

Yuba Community College District  
**Academic Senate**  
M I N U T E S  
May 3, 2007

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

Guests: Graciano, Kemble, Lowe, Williams.

1. The agenda was approved. Minutes of the April 23 meeting were approved.
2. President's Report: Rubiales reported on the various meetings held the previous week:
  - a. Possible District Plagerism Policy: Farrell, Rubiales, Nickolson.
  - b. District Committee Structure: Rubiales, Nickolson, Mendoza. Revised draft pending.
  - c. Policy for Automatic Refill of Faculty Positions: Williams, Rubiales, Lowe. A revised final statement will be circulated to faculty next week. That revised statement will make explicit provision for library and counseling positions in addition to subject area faculty.
  - d. Revised Final Exam Policy: Rubiales and Lowe. Draft for Approval at May 10 meeting.
3. Rubiales reported that a summary of the Plenary Session is available on the State Academic Website. Rubiales, when asked, said that only four members were funded for attendance at the State meeting because it had been assumed that District would provide separate funds for the two campuses. When that did not happen, only two from Marysville were able to attend.
4. Nickolson reported that YCFA has completed its review of the Faculty Evaluation and Tenure Procedures of the handbook. The document is available on the District website.
5. Graciano and Ng gave a summary of the proposed "Sponsored Experience" or mentor program. Graciano and Ng both began their teaching careers as Los Rios graduate students who were part of a mentoring program. They explained the purposes of such a program. Mentoring allows MA candidates and graduates without prior teaching experience receive the guidance of an experienced faculty mentor. The proposed program is patterned after the one used by Los Rios. One intention is that good candidates for teaching will wind up having a positive impression of the District and want to teach at a later date for Yuba College. Schoenherr said that it is important that adjunct faculty do not perceive the program as an effort to displace adjuncts; Kitchen agreed. A draft of the program proposal will be considered for adoption at the next Senate meeting.
6. In further discussion of the final exam policy, Canto-Lugo expressed reservations that Distance Education faculty members and students needed to be considered; Lowe agreed. Rubiales said that the document was significantly improved over

- the one that originally came out of D & D. Lowe will continue to modify the document, incorporating a suggestion by Kemble to avoid a major redundancy. The final document will be considered for adoption at the May 10 meeting.
7. Rubiales reported that the Administration agrees that the Academic Standards Grading Subcommittee, comprised of faculty members only, should adjudicate all student grade appeals.
  8. Rubiales said that in his meeting with Farrell regarding a District plagiarism policy, he sensed willingness by the administration to defer to the faculty on any new policy. Apparently the State Senate has called attention to a trend in increased student cheating. The District policy regarding plagiarism is enumerated in the Student Code of Conduct, which is found on the District website. Even so, the Academic Standards Subcommittee has asked for Senate action on the following proposal, which was accepted by consensus:  
*“The Senate is asked to endorse a recommendation that all faculty members add a statement to their course syllabus stating what sanction(s) will be imposed should a student be caught cheating or submitting plagiarized work.”*
  9. The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.