

Yuba College
Academic Senate
M I N U T E S
September 10, 2009

Senators Present: Nickolson (president), May (vice-president), Boren, Buckley, Davidson, Kemble, Kitchen, Morgan, Ramsey, Stemann, Weiss, Willson

Guests: Frothingham, Nicholau, Stranix

Meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm. Nickolson supplied paximadia (think biscotti with a Greek accent).

1. Agenda: Approved with additions
 - a. 5c: Minutes of Deans & Directors and CHEX meetings
 - b. 5d: math caps
2. Minutes: 9/3/09 minutes approved.
3. Announcements / Reports
 - a. President's Report – Nickolson
 - i. Nickolson attended the previous night's board meeting. Observations:
 1. She commends students who spoke.
 2. She commends student trustee Frothingham; in response to his leadership by example, the Board voted not to approve travel funds for themselves.
 - ii. Trustee Nicholau announced to the Senate that the Board was impressed and listened with an open mind; on the whole, the meeting was conducted civilly with speakers focused on the best interests of the students. The meeting was productive. The challenge is to work on communications in both directions.
 - iii. Nickolson attended a planning session about sustainability and the Measure J bid process.
 - iv. In a District-wide leadership meeting (Nickolson, May, Dr. Harrington, plus presidents and vice-presidents), Nickolson learned that, though we still have some questions, the Senate's tenure process is basically sound because the Board had given that authority to the Senate—we need now to get it in writing for future reference.
 - v. Nickolson announced that there will be a special College Council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15 from 2:30-4:30 (or so) in Room 303. It's an open meeting to provide feedback and discuss more details about the budget. The previous College Council meeting had been good, but more was needed. Morgan said that this should be televised for Lake and Woodland. Nickolson agreed.

- vi. The reception welcoming Dr. Adkins is tomorrow.
- vii. Nickolson emailed the report she sent to the Board (report, with specific references to Ed Code and Title 5, follows the minutes).
 - 1. At the direction of the Senate, she requested that the October meeting be moved to Marysville.
 - 2. At the request of College Council, she asked for a special meeting in October to talk to the Board about the budget.
 - 3. She asked why questions we had submitted to be agendized for the Board meeting were not on the agenda. She will follow up with President Flory. Nickolson noted that the current system, in which she is required to submit items to Dr. Adkins who then submits them to Dr. Harrington, should be brought up as a question at the Oct. 16 board meeting about shared governance; according to Ed Code and Title 5, neither administrator should be a gatekeeper.
- viii. Nickolson announced that she has requested legal assistance from the State Chancellor's office.

b. Vice-President's Report – May

i. May attended two meetings

- 1. With Dr. Adkins and Dr. Trutna last Thursday, at which Dr. Adkins insisted we were consulted on the issue of summer school. May and Nickolson pointed out that “mentioning” something in a meeting is not consultation. This discussion took about an hour.
- 2. At the District leadership meeting, Dr. Harrington insisted that the Lake Board meeting cannot be moved to Marysville. The rest of the two hour meeting dealt with tenure and hiring processes. When the time came to discuss what May and Nickolson wanted to deal with, Dr. Harrington announced that their time was up. May wants to ask for another single-item agenda dealing with the lack of consultation re: cancelling summer school.
- 3. Morgan noted that she and Weiss had spoken to Dean Bell at Lake and that he approves of the change to Marysville, so Lake is not promoting Dr. Harrington's position.
- 4. Boren noted that if the Senate had been consulted, the issue should have appeared on the Senate agenda and been voted on. In the future, we should invite Dr. Adkins to come speak to the Senate. Nickolson noted that there was not time to invite her—the decision was made too quickly.

4. Old Business

- a. Request for change in minimum qualifications for reading

- i. Kemble moved (Willson seconded) that minimum qualifications for teaching reading be lowered to those recommended by the state. Woodland had made the request, and Marysville reading faculty approved (with reservations—Pandora’s Box was mentioned). Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Budget – Cost savings presented by YCFA
 - i. Nickolson handed out a sheet with suggestions the YCFA made for savings that don’t need to be negotiated and asked if we wanted to do the same.
 1. Davidson suggested that money could be saved by faculty paying close attention to the print shop’s prices, which it recently posted (and for which they should be commended). He suspects that most don’t understand the difference in prices for black and white v. color copies (especially when there are only one or two lines that are color), white v. color paper, and department copies v. sending in to the print shop. Davidson moved (Willson seconded) that the print shop re-examine limits of department copies and copiers. Passed unanimously.
 2. Davidson also noted, following up on student’s personal story at the previous board meeting, that non-tenured faculty are limited in their ability to offer suggestions by more than just a lack of data from the district, but by their status as non-tenured faculty. He explained that in math, added courses, increased math caps (without faculty consultation), and a “drop back agreement” (allowing students in Math 50 to drop back to the slower 50A/B sequence if needed) means there will be a demand for more than 50 spots in Math 50B in the Spring. Unfortunately, cuts mean that there will only be one 50B class offered, which has an institutional cap of 40 students—but a room cap (determined by seating capacity) of only 35. When Davidson offered to contribute to cost deferral (not cost savings) to benefit his students by load banking EP, he was told (and Stranix confirmed) that the contract does not allow it. It was noted that the administration could ask YCFA for consideration on this matter.
 3. Willson moved (Buckley seconded; Davidson amended) that [in addition to the ideas discussed in the Senate that day, the Senate would be able to offer further, more substantive suggestions when given full information on the District-wide budget in sufficient detail. Boren noted that without such budget information, we can’t

determine what is reasonable; everything becomes merely a wish list.

