

Yuba College
Academic Senate
M I N U T E S
September 17, 2009

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

Guests: Ortiz, Stranix, Syda

Meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm. Nickolson supplied a variety of *grapes*.

1. Agenda: Approved with additions
 - a. 5c: O’Keefe evaluation
 - b. 5d: Summer session
 - c. 5e: Goals
2. Minutes: 9/10/09 minutes approved with corrections.
3. Announcements / Reports
 - a. President’s Report – Nickolson
 - i. Report was emailed prior to the meeting (report follows minutes)
 - b. Vice-President’s Report – May
 - i. Report was emailed prior to the meeting (report follows minutes)
 - ii. May attended two meetings
 - c. Development of questions for October 16 meeting – Kemble and Ramsey
 - i. Kemble and Ramsey, co-chairs (and the entire membership) of the ad hoc committee charged with coordinating the questions, handed out a timeline with several steps:
 1. Soliciting questions from faculty
 2. Compiling those questions for Senate discussion
 3. Ranking the questions
 4. Presenting the list of ranked questions to the Senate for final selection.
 - ii. Nickolson requested that the timeline be pushed forward to allow for questions to be forwarded to the presenters in advance. Kemble and Ramsey agreed to send out a revised timeline.
4. Old Business
 - a. AP2510 – Shared Decision Making – WCC and YC Senate versions – Nickolson
 - i. Nickolson has compiled a document incorporating suggested changes from both Senates but noted that, if the district develops a broader shared governance committee, the document would need a complete revision. She noted it would be important to keep in the 1993-94 agreement with Board; anything less would weaken the Senate.

- b. Minutes of D & D and CHEX – Update on Request – Nickolson
 - i. Nickolson showed the Senate a letter from Trustee President Flory and an email from Dr. Harrington. Nickolson will send a request for clarification on some points.
 - ii. Ramsey noted that Dr. Harrington’s email seemed to suggest that the Senate can bring up anything it wants at Board meetings, but keeping items off the agenda means that the Senate cannot request that action be taken on any item. Nickolson noted that it was actually President Flory’s idea for the Senate to put items on the agenda and agreed that Dr. Harrington’s email keeps Senate items as merely informational.
 - iii. Davidson wondered if CHEX, operating under the Board, can’t be considered to be *de facto* operating as the Board. Nickolson noted that President Flory is correct by the letter of the law, if not the spirit, concerning shared governance. Boren likened shared governance to affirmative action: no one denies they want it, but many find ways to *appear* to comply without actually doing so.
 - c. Student Grievance Hearings – May
 - i. Requested, and received, another week to answer questions raised at the last meeting.
5. New business
- a. Senate Resolution re: math caps
 - i. Davidson explained that he had requested this agenda item in response to the Woodland Senate’s having an agenda item regarding math caps on their agenda the previous week. From Matt Clark, Davidson learned that this was just intended for the Woodland Senate to have a resolution like the one Yuba’s Senate passed on April 23, 2009.
 - ii. This is being done in preparation for an Oct. 2 meeting between Dr. Trutna and math faculty from both campuses, addressing the math department’s grievance. Davidson explained that caps not only were not lowered, as YC Senate’s resolution supported, caps were actually raised without consultation for some courses.
 - iii. May asked if there is a state math organization that sets standards or guidelines. Syda noted that there is no such body, though Michael Hardie, who was then Vice President of the Western Region of AMATYC, did write a letter of support that the administration disregarded. (Letter follows these minutes)
 - iv. Davidson moved (Stemmann seconded) that the Senate reaffirm support for lowered math caps as resolved in the April 23, 2009 minutes. Passed unanimously.

