

Yuba Community College District
Academic Senate
M I N U T E S
May 1, 2008

Senators Present: Rubiales (Chair), Abele, Althausen, Boren, Canto-Lugo, Gomez, Heaton, Kemble, Kitchen, May, Morgan, Willson.

Guests: Davidson, Lowe, Murai, Syda, Trutna, Williams.

1. The meeting was called to order by President David M. Rubiales at 12 p.m.
2. Rubiales announced that after consultation with the administration, the 20% released time granted to the Woodland Senate rep can be used in the fall by the Marysville Senate. Woodland has its own Senate with release time arrangements, so a Senator from Woodland will no longer be attending meetings up here.
3. A reminder was given that the Senate retreat will be held at Helen Nickolson's home on Friday, May 30, starting at 10 a.m. A list of possible discussion topics will be put together beforehand. Senators, outgoing Senators, and new Senators will attend.
4. The need for a Senate secretary was discussed. Several senators were pressured to volunteer; as yet, no one has succumbed to peer pressure.
5. Greg Kemble gave a presentation on the Staffing Committee matrix and posed certain questions for Senate consideration. Greg said he believes the matrix is a sound and fair tool for ranking academic positions, and he also emphasized that is merely a starting place for ranking.
The crucial area of discussion was whether the matrix provides sufficient emphasis on basic skills subjects. Since the State is pushing hard for improving instruction in basic math, reading, writing and ESL, shouldn't the matrix reflect that trend? In discussion, Senators pointed out that fewer transfer students and more ESL and basic skills students make up our student population, yet that fact is not reflected by our hiring practices. Also, more and more unprepared students are being placed in college level courses because there are too few course offerings for them. Greg urged Senators to consider the matrix and talk with other faculty. The issue of adjusting our criteria for ranking positions will be revisited at the May 8 meeting.
6. Rick Murai summarized the progress of the Study Abroad Task Force. By the end of the semester the group will go to the Board with a package of short-term courses. A full semester abroad program is not realistic for the College at this time. The package of courses put before the Board will offer programs in which students can gain credit for individual courses abroad. (Geology in Costa Rica; British Lit in London, etc.) A Senate motion was passed to establish the Study Abroad Task Force as a standing Senate Committee, with five faculty members and an administrator. (Canto-Lugo/Althausen) Meanwhile, the group will soon have a written description of its study abroad proposals.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

4-7 tm