body. The plan itself was discussed for better than 90 minutes. Senators expressed support for diversity in general and for the philosophical framework, but they expressed opposition to the provisions in the plan regarding curriculum, evaluation, and retention. They also expressed opposition to hiring new administrators and establishing a diversity office. Ramsey, who had submitted a series of written questions concerning the curriculum provisions of the plan, again asked some of her same questions: who will write the curriculum asked for, how will faculty be evaluated, what courses will be asked to be revised and why? Neelam Canto-Lugo asked why the Senate was hesitating; what it is afraid of? Nicolson indicated that the Senate will need time to discuss the document and suggest modifications to help the Diversity Team come up with a plan that is acceptable to all. Adrian Lopez pressed the Senate for a vote. On a motion by Canto-Lugo, the Senate voted to sponsor a forum in January for the Diversity Team to present the plan to the faculty, after which the Plan will return to the Senate for further deliberation.

5. The scheduled presentation of the EEO Plan to the Senate was cancelled; EEO rep Prondzinski was unable to attend. May, who was named to replace Graciano on the EEO committee, discussed the plan draft that had been forwarded to the Senate that week. May, Willson, and Davidson all agreed that the plan is very rough and needs much work. On a motion by Willson, the Senate leadership will consult with the Board designee, meanwhile relaying our concerns and directing its EEO Senate reps to take the plan back into committee for further work prior to endorsement by the Senate.

6. F. Canto-Lugo announced that no one has applied for the position of Flex Coordinator; he indicated his willingness to continue service as Flex Coordinator. Senators thanked him for volunteering to do so.

7. Heaton, Davidson, and F.Canto-Lugo will work on revisions to the Senate Constitution and By-Laws, meeting during finals week in order to have a draft for the Senate early in the Spring Semester.

8. President Nickolson encouraged all Senators and all faculty members present to attend the Board meeting on December 10. Nickolson went over her planned report to the Board, explaining that the Senate must respond to the unwarranted attack by the Chancellor on the Academic Senate in which the vote of no-confidence against Mr. Alt was misrepresented to the Board as a Senate action. She also outlined her concerns with the manner in which the Chancellor conducts Board meetings contrary to the Brown Act, the lack of Administrative Procedures to implement Board Policies, and the impediments that have been established to prevent Board and Senate shared governance, as prescribed by law. Nickolson then asked May to read a draft of a position paper to be presented to the Board on December 10. The Senate worked through revisions, eventually endorsing by formal motion (Willson/ Boren) both Helen's report and the position paper, which asks that the Board appoint a new designee to the Senate—one who will present Senate positions and actions fairly and accurately. (Senate Statement follows minutes.)

9. Willson has volunteered to develop the draft of a Senate position paper on the need for all tenured faculty to participate in colleague evaluations. Some faculty are asked to do too many evaluations, some do none.

10. Nickolson presented a brief update on the Chancellor's announcement concerning the search committee for a new college President. The Senate request to co-chair the committee was denied by the Chancellor. The Chancellor has plans for very large search and interview committee, with minimal faculty representation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 for the social.

11/ 18 – lm and tm, recorders

REGULAR MEETING OF THE YUBA COLLEGE ACADEMIC SENATE

DECEMBER 5, 2008

SENATE STATEMENT

At its October 16, 2008 meeting, the Academic Senate of Yuba College, in accordance with Title 5 regulations, formally requested consultation with the Yuba Community College District Board of Trustees regarding academic and professional matters of mutual concern to the governance of the college. In response to the Senate's request, the President of the Board of Trustees instructed its designee, the YCCD Chancellor, to confer with the Senate, and then relay our concerns to the Board.

Unfortunately, the Chancellor has misrepresented the concerns and the actions of the Academic Senate to the Board, while serious academic and professional matters remain unresolved, such as the following: exclusionary District hiring practices; course offerings that are out of compliance with the State Disciplines List; a long delayed and seriously flawed EEO plan; a lack of administrative expertise on minimum qualifications; and Administrative Procedures that are not clearly distributed nor communicated to faculty members.

All of these matters are clearly within the purview of the Academic Senate, as prescribed by Title 5 regulations. Accordingly, the Academic Senate renews its request for consultation with the Board of Trustees regarding these matters of mutual concern for the shared governance of the College. The Senate furthermore requests that the Board appoint a new designee who is willing to relay the concerns and the actions of the Senate to the Board of Trustees in an accurate manner, and who is also willing to help the Senate improve the hostile work environment that has been created by these misrepresentations.

The Academic Senate of Yuba College remains committed to a process of collegiality and shared governance in helping the Board of Trustees to carry out the business of the District. The legally mandated relationship between the Board and the Senate must not be impeded, particularly in these times of institutional crisis. The welfare of our students and the professional lives of many dedicated people depend upon our mutual cooperation and upon our professionalism.