- b. Senate budget – Is the Senate willing to give up a portion for one year to go to the general fund?
 - i. The Senate budget is approximately \$12,000 per year; each year we use only about half and put the balance back into the general fund. The money is used for travel to plenary sessions, the mentoring program, supplies, duplication, and so on.
 - ii. Willson moved (Boren seconded) not to put a portion of Senate budget into the general fund until we have more idea of the general situation. Discussion was divided into two camps (with much “I agree with the opposing view, but...”):
 - 1. Opposed:
 - a. This runs counter to last week’s motion, which agreed to concessions and suggestions after the administration opened its books.
 - b. Without understanding the larger picture, any decisions the Senate makes are either a pittance (such as a few thousand in copying costs as mentioned last week, or \$6000 as suggested here) or, worse, giving up important funds unnecessarily; one administrative position covers dozens of these little ideas).
 - c. The letters from Dr. Harrington and President Flory demonstrate that the administration and Board show little if any inclination to share governance, which requires that we resist being bullied into cooperation as long as (a) and (b) above are true.
 - 2. In Favor:
 - a. The purpose of last week’s motion was not to dig in our heels but to emphasize how we cannot make useful suggestions without further information.
 - b. We should be the type of organization that does the right thing not because others do, but because it’s the right thing.
 - 3. Motion passed, 8-1.
- c. O’Keefe evaluation
 - i. Kemble moved (Willson seconded) that May be confirmed as evaluator for Georgianna O’Keefe. Passed unanimously.
- d. Summer Session
 - i. Nickolson explained that it seems summer session will be held beginning in July, to defer costs to the next fiscal year. She said she believes it is perhaps 100% sure to happen, though Syda noted that Dr. Adkins has said that the decision is “up in the air.”

- ii. Syda argued that the Senate should take a proactive approach to this issue. Rather than waiting until it's too late for input to be meaningful, the Senate should offer its input now.
- iii. Some preliminary questions:
 - 1. Is this feasible?
 - 2. If it can't be a 6-week session (if it were it would overlap with the Fall session), what would it be? A 4-week schedule? 5-week?
 - 3. Which programs / sequences should be included in this session?
- iv. Boren noted that, as with many other things we're expected to comment on without full information, the notion of a July summer session raises too many questions to offer meaningful input.
- v. Davidson noted that this recommendation for a July summer session only defers the expense into the next year, which would need to be repeated the following year.
- vi. In the interest of time, Kemble suggested Senators take the discussion to the Senate Discussion Forum. To his gratification, the Senate agreed.
- e. Senate goals
 - i. Stemmann asked if the shift in focus of the mentor program—from mentoring new faculty, to an enrichment program for all instructors—required a corresponding change in the Senate goal, “Continue the Mentoring Program.” May reaffirmed that the focus of the mentoring program will be new faculty (when we have new faculty again).
- 6. Bin – Out. Of. Time.
 - a. Nickolson announced that Dr. Kendyl Magnuson and Dr. Trutna will present at the next Senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:52—a full minute earlier than the previous week. Coincidence?

YUBA COLLEGE
Academic Senate

TO: Academic Senate
FROM: Helen Nickolson
SUBJECT: Weekly P Report
DATE: September 16, 2009

- Senate reception for President Adkins—Friday, September 11, 2009
 - The reception went very well. It was strictly a social, and I think everyone appreciated getting away from all the ugly political issues for a short time. Dr. Adkins brought her husband Barry, and it was a pleasure to meet him.

- College Council special meeting—Tuesday, September 15, 2009
 - The College Council meeting was a fiasco. As usual, when anyone asked about receiving specifics on the budget for the entire district, the answer was that that is not in our purview and we are to focus on Yuba College only.
 - I read the Senate’s statement regarding any further ideas for budget cuts:
 - That we offer further, more substantive suggestions when we are given full information on the District-wide budget in sufficient detail
 - I explained that the Senate would be very cooperative if we could get the broader picture with line items so that we could see what monies have come in and what monies have gone out throughout the district. We cannot respond in a vacuum and would never encourage anyone to comply blindly and without rationale.
 - I also stated that the deans, directors, vice-president, and president should have refused to work on budget reductions even if it meant that the Chancellor would then make the decisions herself. I based this statement on my observation that the Chancellor is making all of the decisions anyway and simply wants the façade of “shared decision making,” and that it may be worth it to have more short-term pain if that will garner greater long-term results such as true “shared decision making.”

- Letter to Board of Trustees
 - In case you missed the letter, I am attaching it.

- Letter to Jane Patton and Scott Lay
 - Basically, the message to them was that I'm trying to find information on the organization of multi-college districts in relationship to the Board's designee. Faculty are questioning whether or not it is legitimate to have the additional layer of administration (college presidents who are not the Board's designees).

- Lisa Jensen Martin will be meeting with Dr. Harrington next Monday and, because the discussion will include “shared decision making,” she invited George Galamba and me to participate. I accepted and thanked her for being so concerned about keeping the roles of YCFA and the Academic Senate separate.

VP Report from Tim May

* Yesterday's College Council Meeting was a farce. Last week, Dr. Adkins and Dr. Trutna told Helen and me that the Senate, the Classified, and the Students were indeed consulted at the last College Council Meeting about the cancellation of summer session. Yesterday, they insisted that the College Council is an informational group, not a consultative body that votes and forwards recommendations. (There is a certain type of language use, says Orwell, designed to make distortions sound truthful and to give an appearance of solidarity to pure wind.)

