



ACADEMIC SENATE

ADOPTED MINUTES

March 16, 2009
Board Room 626
3:00 – 5:00pm

1. Call to Order

Ms. Kropp called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Robin Arie-Donch, Floyd Burnsed (substituting for John Nagle), Erin Farmer-*ex officio*, Ferdinanda Florence, Joseph Conrad, Lisa Giambastiani, Michael Goodwin, Debbie Kalish, Jeanette McCarthy, Lou McDermott, Rennee Moore-*ex officio*, Carl Ogden, Thom Watkins, Gail Kropp (*Past President* – substituting for Jeff Lamb)

Christy Martin, Administrative Assistant

Absent/Excused: Jeff Lamb

3. Approval of Agenda – March 16, 2009

Motion to Approve – Senator Florence; M/S/P – Unanimous

Amendments: Item eight on the agenda will become Action Items; making Action Reminders number nine, Announcements number ten, and Adjournment number eleven. The Faculty Senate Resolution from mathematics will be moved from information/discussion items and will be placed as an Action Item.

4. Approval of Minutes – February 23, 2009 & March 2, 2009

Motion to Approve Senator Watkins; M/S/P – Unanimous

Amendments: Erin Farmer should be addressed as Curriculum Chair (CC) Farmer, not Senator Farmer. Grammatical corrections were made in both sets of minutes.

February 23: On page five, the phrase “so as to not have such a broad term,” was stricken from the comments made by Senator Arie-Donch.

March 2: On page three, the statement “Dr. Jensen believes that cutting people is the best way to gain money” was stricken from the minutes. Dr. Jensen’s remark on “how we could pick so many losing horses,” on page three was further clarified by adding that “It has been suggested to Dr. Jensen that either there is a very unhealthy environment at the college, the hiring process is flawed, or a combination of both.” Senator McCarthy requested that the latter part of her statement, “Senator McCarthy asked if there should be a more specified number when stating that the decision will be made by the mathematics

faculty; should it state majority or consensus,” be changed to “should the resolution state majority or consensus.” Senator Arie-Donch noted that on page four, the statement “Curriculum Chair Farmer stated that CurricUNET would likely be in use before assist.org, so she would rather keep them separate,” should read “Curriculum Chair Farmer stated that CurricUNET would likely be in use before assist.org training, so she would rather keep them separate.”

5. President’s Report

- Available for viewing at sccsenate.blogspot.com

6. Reports

- Distance Education Committee – Rennee Moore

The last two meetings of the Distance Education Committee have not been at quorum. Senator Moore asked if there was a representative from the Humanities Department. Senator Giambastiani and Ms. Kropp stated that they would bring this issue forward in their next department meeting. Senator Moore further noted that two other voting members of the committee are deans and are usually tied up with other affairs. Because the committee has had a difficult time reaching a quorum, they have been unable to gain official approval of the language regarding the in-person final exam policies. The committee would like to add language to the online section of the course catalog and schedule which would state, “Your attendance may be required at a final exam with the administrator on campus, please see the class schedule for details.” The State Academic Senate will be meeting in June and will be sending out an interpretation of how colleges should proceed with verifying student identity to address concerns regarding online exams. Senator Moore stated that she would like to have a finalized statement for the Senate to vote on and approve at the next meeting.

Comments/Questions: Senator McCarthy asked when the catalogs are going to be printed. Senator Moore stated that the print date has been changed several times and there is presently no set date for print. Senator Moore noted that this language could be placed online at the student’s login. Ms. Pavao asked if this information would be given to the students before they actually register for the class. Senator Giambastiani noted that posting this information at login is too late, because the student will have already signed up for the class. Senator Moore stated that because students don’t always read everything fully, this information should be discussed with students by the counselors, listed in the online course catalog, and also posted on the login page. Senator Moore also asked whether a vote on the language actually required since this is an optional requirement of faculty. Senator Conrad stated that the mathematics department has a similar policy regarding the possible requirement of a graphing calculator for certain courses, and that the Senate did not vote on this language, that the mathematics department only included it so that students could be aware of possible requirements. Senator Ogden then stated that the Senate should consider having a policy for determining whether or not a statement requires a vote. Ms. Kropp stated that any further discussion on this topic was

premature without knowing what guidelines will be mandated by the State Academic Senate. Ms. Kropp noted that it would be a good idea to get the language into the catalog stating the possibility of face to face exams for students.

