

Yuba College
Academic Senate
M I N U T E S
April 23, 2009

Senators Present: Nickolson (president), May (vice-president), Boren, Buckley, Canto-Lugo, Davidson, Devries, Heaton, Kemble, Kitchen, Morgan, Ramsey

Guests: Cupp, Syda, Steverson

Meeting was called to order 12:00 pm. Strawberries FTW.

1. Agenda: Approved with change (removing 3b: Plenary Session)
2. Minutes from April 16, 2009 approved, with typo corrected.
3. Committee Reports
 - a. BSI recommendation for caps in math and possibly other areas (Steverson, Cupp)
 - i. Nickolson noted that this issue is relevant to the Senate because it involves #5 of the 10+1 (“Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success).
 - ii. Cupp noted that the Senate-approved BSI plan recommended experimenting with smaller class sizes in courses populated by BS students. This recommendation was based on research supporting the state Basic Skills Initiative, which recommends that students have their performance “closely monitored” (which in turn requires manageable classes). She added that this discussion has been going on for at least 5 years, including in the Academic Preparation and Retention Committee—long before BSI.
 - iii. Steverson explained that the math department has forwarded a recommendation to the dean: classes with BS students (110, 11, 50, 52) have a cap size of 30 students. Instructors from other campuses were “not surprised, but aghast” at the current policy at Yuba; engaging BS students, they argue, is simply not viable without class caps.
 - iv. Davidson read from a letter that Michael Hardy, Vice President for our region’s AMATYC (American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges) has sent to the dean. In that letter, he supported the “modest” and “generous” request for a cap size of 30 students.
 - v. It was noted that Reading and English classes have caps of 30.
 - vi. A motion to support the Math Department’s request to lower class caps based on BSI approved recommendations passed unanimously.
4. President’s Report
 - a. Meetings, meetings, and more meetings.

- b. The previous Friday, Nickolson had been working on the search committee for college president. Very hush-hush.
 - c. Dr. Harrington and President Mendoza agreed to schedule a training session open to all, where District lawyers explain the Brown Act—or, more precisely, the issue of closed sessions and the proper methods to report out. The training session will be held Friday, May 8, from 2:00-3:00. There was some skepticism about the appropriateness of District lawyers giving the presentation, but Nickolson was nonetheless pleased that our request was accepted. Several Senators noted that the presence of armed Yuba College Police will not be necessary, thank you. May will chair an ad hoc committee to develop questions for the lawyer.
5. VP Report (follows these minutes)
6. Old Business
- a. Core group for Budget Response:
 - i. Davidson noted that this position has “high visibility” and thus is not appropriate for untenured faculty.
 - ii. Nickolson requested that Senators solicit and suggest names of possible *tenured* faculty members for this group.
7. New Business
- a. District v. College Curriculum: Info
 - i. Nickolson supplied some background for a discussion that will occur next week. The main issue is that this is our first year as two colleges. Originally, it was agreed that there would be only one curriculum for the students’ sake. However, with two committees, we have been having some difficulties. Officially, differing recommendations from the two schools have been pulled back while a decision is made on this issue. Nickolson said that it’s the Board of Trustee’s responsibility to set a strong policy.
 - ii. The two basic options involve having one curriculum, which in some ways is more difficult for the school but easier for the students; or to have two curricula, which is more difficult for the students (issues of articulation, graduation requirements, etc. come up in this case). Nickolson pointed out that the final decision is the Board’s decision, but that they need to make the decision and put it in writing.
 - b. Faculty frustration with FLEX office:
 - i. Canto-Lugo acknowledged that there was some confusion surrounding denied progress reports without FLEX representative involvement. He clarified that only faculty representatives should be returning progress reports to the faculty, giving an opportunity for clear explanation of any

problems. Canto-Lugo said the actions causing the frustration were not malicious, just misguided.

- ii. Canto-Lugo observed that Dr. Espinoza attended a recent FLEX meeting. This is disturbing in that it is still unclear whether FLEX is to be run at the district or local level. Woodland has its own committee and chair, but Marysville's committee is still unclear as to its status. He noted further that Dr. Espinoza is working on an Administrative Procedure that includes creating a new FLEX guidelines book—but he had previously been unaware of this. According to Canto-Lugo, Dr. Espinoza let him know that this is the Administration's decision to make. Nickolson noted that as of her last discussion with President Mendoza, this still had not been decided.
- iii. Canto-Lugo asks that the Senate react to preserve FLEX as a faculty-driven committee, as described in the committee description. May introduced a motion (see below for the finalized motion), seconded by Canto-Lugo, requesting that a FLEX coordinator at the college level be named and administrative help be assigned to that coordinator. During discussion, Syda noted that the contract makes it clear that FLEX is a faculty-run program and recommended that the Senate demand that these discussions cease immediately. May began a revision of the motion to include Syda's suggestion. Canto-Lugo moved (seconded [by whom?] and passed unanimously) that May and Kemble be authorized to finalize the wording of the motion. The motion, which passed unanimously:

Whereas both Title 5, which grants Academic Senates primacy in academic and professional matters (the "10 + 1"), and the YCFA Contract place control of FLEX and staff development under the purview of the Academic Senate of Yuba College; and whereas FLEX and staff development have been well-run by the faculty, under the authority of the Senate, for better than 25 years; and whereas the FLEX and staff development needs of Woodland and Yuba Colleges are unique:

Be it resolved that the Academic Senate of Yuba College demands that discussion between the Vice Chancellor of Educational Planning and Services and the FLEX committee regarding the future of the FLEX program cease immediately;

Be it furthermore resolved that the Academic Senate of Yuba College strongly recommends that, as soon as possible, Yuba

College announce and fill a FLEX coordinator position at the college, not District level, for the 2009-10 academic year; and

Be it furthermore resolved that the Academic Senate of Yuba College recommends that, as soon as possible, clerical support be established for the college FLEX coordinator to allow FLEX and staff development to proceed for the 2009-10 academic year; and

Be it further resolved that the Academic Senate of Yuba College form a FLEX committee for Yuba College with the authority to plan FLEX activities and oversee the FLEX and staff development program for only Yuba College.

8. Bin

Meeting adjourned 12:42 (slackers) among rave reviews for the strawberries.

Tim May's Vice President's Report (sent via email)

-The Mesh Dean Interview Committee, which I co-chair, will be in interviews on Monday, May 4. We had a meeting earlier this week to discuss candidates for interview.

- Volunteers for committees have been located (encouraged, bribed, threatened). I will have a list of new committee appointments for Senate approval at the May 7 meeting.

- The Diversity and SLO committees will meet again next week. We are working on homework assignments this week; discussion to follow.

- I attended the YCFA Exec Council Meeting yesterday to present the modifications to the hiring manual for faculty. YCFA endorsed the changes which have previously been brought to the Senate. They come back to the Senate for approval on May 7. Then that section dealing with the composition of the hiring committees goes back to YCFA since the contract will have to be modified. If/ when the Senate endorses these changes, I assume they are to be forwarded to the District, especially HR, for reaction by the administration leading to endorsement by the Chancellor/ Board.

-The last mentor meeting of the year will be held at Helen and Larry's. It is strictly a social event, a pot luck. I hope Senators will be able to attend as well as first year faculty and mentors. The event is scheduled from 3 to 5, Friday, May 15 at Yuba College South in East Nicholas. Watch for a reminder notice later today or tomorrow.