

Yuba Community College District
Academic Senate
M I N U T E S
August 23, 2007

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

Senators Excused: Abele, Gomez

1. The agenda was approved. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting—May 17—were delayed until next week.
2. President's Report:
 - Rubiales said the Board of Trustees is making a concerted attempt to take their performance to another level. Faculty consensus is that the goals established at the Strategic Planning Session are ambitious but worthwhile.
 - The 2006 Staff Diversity Report was distributed. The Senate will revisit diversity this fall and plan strategies for improving the diversity of our faculty, especially in comparison to other Districts.
3. Vice-President's Report:

Nickolson distributed a list of the Senate representatives on non-tenured faculty evaluation committees. Also, a Senate 'to do' list will be shared at the next meeting. The faculty mentor program is up and running; a full schedule of meetings are planned.
3. Due to a limited number of volunteers (one), May was elected Senate Secretary for the year.
4. Rubiales reported that the Language Arts Dean Position will close in late September. Since the President last spring rejected the search committee's choice, securing a new dean will be even more difficult in this third hiring round since a standard of minimal qualification for the position has now been established by the President's action that is not typical of the candidate pools for Associate Deans. Willson pointed out that the President's actions have created two problems: first, the minimal standard that he established appears to differ with the one published and distributed by Personnel; secondly, his action devalues the hard work and time contributed by the members of the search committee. As a result, faculty will be reluctant to serve on committees whose findings are not respected.
5. The situation of the portable classrooms not being ready for the first week of instruction was discussed. Discussion centered on two problems—first, why was construction delayed for so long? Second, why was a plan for alternate classroom meeting places not in place until well into the week—and only upon demand by faculty?
6. Rubiales initiated an analysis of Fall Convocation. The consensus is that when it comes to topics such as diversity and critical thinking, resident faculty can effectively address such topics more effectively and less expensively. The

- Academic Senate should be brought into the planning process for future convocations in order to address this concern.
7. As agreed last spring, the last Thursday of each month will be devoted to a Senate Forum, with all faculty invited to attend. Faculty throughout the District are encouraged to suggest topics for the forum and to attend. During the last week, the Senate will schedule its hold its regular meeting on Friday at 2 p.m. A forum will not take place this month due to the number of conflicting activities at the start of the semester. The first forum will take place September 27 in Room 201; the topic will be discussed at next week's meeting.
 8. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.