

Yuba Community College District
Academic Senate
Approved
M I N U T E S
April 5, 2007

Senators Present: Rubiales (Chair), Nickolson (Vice Chair), Althausen, Correa, Galamba, Gomez, Heaton, May, Ng-Hale, Schoenherr.

Senators Absent: Canto-Lugo, Kitchen, Rubiales, Willson.

Guests: Lowe, Mendoza.

1. Nickolson opened the meeting at 12. An addition to the minutes by Galamba was accepted: faculty concerns regarding the weighing of the diversity statement in the faculty hiring process needed more emphasis. Heaton expressed reservations concerning the wording of the President's Report; approval of the minutes was tabled.
2. Nickolson said that a report on the mentoring program will be presented next week. She also summarized a meeting between the Senate and administrative leadership concerning the committee structure transition to a multi-college district. Lowe distributed a handout that provides an overview of district committees and their transition from district to college level over the next two years. Galamba and others joined in thanking Lowe for the information.
3. The issue of the administrative memo regarding final exams was re-visited. Senators renewed the request to have the Vice President of Instruction explain the final exam memo to the Senate. Schoenherr believes the issue is an example of micro-managing; instructors already understand procedures and protocol during the final exam period. Galamba believes we need clarification of the problem; it seems the faculty is being presented a solution, but what exactly is the problem? Further discussion on the issue was tabled until Trutna can attend and explain the issues relative to final examinations.
4. The Academic Preparation Committee is discussing a recent State Academic Senate Resolution. May shared State Resolution F04 9.05 R with the others. It states: "Resolved, that the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges support the enrollment of students who are assessed as needing pre-collegiate basic skills into basic skills courses prior to their enrollment in college-level work." May volunteered to act as Senate liaison with the Academic Preparation Committee, which is discussing why and how the District should respond to the State Senate resolution. May will also ask APC to report to the Senate and will ask that David Waite provide some research on the pass rate of basic skills students enrolled in collegiate courses. Lowe cautioned that APC needs to clarify exactly what is meant by collegiate coursework.
5. A statement requesting Senate action on a plagiarism policy was tabled; Trutna will be asked to discuss what is being asked of faculty and why.

6. Mendoza summarized the rationale for the document entitled, "Multi-College Council and Committee Structure." He said there were two levels of discussion: why and how the committee structure must evolve in a multi-college district. Mendoza said the foundation of the plan comes from the multi-college task force, and that WASP accreditation requirements compel the creation of independent committees for each campus. Senators expressed concern that the process being followed in constructing a transition plan seems to exclude shared governance with the Senate. Concern was also expressed that a fundamental reorganization of 11 working committees in just two years will disrupt district operations and adversely affect basic student needs such as graduation requirements, matriculation, academic standards, etc. Mendoza offered to return and discuss the matter further with the Senate.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.