

Yuba College
Academic Senate
M I N U T E S
October 15, 2009

Senators Present: Nickolson (president), May (vice-president), Buckley, Canto-Lugo, Davidson, Kemble, Morgan, Ramsey, Stemmann, Turner, Weiss, Willson

Guests: Condrey, Cooper, Hulen, Syda

Meeting was called to order at 12:01. Nickolson provided paximadia, which you may remember from an earlier meeting. Apparently it freezes well.

1. Agenda: Approved with additions
 - a. 4b & 4c removed because they were discussed at the special Oct. 13 meeting.
 - b. New 4b: Response to Chancellor Harrington's op-ed.
 - c. 5a: Area A resolutions
2. Minutes: Oct. 8 minutes approved.
3. Announcements / Reports
 - a. Student Credit Count - Cooper
 - i. Researcher Eric Cooper explained that he had been asked to look at last fall semester's students' completion rates by attempted credits. Students taking the most units (17+) are most likely to stay registered, though their GPA does drop.
 - ii. Nickolson noted that this was in response to Orton's question about whether capping the number of units students took would allow other students to enroll, effectively increasing the number of students served without raising FTES. It turns out that this group (overloaded students) is least likely to drop, meaning the units are not "wasted," per se.
 - iii. Kemble noted that the drop in GPA could be seen as a reason to limit units, opening up spots for other students, but:
 1. Davidson noted that the students actually most likely to drop are the students with the least units. Why then are we looking at the high achievers?
 2. Cooper noted that only 1% of students are overloading, so the savings would be negligible. Morgan noted that this seems a small percentage of students to make an entire policy over.
 - iv. There was some disagreement over which students were being "punished"—the students who would not be allowed to overload, which might make following their education plan impossible, or the students who were not able to register because there are no openings.

- v. Nickolson noted that the counseling department recommended the maximum unit load for Spring be lowered from 19 to 16, keeping an opening for petitions.
 - vi. Buckley wanted more information to better make the decision of what would offer the most benefit for the least cost. Canto-Lugo moved (Willson seconded) that the researcher provide more data and, if it seems worthwhile, that the question be put to the students. Passed unanimously.
- b. President's Report – Nickolson
- i. Report emailed in advance (report follows minutes)
 - ii. The disciplines list will come out in June, to be approved District wide.
 - iii. Helen summarized the previous nights Board meeting. Noteworthy... well, notes:
 - 1. Several faculty attended both the work session and the meeting itself.
 - 2. Many students, including MESA, presented on the effects cutting their program (by cutting the staff running the program) would have on them and on the reputation of the school
 - 3. Dr. Adkins did a good job focusing on programs at Yuba.
 - 4. Nickolson read the report that had been approved Tuesday, and noted the two motions about professional development and sabbaticals.
 - 5. The Board, despite arguments from ASYC president Juan Cervantes and Student Trustee Stephen Frothingham, voted to approve travel funds. Only Trustee Nicholau voted against the motion, and he made clear he would be paying for travel on his own.
 - 6. Vice Chancellor Alt presented the 2009-10 budget. The budget and the cuts to staff were adopted.
 - 7. Doug Harris, president of ACTFA (the adjunct faculty union) noted that they had lost 69 adjunct positions. He said the union was willing to share in concessions. Other adjuncts also spoke, noting that things are very different at SFCC and wondering why there are 6 new administrators.
 - 8. Many classified spoke eloquently. After the cuts were adopted, many went outside and chanted "Shame on You!"
 - 9. Nickolson noted that it's important we attend work sessions. In this case, Dr. Harrington had prepared a package with information designed to prepare the Board for the forum about shared governance. However, she included an incorrect version of BP2510—something the Senate has been trying to address for a

year now. Nickolson's presence allowed that point to be made clear. (Kemble expressed surprise that, judging from the questions they asked, many on the Board—and not just the new members—seemed to be learning about the college's governing structure for the first time.) Nickolson hoped that we can have people at all work sessions and meetings in the future.

