

Minutes of the Yuba College Academic Senate

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Senators present: Nickolson, May, Boren, Buckley, Canto-Lugo, Davidson, Devries, Heaton, Kitchen, Morgan, Ramsey, and Willson

Guests: W. Davis, S. Graciano, B. Julian, J. Neff, K. Orton, S. Ramones, K. Stemman, and V. Torres

- 1) The meeting was called to order at approximately noon. Time keeping is more challenging in the Board Room where the clock is more than twenty minutes slow.
- 2) The agenda was approved with the addition of the new Yuba College Academic Senate Constitution as the first item of old business.
- 3) The minutes of the March 12 meeting of the Academic Senate was approved with minor clarifications. The minutes of the March 19 meeting were approved as is.
- 4) Green Futures Project Team
 - a. An interesting and informative presentation was made by the Green Futures Project Team of which most team members were in attendance (Julian, Ramones, Davis, Graciano, and Neff).
 - b. The team was founded in the summer of 2008 to research sustainability as it applies to Yuba College.
 - c. Sustainability is the intersection of Environment, Social Equity and Economics.
 - d. An overview of the current efforts at YC and plans for future projects was presented. Among current/completed projects:
 - i. Posting of usage stickers on light switches in the 800 Bldg. to reduce energy consumption
 - ii. Exploration of alternative landscaping to reduce water and land use
 - iii. Credit for the recent award YC received for its leadership in recycling
 - iv. The hybrid automobile program that is underway at YC
 - v. LEED silver certification for new Measure J buildings
 - vi. Efforts to establish a student bus pass for YC students
 - e. **In response to the presentation, the Yuba College Academic Senate unanimously passed a resolution:** The Yuba College Academic Senate fully supports the efforts of the Green Futures Project Team.
- 5) VTEA
 - a. No representative was present to provide a report.
 - b. Nickolson and Willson reported that there was funding for only about half of the proposed VTEA projects.
- 6) Yuba College Academic Constitution
 - a. Discussion began on the outcome of the faculty forum on the revised constitution.
 - b. A motion to increase the number of at-large senators from 3 to 4 passed. This was in spite of the concerns of a minority of senators that more

senators would lead to more discussion and therefore more carbon dioxide and therefore increased global warming. Canto-Lugo was charged with updating the Constitution to reflect this change in the number of at-large senators.

- c. Willson raised the issue of whether the President should vote only in the event of a tie. Nickolson noted that Roberts Rules of Order states that the President can vote or not as he/she chooses on any particular item.
- d. A motion to allow the President of the Academic Senate to vote ONLY in the event of a tie did not pass.
- e. A subsequent motion to compel the President of the Academic Senate to vote in ALL decisions (as any other Senator would) passed. Canto-Lugo was charged with updating the Constitution to reflect this change.
- f. Discussion then turned to the vague wording of “excessive meetings” in the definition of whether a Senator is upholding their office or needs removal. A motion to leave the vague wording in place passed.
- g. A motion to approve the new constitution with the approved changes from this meeting passed unanimously. The constitution now goes to the faculty for a vote to approve.

7) President’s Report

- a. Willson requested clarification on the Fall Convocation and Nickolson provided it.
- b. President Nickolson stated that Chancellor Harrington had arrived unannounced at the Senate office and expressed, among other things, a desire to jointly sponsor a training session in the fall on Shared Governance. There seems to be agreement with the Academic Senate and the Chancellor that shared governance is no longer well understood at Yuba College.
- c. President Nickolson also noted that the Yuba College Academic Senate had received very supportive communications from the State Academic Senate and AAUP regarding our Senate’s challenges to the Board’s Brown Act Violations and other serious concerns raised in the March 19 meeting.

8) Academic Senate Workshop on Tenure

- a. Senator Boren reminded those present of the upcoming workshop on tenure on April 3 in the Multi-Purpose Room.

9) Grand Jury Investigations

- a. President Nickolson requested volunteers to initiate the Grand Jury process of the YCCD Board of Directors. She suggested an ad hoc committee to generate the requests for inquiry.

10) Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 12:52PM by the ad hoc Secretary’s watch.