7. Information/Discussion Items

- Transfer and Articulation Resolutions – Barbara Pavao & Robin Arie- Donch

Senator Arie-Donch circulated several handouts. The first contained two resolutions that will be presented at the Academic Senate Plenary session. Since President Lamb will be voting on these resolutions, Senator Arie-Donch and Ms. Pavao want to ensure that the Senators know how to support President Lamb in these decisions.

- Students who have completed AP courses in high school have the option of taking an AP aptitude test in order to gain college course equivalent credit. A score of three or better is considered a college level achievement.
- In the past, each college has prepared a list which indicates which courses will be credited to the student once they pass an AP exam. This presents a problem for students who may be transferring course credits which were earned via examination, as each college adheres to a list which is unique to their institution.
- The CSU and the UC have come to a statewide agreement regarding the general education credits that can be earned by students scoring a 3 or better on their AP exams. The State Academic Senate is proposing a resolution that the California Community Colleges accept a similar policy.
- This resolution standardizes how AP is used on community college campuses for general education, and extends flexibility to students in meeting the general education requirements of their degree program.

Comments/Questions: Ms. Kropp stated that President Lamb will likely bring this issue before the Senate and ask for a consensus. Ms. Kropp noted that each Senator should take this issue back to their constituents and inform them that the counseling faculty is in favor of this resolution. Senator Arie-Donch added that articulation officers and transfer center directors across the state are also in support of this resolution. Senator Arie-Donch noted that the faculty still had the option of raising the required exam score where they see fit; for example, the faculty may feel that in order for an art history major to earn art history credit through AP examination, that student must earn a minimum score of 4 (not 3) on the exam.

- The second resolution is seeking the widespread dissemination of the *California Community College Transfer: Recommended Guidelines* (2006), which was co-published by CCC Chancellor's Office and the CCC Transfer

Center Directors Association. This document contains information on minimum standards and best practices for transfer centers and should be utilized in making decisions about programs.

Comments/Questions: Ms. Kropp suggested that this issue should be included as an action item or information/discussion item in an upcoming meeting so that President Lamb may gather a consensus from the Senate before Plenary.

- Title 5 Changes – Robin Arie-Donch

Title 5 has changed so that now all courses required for a major must be passed with a grade of C or better. Senator Arie-Donch has circulated this information regarding these changes and the new wording in the catalog to numerous people, including Dr. Steinback and Pei-Lin Van'tHul. There now needs to be an introductory statement in the catalog preceding each major stating that all courses for the major must be completed with a grade of C or better. Although there are currently some majors which already have this statement listed in the catalog, each major has worded this statement differently, resulting in confusion, and Senator Arie-Donch has proposed that each statement preceding the major should have consistent language in order to convey the same message. Senator Arie-Donch also stated that the easiest way to incorporate these changes into the catalog was to clearly communicate these requests to Dr. Steinback, Pei-Lin Van'tHul, the Curriculum Chair, President Lamb, and Senators.

Comments/Questions: Senator Conrad questioned if the approval of this statement would be required to go before the Curriculum Committee. Senator Arie-Donch stated that because this is mandated by the state, the Curriculum Committee would not have the authority to *not* approve the statement. Senator Florence commented that what is needed is a standard statement that can be inserted and applied to every major. Senator Arie-Donch agreed, further stating that the language of the statement would be voted on by the Curriculum Committee. Ms. Farmer restated the importance of consistency in the statement. Senator McCarthy questioned whether this would be applied to majors earning both certificates and degrees; Senator Arie-Donch confirmed that it would apply to both courses of study, as well as to any area of emphasis in the new university studies degree. Senator Arie-Donch will send an electronic version of the changes to Title 5 to all Senators. Senator Arie-Donch further mentioned that, at some point, there needs to be a campus-wide discussion regarding the current policy of acceptance of earning a D in general education courses. Senator Arie-Donch stated that the college should discuss the possibility of requiring a C or better in general education courses, and that the Senate and Curriculum Committee should weigh in on this issue. Senator Giambastiani asked if

students would be allowed to repeat a course with the grade of a D. Senator Arie-Donch stated that students are currently allowed to repeat a course with a grade of D.

- Code of Conduct

There has been a drafted version of the Code of Conduct. Ms. Kropp noted that this draft sparked some debate via email and asked that this issue now be discussed.

