

Yuba Community College District  
**Academic Senate**  
M I N U T E S  
April 12, 2007

**Senators Present:** Rubiales (Chair), Nickolson (Vice Chair), Althausen, Canto-Lugo, Correa, Gomez, Heaton, Kitchen, May, Ng-Hale, Schoenherr, Willson.

**Absent:** Galamba.

**Guests:** Martin, Lehrer, Lowe.

1. The meeting was called to order by Rubiales at 12:05 p.m.
2. The agenda was approved. Minutes of the March 29 and April 5 meetings were approved.
3. President's Report: The 13 District hiring committees are in various stages of screening applications, selecting applicants, and interviewing. The committee hiring process is proceeding in a manner consistent with Senate policies. The Language Arts Dean Committee will interview candidates next week. The Distance Education Dean Committee has selected a candidate; references are being contacted. The Woodland Dean position announcement has just been posted. Rubiales said that established protocol would call for him to serve on the Woodland Dean hiring committee; he will instead ask that Galamba serve as his designee.
4. Vice-President's Report: Nickolson reported that the question of whether the Deans and Directors ( D & D ) Meetings be open continues to be an issue. Gomez said that a subcommittee of District Council had advised D & D to open its meetings and distribute its minutes to improve District communication. Canto-Lugo said collegiality and shared governance would improve if the meetings were open. Lowe explained that D & D is not a representative group, like the Senate; Lowe said it is instead a working management session, and that its deliberations must remain closed in order to discuss delicate personnel, contractual and budgetary matters. May said that when D & D discusses sensitive issues, the group can go into closed session, just as the Senate does. The following motion (Nickolson/Gomez) was passed by the Senate: **The Academic Senate requests that D & D Meetings be open to all faculty members.** Rubiales said he would present this Senate recommendation to the Administration and report back.
5. Nickolson said a Chancellor's Office accountability report, presented at an April 11 workshop, reveals that Yuba College is satisfactory in most areas. But it also noted that the level of completion for our basic skills courses is low. More information on the report is available online at the California Community College Office website.
6. A discussion of an administrative memo regarding final exams was tabled until Trutna can attend and explain the issues relative to this D & D recommendation.
7. Schoenherr provided a Senate election report. Three Senate positions for next year have been filled. Kelly Boren will represent Health, PE, and Student Services.

- Bob Abele will be the Senator for Fine Arts and Social Sciences. Angela Willson will represent Life Sciences and Allied Health. The current ballot for the two at-large positions has been thrown out. A new ballot will allow faculty to vote for two candidates, not just one. The candidate with the most votes will serve the three-year term; the runner-up will serve the one-year term. The new ballot will be distributed on Monday, April 16; faculty will have through Friday, April 20 to vote. There are three candidates for the two positions: Leticia Gomez, Greg Kemble, and Daniel Turner.
8. The New Faculty Mentor Program was approved by the Senate. Nickolson will distribute copies of the program report to faculty and administration. Senators thanked Nickolson, Heaton, Schoenherr, Correa, and Harvey for the time and effort that went into designing the mentor program, which will be ready for implementation for the 2007-2008 academic year.
  9. May reported that the Academic Preparation Committee supports the State Senate resolution that basic skills students should be required to complete pre-collegiate coursework prior to enrollment in collegiate courses. May asked Rubiales to contact the Academic Preparation Committee to schedule either a presentation by APC to the Senate or a joint Senate-APC meeting to discuss the matter.
  10. Althausen expressed his frustration with District field trip procedures. Previously, minor field trips off campus could be scheduled with a minimum of paperwork and approval. Now a trip across town requires a paperwork procedure similar to a trip out of state or abroad. Lowe stated that a field trip is a field trip; new procedures, he stated, address perceived liability issues.
  11. There will be no Senate meeting next week, April 19, due to the State Senate Meetings.
  12. The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.