

The Academic Senate of Yuba College
Special Meeting: March 10, 2009
DRAFT M I N U T E S

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

Also Present: 62 Yuba College faculty members.

President Nickolson explained that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the decision by the Board of Trustees in its February 25, 2009 meeting, in which the Board reversed a recent tenure decision by the Academic Senate. President Nickolson explained that the process the Board followed, at the direction of the District Chancellor, is in violation of Title 5 regulations, Board Policy 2510, and the binding 1994 written Consultation Agreement between the Board and the Academic Senate.

President Nickolson and Vice President May also reviewed the series of actions orchestrated by the Chancellor during the 2008-2009 academic year that have been designed to dis-empower the Academic Senate of Yuba College: administrative hiring practices that break with tradition and exclude the Senate President or any other faculty representative; a public statement read aloud at a Lake County Board meeting that wrongfully accused the Senate of engaging in collective bargaining practices; a lengthy and insulting public statement read by a lawyer at a Board meeting in Woodland wrongfully accusing the Senate of conducting a no-confidence vote—an action designed to deflect public attention from a controversy wholly created and sustained by the administration itself; a break with tradition in refusing to allow the Senate President to serve as co-chair for the Yuba College Presidential search committee; a relentless five-month push for Senate approval of a diversity plan that violated fundamental tenets of academic freedom and Title 5 governance provisions; and an illegal reversal of a Senate tenure decision without Senate consultation or notification, as required by state law and by District Board policy.

In response to these actions, faculty members in attendance offered a number of possible options for the Senate to pursue. The options listed are to be discussed by the Senate in a future meeting and to be distributed for general faculty deliberation. From this list or from future deliberations of the Senate, a new course of action will be decided upon. Some of the options offered were the following:

-that the Senate delegate to the Yuba College Faculty Association (YCFA) the authority to act as exclusive representative of the faculty, as prescribed by A.B. 1725;

-that a faculty no-confidence vote be held for the Chancellor of the District;

-that the Senate and Curriculum Committee be disbanded and all faculty be released from service on any standing Senate committee;

-that the Senate remain intact as the sole standing committee of the college, with all other faculty members declining service on any standing or ad hoc committee not expressly required of

them by their employment contract;

-that state and national officials of AAUP, which have already expressed strong interest in the crisis at Yuba College, be invited on campus and asked to address the Board of Trustees;

-that the President of the State Academic Senate be requested to make a presentation to the Board of Trustees clarifying the role and responsibilities of the local Academic Senate;

-that the Senate seek legal recourse to persuade the Chancellor's Office of the State of California that Title 5 violations by the Yuba Community College District require formal adjudication;

-that the Senate leadership seek to deal directly with the Board of Trustees to continue the orderly work of the college, despite the obstructionist attitudes and actions of the District Chancellor.

President Nickolson will make a presentation to the Board of Trustees at its March 11th meeting. Faculty are encouraged to attend the meeting, which will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room, as a show of support for the Academic Senate and for the rights and responsibilities of the Yuba College faculty.

The meeting was adjourned by President Nickolson at 1 p.m.

3-11-09 tm