Comments/Questions: Senator Florence stated that she brought this Code of Conduct forward at her division meeting and was pleased to have George Maguire offer a document entailing a code of ethics for performers. Mr. Maguire informed Senator Florence that the content of this document has been adopted by professionals in varying fields. Ms. Kropp asked that Senator Florence distribute copies of the document to Senators. Senator McCarthy stated that she felt this Code of Conduct does not contain practical daily guidelines, but instead felt this Code of Conduct was directly targeted towards those who are going to the Board. Senator McCarthy further expressed that she felt this Code of Conduct attempted to regulate behavior, and that it is difficult to legislate how one might behave in regard to their feelings. Ms. Kropp noted that the nature of the draft seemed very restrictive. Ms. Farmer asked to what extent the Senate could take this drafted Code of Conduct and modify it into something that deals primarily with faculty integrity and responsibility, and in so doing, allow the faculty to be able to say that they are following these guidelines because it is their professional responsibility, thereby removing any perception of the Code being a regulation of behavior. Ms. Kropp questioned the meaning of point five in the drafted Code of Conduct, which states that members should “uphold the faculty and staff code of ethics.” Senator McCarthy stated that if we do have an approved Code of Ethics, we would not need a rule that required us to follow this code of ethics. Ms. Kropp suggested that we research what is already in the faculty handbook and also look at the language in Title 5. Mr. Grube stated that he believed this Code of Conduct for faculty has come about mainly because the Board established a Code of Conduct. Mr. Grube expressed his concern that this code could be used against the faculty if they ever chose to exercise their right to protest with signs, for example. An open discussion from Senators led Ms. Farmer to suggest that the Senate may simply want to support a resolution stating that since the Board has adopted a Code of Conduct, the faculty will acknowledge and support their efforts. Senator Giambastiani stated that the Senate should first look at their Code of Ethics. Ms. Kropp summarized that in order to research the Faculty Code of Ethics, the Senate should first research what the faculty handbook contains, explore what Title 5 may have to offer, and review the AAUP statement on academic freedom and responsibility. Senator Conrad suggested that it could be effective to send out an email to the Board from the Senate and Union Presidents stating the faculty’s support of the Board’s Code of Conduct. Senator Watkins

asked for clarification on whether the Senate was going to work on producing an actual Code of Conduct or simply a resolution. Ms. Kropp stated that it was her understanding, based on the conversations from today's meeting, that there is a desire to focus on a faculty/staff response to the Board's Code of Conduct, which would best be drafted in the form of a resolution, acknowledging the efforts of the Board and the faculty's desire to support these efforts. Senator Moore suggested that the Senate should craft and vote on this document and then have the unions and other campus groups write a resolution in support of the Senate's resolution. Mr. Grube responded that the Senate could write the resolution and ask other unions/groups whether or not they are in support of the resolution. Ms. Kropp asked for a volunteer(s) to work on composing this resolution. Senator Conrad volunteered to work on the resolution. Ms. Kropp stated that she and Senator Florence could join Senator Conrad in working on this resolution.

- Union/Senate Relations

Senator Moore explained that she had been sent a letter stating that there is concern regarding the perceived closeness of Senate and Union relations, and stated that relations and boundaries between these two bodies be made clear and open. At the time this letter was sent, talk of pink slips and the program reduction had been circulating. In this instance, the Senate and Union would be at odds because the Senate would be working to save programs and the Union would be working to save jobs.

Comments/Questions: Ms. Kropp asked if this concern has died down since pink slips were not issued. Senator Moore responded that the concern initially stemmed from a FlexCal meeting where President Lamb made statements that seemed to be Union generated. Senator Moore stated that each group should clearly uphold their responsibilities. Senator Watkins stated that he had two constituents which came to him with the same concerns. Ms. Kropp noted that in her training as Senate President, she was taught that using the Union contract to uphold the pedagogical goals of 10+1 would put the faculty in a much stronger position. Ms. Kropp expressed that the lines of communication should be very clear between Mr. Grube and President Lamb. Senator Giambastiani stated that she was unclear on the issue at hand and asked for a more concrete example of constituent concerns. Senator Moore responded that at a FlexCal meeting, President Lamb was advocating for Union issues and he even stated that he should not have spoken on these issues. Senator Giambastiani noted that President Lamb made a public apology for his statements regarding Union issues, which Senator Moore acknowledged, but added that at a previous Senate meeting a box of flyers were being passed around by Senators containing Union materials from a meeting with Ron Reel that had occurred earlier in the same day. Ms. Kropp believed the box to have been left in the boardroom from a previous meeting. Senator Moore confirmed that the meeting had not