4. Ramsey noted that, since so many have already done this and been disregarded, this is likely a waste of time.

5. Motion passed unanimously.

ii. AP-2510 – Shared Decision Making – WCC and YC Senate versions

1. Nickolson needs time to bring the two versions together and will reintroduce this issue at a later meeting.

5. New business

a. Oct. 16 Meeting with Board of Trustees, State Academic Senate, Community College League, and attorneys

i. The meeting is open to the public and will likely run from 1:00-5:00.

ii. Willson noted that “meeting with the Board” usually means “meeting with Trustee Nicholau.” Nickolson noted that this is scheduled as an official Board meeting.

iii. The meeting will begin with the attorneys discussion the tenure process, and then the meeting will be opened for questions about shared governance.

iv. Kemble moved (Davidson seconded) that an ad hoc committee be formed to create a list of questions faculty would like addressed at the Oct. 16 meeting. Passed unanimously. Kemble and Ramsey graciously offered to head that committee.

v. First stab at some questions:

1. What if the Board disagrees with the Senate’s tenure recommendation?

2. Can the Senate look at all four years of evaluations, or only at the executive summary at the end?

3. What happens when the Board breaks its own policies?

b. Student Grievance Hearings

i. The question: should administration have a list of faculty willing to serve on grievance committees? Or should the Academic Standards Committee be responsible to hear grievances. Kemble moved (Willson seconded) that the Academic Standards Committee be responsible to hear student grievances.

ii. Nickolson noted that the question came from Dr. Trutna in an attempt to streamline the process. As it is, faculty have to be recruited at the last minute for these grievances. Kemble noted that having a list of willing faculty would not really solve this problem if those willing faculty turn out to be unavailable; having a set committee responsible should simplify scheduling.

- iii. Willson raised questions about what kind of student grievances would be dealt with in this committee; faculty personnel issues should be dealt with by faculty, for example. Kemble withdrew the motion (wimp) and agreed to wait until we have more information.
 - c. Minutes of Deans and Directors and of CHEX meetings.
 - i. May noted that Senate meetings are open, with Dr. Trutna often attending and taking notes, and with extensive (maybe exhaustive, certainly exhausting) minutes published. But CHEX and D & D (Deans and Directors, not Dungeons and Dragons) meeting, where crucial decisions are made, are held behind closed doors—despite long-standing requests that the Senate be allowed to attend.
 - ii. Buckley asked if this one-way lens is typical in colleges. May pointed out that it is not only atypical, it has not always been that way at Yuba. Minutes from the D & D meetings stopped under Dr. Harrington.
 - iii. Student Trustee Frothingham asked if the two groups can authorize opening meetings, or if that decision would need to come from above. The Senate believes they could authorize it, but they are not sure who has made the decision as it currently stands.
 - iv. Davidson moved (Willson seconded) that the Senate recommend that the Board establish a policy that CHEX and Deans and Directors meetings be open and provide minutes. Passed unanimously.
 - d. Math caps – tabled until next week, when the Woodland Senate will have made their recommendation.
6. Bin – Out. Of. Time.

Meeting adjourned at 12:53.

Yuba College Academic Senate Report Board Meeting—September 9, 2009

Motions (Senate and College Council):

Senate: That the Board meeting in October be held at the Marysville Campus instead of Lake
CC: That the Board hold a special meeting at the Marysville Campus in October to discuss the proposed budget

Items that the Senate requested twice of President Adkins to be put on agenda:

1. Study Abroad
2. Administrative Hiring and Evaluations
3. Expenditures and Productivity by YCCD Sites
4. The Tenure Process
5. Shared Governance Training
6. Basic Skills
7. Senate Access to the YCCD Board

These items are not on the agenda, and I don't understand what it will take to have items included.

Summer Session

Recently, upon hearing of the elimination-without-consultation of our summer session, someone wrote to me:

The worst functioning/least happy districts interpret “educational program development” to mean that they’ll only consult on the creation of official new programs.

But, the best functioning/most happy districts consult on any change to their educational programs that has a significant impact on students - be it new, increase, decrease or abolish. Stopping summer session would certainly fall in this category.

The decision to cut summer school was made without consulting the Yuba Academic Senate and without consulting the Yuba College Council. So, I must conclude that Yuba would fall into the worst functioning/least happy districts of the previous quote.

The process used definitely didn't follow shared decision-making policies established by the Board, and, as I'm sure the Board is aware, it is the legal responsibility of the Board and the CEO to uphold Ed Code and Title 5 regulations (Ed Code 70902(b)(7) and Title 5 53200-204).

In addition to excluding collegial consultation, the process used by administration disregarded Board Policy and Administrative Procedure 4021 which address Program Discontinuation. And, yes, I am aware that an argument may be made that summer session is not a program since the Yuba College Council Handbook defines “Program” as “An organized and sequential collection of courses leading to a certificate or degree.”

But, there are programs—such as Vet Tech, Rad Tech, Psych Tech— that have a summer component to them, and if they are not scheduled this summer, it would be program discontinuation for those programs. Maybe something will take place to save these programs, but the Academic Senate has not been informed and collegial consultation most definitely has not occurred.

Perhaps the next round of cuts will be applied toward the evening program, student services programs, or a full-length semester. These aren't necessarily "programs" as defined by the College Council handbook and may not need to follow the Board Policy on Program Discontinuation. Of course, that any of these actions might be taken is hard to believe, but it was also hard to believe that the summer session would be cut.

Therefore, I am requesting that a Board Policy be developed with a process to address how to discontinue these "non-program Programs," how collegial consultation should take place, and the legal consequences of not following Ed Code and Title 5 as specified above.

Furthermore, I need to let you know that, since the Academic Senate does not have access to legal counsel, I have requested assistance from legal affairs at the California Community College Chancellor's Office to assist us with non-compliance issues at Yuba College.