*In the College Council meeting, employees also learned that a tentative budget for next year was adopted on Monday by CHEX. In other words, as employees are earnestly suggesting cost cutting measures and working diligently to save jobs-- compiling budget suggestions through the committee process-- top management has already made the major decisions. (i.e., cuts.). To say this is not shared governance is an understatement; this is an institutional ruse.

* The Academic Senate has requested that the minutes of the D & D meetings and the CHEX meetings be made available. (Or, in the case of CHEX, the tapes--replete with 18-minute gaps.) Dr. Trutna asked, in all seriousness, what the concern was. Why do we want the minutes distributed? The Dean and Directors are meeting as I write this. We had previously asked but were denied copies of the tentative cuts submitted by middle managers. Our request was denied. Today's meeting, rumor has it, is top down stuff: the latest CHEX decisions on cuts to curriculum and personnel.(Still no word on cuts to District Management, apart from the single administrative resignation that has been in the works for months and has nothing whatsoever to do with our financial and institutional morass.)

* The Senate's long-standing request that the Chancellor meet with her employees remains unanswered. The request that proposed cuts in District Management be shared remains unanswered. The request to change the location of the next Board Meeting from Lake County to Marysville remains unanswered. The request for a leadership meeting to discuss the budget crisis remains unanswered...

_News About Mentor Meeting (Now called The Teacher Exchange Program) Friday, October 9
3:00- 5:00

On a different note, *I hope many faculty will be able to attend our first teaching exchange on Friday, October 9*_ . The topic will be the value of theater and the humanities, of reading good books, of appreciating art and photography and music, not just as a diversion from the sort of workplace realities that can be stupefying but just because. The intellectual, emotional, creative, and values responses that good art offers can enrich our personal and our professional lives. Further enrichment will be had that evening: everyone is invited to attend the opening-night performance of "The Miser" --the Fall Production of the Yuba College Theatre Department. Advance tickets can be purchased from Teresa Aronson. The play will be held at the Arts Council at 7th and E. The Arts Council Theatre only holds 110, so get your tickets early...

As we have said in previous notes, the teacher exchange (TGIF...EX) is for all yuba college educators-- classified, faculty, middle managers are invited. For the first session, let's just come

together and talk. Also...A SURPRISE PERFORMANCE will delight and edify all those in attendance at the exchange. (Rumors of a skit that mocks an ex-VP by a guy in drag are unfounded. This performance will be artistic, not satiric...well, not controversial...well, not politically incorrect..well..that is... Actually, I can give no further hints. But it will be a regular magical mystery tour...of sorts...just to get things off with a bang...not a whimper...sort of...I think...)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 FROM 3-5 IN MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM.

(We will decide on the 9th on the topics and dates of future meetings.)

April 22, 2009

Earl Bloor, Ph.D.
Dean, MESH Division
Yuba College
2088 North Beale Road
Marysville, CA 95901

RE: Class enrollments in mathematics courses at Yuba College

Dear Dr. Bloor:

My name is Michael Hardie and I am writing to you in my capacity as the Vice-President of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. I represent California, Nevada and Hawaii. Inserted below you will find a statement from our position paper on Mathematics Departments at Two-Year Colleges

B. Departmental organization and administration.

1. Department role
 1. Mathematics faculty should take an active roll in institutional governance and planning outside their departments. They should have a voice in framing institutional policy, in the allocation and use of resources, and in curricular issues. They should maintain regular communication with faculty in related and client discipline.
 2. Mathematics departments play a special support role for other disciplines. Meeting the reasonable needs of other departments is a major responsibility. Formalized mechanisms should be in place to insure that other departments can communicate their students' mathematical needs to the mathematics department.
2. Staffing
 1. Mathematics departments should be adequately staffed to allow for a maximum class size of thirty students. Opportunity for frequent interaction between students and instructors should be provided, both in the classroom and in office consultations.

I hope you will agree to the new class caps proposed by your mathematics faculty. I believe that, based on the research they've done on similar colleges in California, their current request is modest. Their willingness to keep class capacities at 50 for classes that are not developmental is very generous and goes well above the standard mentioned in the AMATYC document. If you have any questions, please email me at hardie@wnc.edu or call me at 775-782-2413 ext 5232.

Sincerely,

Michael Hardie, Ed.D