- c. Vice-President's Report – May
 - i. May noted that, at the Lake County Meeting, the Board and the Administration refrained from criticizing Helen and the Academic Senate. One year ago at the Lake County Meeting, the Board read aloud a declaration stating that the Senate was involved in collective bargaining issues, even though we were not and never had been. Then the following month, Dr. Harrington hired a second-rate lawyer to perform a skit accusing the Senate of a witch hunt against, of all people, Al Alt. One year later, the Board is refraining from such silliness, thanks to Helen's indefatigable energy in defending the Senate and insisting that the Board and the Administration follow its own policies. Helen's defense of the Senate is itself one of her great accomplishments as Academic Senate President.
4. Old Business
- a. Summer Session
 - i. Nickolson asked that the issue of summer session go to the divisions for input next week.
 - b. Response to Dr. Harrington's Op-Ed from Sunday.
 - i. The Senate agreed that the letter (originally presented by Kemble on behalf of a group of faculty members) had important things to say, but that the Senate was the wrong vehicle.
5. New business – No time.

Meeting adjourned at 12:52.

YUBA COLLEGE
Academic Senate

TO: Academic Senate
FROM: Helen Nickolson
SUBJECT: Weekly P Report
DATE: October 14, 2009

- Meeting with Adkins, Trutna, and May—October 8, 2009:
 - The two faculty coordinator positions—Curriculum and Flex—will be advertised as required by the YCFA Contract
 - The draft budget process that the Senate responded to last year will be taken to College Council for review
 - Summer Session needs to be finalized before Thanksgiving
 - We decided to merge the Educational Master Plan Committee with the Accreditation Committee since the two will need to work so closely together. We had a tentative Accreditation Committee list outlined last year, but there have been numerous changes with many faculty not able to participate. We had not, however, worked on a list for the Educational Master Plan. We will tackle this on
 - We will meet Monday, October 12th with YCFA, Woodland Community College administration and senate to discuss sabbatical leaves and professional development funds
 - We will invite VC Alt to the College Council to receive information on Allocation Models for distribution of district funds. We will probably need to invite VC Alt several times over a period of time to College Council to thoroughly review the models and make recommendations to district administration
 - Dr. Adkins and VP Trutna will attend the Mentor Program meeting on October 9th
 - We discussed approaches to make the October 16th Board and Senate meeting/forum flow smoothly. This meeting/forum has some unusual aspects and our intent is to have this be a worthwhile gathering with as many questions answered as possible.

Meeting with YCFA, WWC administration and senate to discuss sabbatical leaves and professional development funds—Monday, October 12, 2009:

- Per Dr. Espinoza, the Sabbatical Committee met last Friday. They agreed to hold the regular process for sabbatical applications for 2010/2011. If the two previous selected faculty decide to voluntarily defer their sabbatical leaves one more year, they would have top priority for 2010/2011. The positions/openings for 2010/2011 would be the two from the past and the four that are normally allowed by contract for a total of six:

- Per Tim May, Sara Sealander and Robert Mathews have chosen to postpone their approved sabbatical leaves for another year and have written letters to that effect
 - A workshop on sabbatical will be held Friday at noon
 - The YC Senate will discuss sabbatical leaves and make a recommendation although this is a contractual issue and no faculty need to follow the recommendation
- Professional Development Funds were discussed:
 - Nickolson and May stated that this is not the appropriate time for travel and not the appropriate time to discuss how funds should be distributed
 - Distribution between the two colleges should be discussed thoroughly and thoughtfully perhaps in the spring semester
 - The YC Senate will make a recommendation on the use of professional development funds this year

Special Senate meeting—Tuesday, October 13, 2009:

- The senate worked on the report/position paper for the Oct. 14th board meeting
- Two motions passed unanimously regarding sabbaticals and travel

College Council meeting—Tuesday, October 13, 2009:

- We worked primarily on defining the role and purpose of the College Council
- I inadvertently adjourned the meeting half an hour early

Board Meeting—Wednesday, October 14, 2009:

- I will read the report/position paper that the Senate helped prepare at the Tuesday meeting