

Yuba College  
**Academic Senate**  
M I N U T E S  
Tuesday, October 13, 2009

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

**Guests:** Stranix

Meeting was called to order at 12:00. As this was a special session, Nickolson decided we didn't need food. She couldn't have been more mistaken.

1. Agenda: Approved.
2. Effects of Layoffs on Instruction – Discussion and action on a position paper to present to the Board of Trustees at the Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - a. Nickolson read a draft of her planned Board presentation for the October 14 Board meeting for Senate buy-in. Kemble moved (May seconded) that the piece be approved and that Nickolson have permission to continue revising as she felt necessary, taking into consideration minor suggestions that arose in the discussion. Passed unanimously.
3. Response to Chancellor Harrington's Op-Ed
  - a. Kemble presented an op-ed piece composed by several faculty members, responding to Dr. Harrington's October 10 Op-Ed in the Appeal-Democrat. The general consensus that the piece was not far enough along to give the Senate's blessing, so he agreed to bring it to the Senate again on Thursday, at the official meeting.
4. Professional Development Funds
  - a. Nickolson explained that Woodland Community College has requested that these funds be divided equitably between the two colleges. The contract provides an annual total of \$20,000 District-wide for professional development, distributing \$750 per faculty member on a first-come, first-served basis.
  - b. Nickolson and May suggested that, halfway through the year, this is the wrong time to discuss this—but that, given the budget circumstances, travel and conferences should be the last thing we do.
  - c. The Senate agreed to return to the question in the Spring.
5. Proposed suspension of sabbaticals and travel
  - a. Canto-Lugo moved (Willson seconded) that the Senate recommend that faculty restrict travel this year to highly necessary activities. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Canto-Lugo moved (Turner seconded) that, due to the fiscal situation, the Senate recommend that faculty continue to apply for sabbaticals for the next year, but that, if approved, they postpone taking the sabbatical for a year. Discussion:
  - i. May noted that the Sabbatical committee is still meeting and accepting applications as scheduled.
  - ii. Sealander and Mathews have both agreed to postpone their sabbaticals. Willson praised the good spirit behind this.
  - iii. The Senate recognized the validity of arguments made by John Thoo in an email to the Senate stressing the value and importance of sabbaticals. Nickolson emphasized that deferring a sabbatical is not the same as cancelling it, nor does it take away from the following year's allotment of four. Stranix affirmed that this is all taken care of in the contract.
- c. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55. The secretary left the room hungry for the first time since Nickolson took office.