

Yuba College  
**Academic Senate**  
M I N U T E S  
April 16, 2009

**Senators Present:** Nickolson (president), May (vice-president), Boren, Buckley, Davidson, Heaton, Kemble, Kitchen, Morgan, Willson

**Guests:** Edmunds, Murai, Orton, Smith, Stemman, Trutna, Turner

Meeting was called to order 12:00 pm. Plate of yummy, though store-bought, cookies.

1. Agenda: Approved with addition of 8c: Faculty frustration with the FLEX office.
2. Minutes from April 9, 2009 approved, with minor corrections.
3. Presentation of Newly Tenured Faculty
  - a. Nickolson reported on the newly tenured faculty's presentations at the previous evening's Board meeting. Lots of congratulations and mutual thanks.
  - b. Kevin Orton, whose teaching schedule prohibited him from presenting at the Board meeting, told the Senate what he would have told the Board: a former student of his decided to go home to South Africa to complete his education; the school did not allow his chemistry credits from Yuba to transfer, so he was required to retake chemistry. He got a 100%--the first time that had happened in 15 years.
4. Committee reports:
  - a. Study Abroad Project Team (Murai and Edmunds)
    - i. Despite some confusion about the status of the committee—and some frustration about that confusion—the team planned to meet later that day with President Mendoza and Nickolson to work towards clarifying that status. They are also scheduled to present both the Study Abroad Program in general and a specific trip, designed by Rich Edmunds, to the Board at the next meeting.
    - ii. Much of the confusion about the status of the committee centered around the Senate incorrectly approving the team as a College Standing Committee since, as Nickolson explained, the Study Abroad Program affects many areas in the college outside the Senate's purview (fiscal policy, insurance, deans and scheduling, etc.). But President Mendoza will serve as sponsor of the committee and, at the next Board session, will make a positive recommendation that they be established officially as a College Standing Committee.
    - iii. The Committee, despite its limbo status, has put together a comprehensive prescriptive, and precise set of guidelines that interested faculty will be

required to follow, including timelines and other policies designed to address administrators' concerns about liability and open access.

- iv. Morgan asked if the Study Abroad Team was also working on consortium agreements. Murai and Edmunds noted that Yuba was once part of a consortium that fell apart and was reestablished in a variety of forms, complete with political hurdles. Many schools now eschew consortia, in fact, finding greater success with independent programs.
- v. After much discussion about how the Senate can avoid the types of confusion surrounding this committee in the future, Davidson moved that the Senate support the team's transition to Standing Committee and the initiation of their first course, which they will be presenting to the Board. Motion carried.

5. President's Report (report follows minutes)

- a. Nickolson sent her report to the Board as her president's report.
- b. She added that she had received a letter from Beth Smith from the Academic Senate thanking us for the opportunity to visit. Smith stated, too, that the State Academic Senate does not have legal counsel available (the State Chancellor's Office does not have the resources at this time) at this time and recommended we use the District or Union counsel to answer our questions about the role of the Senate in the tenure process.
- c. Davidson asked for information about legal issues raised in previous meetings. Nickolson noted that the Senate had received a letter from Trustee Flory had sent a letter requesting meetings including the Senate, the Board, the Presidents, and the Vice-Presidents. She reiterated that there are no legal resources available to the Senate to pursue these other issues. Some senators had misunderstood a previous reference to the Chancellor's Office to mean the office of Yuba's Chancellor. Davidson pressed for the next step: to begin inquiries from a different angle—possibly Grand Juries.
- d. Dr. Trutna noted that he has asked the District lawyer to investigate three questions: 1) can the Senate hold closed sessions for tenure hearings? 2) Does this answer change if this was abrogated through the contract? 3) What materials may the Senate look at to evaluate a tenure recommendation—only the summary, or can they look at the entire packets?
- e. Davidson noted that his concern is actually with the issue of Brown Act violations on the part of the Board; We were going to get a legal opinion on this issue. Nickolson repeated that we have no access to such counsel at this time.

6. Vice President's Report

- a. Since time was up, May requested that we carry the FLEX discussion over to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

## **Report to the YCCD Board of Trustees—April 15, 2009**

**By Helen Nickolson, YC Academic Senate President**

- Workshop on Evaluation, Tenure, Disciplines, and Equivalence:
  - The workshop was held Friday, April 3 from 2:00-5:00 PM
  - Trustee Nicholaou attended
  - I gave Chancellor Harrington a copy of the videotape. Copies area available through media services
- Internship Program
  - I forwarded an electronic copy to Chancellor Harrington so that she may meet with YCFA after the contract is ratified
- Study Abroad
  - The Senate is working with the Project Team and President Mendoza to bring forth the plan at the next Board meeting and to hopefully have the Team moved to Standing College Committee status
- Support for Green Future Project Team
  - At its April 2 meeting, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution stating “The Yuba College Academic Senate fully supports the efforts of the Green Futures Project Team.”
- Welding and Auto Body Camp
  - The Camp was held on April 1. I attended and saw a lot of activity going on. This is great publicity for Yuba College
- Meeting with Board
  - This was an excellent and productive meeting on Friday, April 10
  - We discussed the need to work on and clarify Board Policies and Administrative Procedures on Participation in Local Decision Making, roles of the Board, Chancellor, College Presidents and the Senate, the tenure process, college versus district concerns in areas such as curriculum, and possible future meetings
  - The Board and Senate will have a training session in August
  - We talked about trying to keep the Board meetings more streamlined by keeping presentations to no more than five minutes. I didn’t feel that that would be to the Senate’s benefit, but I will certainly try to not be too lengthy.
  - Trustee Flory suggested that we put issues on the Board agenda to be discussed openly
- College Council
  - The Council met Tuesday, April 14
  - We discussed the need for training on the Brown Act and there were differences in opinion as to how certain areas should be handled—this would be a great topic for the Board/Senate training session in August
  - The Council will look at its Shared Decision Making model and start developing role statements and responsibilities at the next meeting
  - We focused on the budget at some length and will be looking for a group composed of three members from each segment to be able to meet during the summer. This group needs to have the authority to speak for its constituents if budget decisions need to be made. There may be two--three meetings in the summer.

- Plenary Session
  - I am on the presidential search committee, so Fernando Canto-Lugo will represent Yuba and will be able to vote on the resolutions
- Presidential Search
  - There are a high number of applicants
  - Priority screening began April 10
  - The Search Committee will meet April 17 to finalize interview questions and select candidates to be invited for interviews which will be scheduled for April 24 and May 1