taken place in the boardroom and that these flyers were brought into the boardroom. Senator Moore stated that she is bringing forth the perception of constituents that there is too much intermingling between the Union and the Senate. Mr. Grube stated that he brought the box of flyers into the boardroom with the specific intention that they be distributed to the Senators. Ms. Kropp stated that, as a faculty member, she was grateful to have access to this flyer because she had been in class during the meeting; she took this as the Union attempting to spread the word on what happened in their meeting, not as the Union trying to infiltrate the Senate meeting. Ms. Kropp expressed that it would only be beneficial to have the Union and Senate working together. Senator Watkins replied that Ms. Kropp was missing the point and that there was more to this issue than what is being discussed. Senator Watkins stated that the Union and the Senate may be aware of their healthy working relationship, but that the average faculty member may not. Senator McCarthy noted that (regarding President Lamb's comments at FlexCal) there are certain things that should not be addressed publicly. Senator McCarthy noted that this was a learning experience for the Senate president and that it was simply a mistake. Mr. Grube agreed that this instance was a mistake and that President Lamb went above and beyond to apologize for making these statements in a public forum. Senator Moore stated that it has been brought to her attention that in the past, former Senate president Charles Schatzer and Union president Jim Mills worked together to create a document that created areas that separated the two groups and spoke on the relationship between the two groups; however, Senator Moore had so far been unable to locate this document. Senator Moore restated that this issue was initially brought up prior to March 15, and she wished it could have taken place when it was at its height. Mr. Grube stated that before he was considered for the position of Union president, someone stated to him that the Union and the Senate should be completely separate from one another. Mr. Grube expressed that he did not agree with this idea and stated that he would like examples of where these issues and concerns are originating. Senator Moore stated that she feels that it is the duty of the Union and Senate to be upfront about their relations with one another. Senator Moore added that any hesitation to be open about these relations was wrong. Ms. Kropp stated that, aside from examples of the box of flyers and the statement made by President Lamb at FlexCal, she was unclear on any other concrete example regarding an issue in relations. Senator Moore responded that both of the (previously mentioned) issues are real concerns from faculty members and that it is poor practice to ignore their genuine concerns. Senator Moore stated that she didn't feel it too much to ask to have these two bodies be clear and transparent in their dealing with one another. Senator Florence suggested that it may be beneficial to search for the document created by the former Union and Senate presidents regarding roles and relations. Senator McCarthy volunteered to research this document. Senator Conrad reiterated the words of Senator Moore by stating that there is simply a request that both bodies be cognizant of the fact that misperceptions can be made by any faculty and staff members, despite both bodies' good intentions. Senator

Conrad continued by saying that mistakes have been made and in the future mistakes should be addressed quickly. Ms. Kropp reminded Senators that Senator McCarthy would be searching for the previously mentioned Union/Senate roles and relations document. Senator Arie-Donch made a final statement that the Senate should also be cognizant that there are issues which overlap between the Union and Senate. Senator Moore responded that these issues should also be openly addressed.

8. Action Items

- Faculty Senate Resolution – Joseph Conrad (Addendum, Page 9)
Senator Conrad read the mathematics resolution aloud.
Motion to Approve – Senator McDermott; M/S/P – Unanimous

9. Action Reminders

- Senators Conrad and Florence, and Ms. Kropp will begin working on a Senate resolution addressing the Board's Code of Conduct.
- Senator Moore will work to finalize the language to be posted for all distance education courses.
- President Lamb and Mrs. Martin will clarify the meeting times, places, and topics for the Friday (3/20/09) and Monday (3/23/09) joint meetings.
- President Lamb and Mrs. Martin will include a discussion of the upcoming vote at Plenary regarding the AP and transfer resolutions.
- Senator McCarthy will research the Union/Senate roles and relations document.
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10. Announcements

No announcement

11. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn Senator Arie-Donch; M/S/P – Unanimous

Addendum

Faculty Senate Resolution

Whereas the statewide requirement for an associate degree has been changed,

Whereas the new requirement states, in part, “competence in mathematics shall be demonstrated by obtaining a satisfactory grade in a mathematics course at the level of the course typically known as Intermediate Algebra (either Intermediate Algebra or another mathematics course at the same level, with the same rigor and with Elementary Algebra as a prerequisite, approved locally) ... ,”

Whereas the faculty members of the mathematics department are uniquely qualified to determine whether a course is at the same level and has the same rigor as Intermediate Algebra,

Be it resolved that any course proposed for the fulfillment of this requirement must be approved for such by a majority of the full-time faculty of the mathematics department.