



ACADEMIC SENATE

Adopted Minutes

September 13, 2010

Board Room 626

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

1. Call to Order

President Thomas Watkins called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm

2. Roll Call:

Thomas Watkins, President

Darryl Allen, Kim Becker, Nick Cittadino, Abla Christiansen, Erin Duane – *ex officio*, Alena Hairston, LaNae Jaimez, Richard Kleeberg, Lou McDermott, John Nagle, Karen Wanek

Late Arrival: Susanna Crawford

Absent: Dale Crandall-Bear – *ex officio*,

Guests: Jowel Laguerre, American Public University System (APUS) guest speaker-Craig Gilman, Flex Cal Chair - Charles Spillner

Connie Adams, Interim Admin Assistant

3. Approval of Agenda – September 13, 2010

Motion to Approve Agenda – Senator Nagle; Seconded – Senator Kleeberg; Unanimous

4. Approval of Minutes – May 17, May 24 and August 12, 2010

Motion to Approve May 17 & May 24 Minutes – Senator McDermott; Seconded – Senator Nagle; Unanimous

Motion to Approve August 12 Minutes – Senator Kleeberg; Seconded – Senator Cittadino; Abstention – Senator McDermott; Unanimous

5. Comments from the Public

None

6. President's Report

President Watkins introduced Executive Vice President Arturo Reyes who will present reports to the Senate when S/P Laguerre is unavailable. EVP Reyes expressed that he will work with the Senate on any issues in a broadened capacity and be a resource, will run things by and through Senators, and ask for support for issues he'll be working on during the semester. EVP Reyes encouraged Senators to ask any questions relating to his or S/P Laguerre's position.

EVP Reyes noted the opportunity he had to meet with California Congressman, John Garamendi, regarding federal funding and told Senators that S/P Laguerre is meeting with him today. President Watkins stated that he's known EVP Reyes for two years through membership on the Travis Credit Union Board, in which EVP Reyes is Chairman, and President Watkins vouched for his work ethic and knowledge.

EVP Reyes gave a brief introduction to the American Public University (APU) (see item 7.2) and stated that they are interested in forming a partnership with Solano College. If this partnership agreement is made, Solano would be the first community college to send students to the APU online university, which is probably the least expensive for-profit online university. The APU guest speaker, Craig Gilman, will present more information. An MOU (memorandum of understanding) would be a transfer agreement, so students who complete an AA in specified Solano courses, would be accepted to APU's program and for

a cost around \$15,000, the students could earn a BA degree. The lower cost is an important factor and includes textbooks. APU is fully accredited and would have a transfer expert to work with Solano students. EVP Reyes further explained that, for a little while, Solano might be the exclusive pipeline to APU, which would encourage higher student attendance here for AAs that could be transferred to APU.

President Watkins emphasized that the Senate voted last semester to ACCEPT THE INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT LAGUERRE to include the Senate President as a member of the Superintendent/President's Cabinet which meets every Thursday at 2:30 pm. Senators were invited to let Senate President Watkins know if they have any items to take to the Cabinet meetings. He addressed the budget question that was brought up at the last Senate meeting regarding what will happen after the September 30 payroll. President Watkins stated that S/P Laguerre had sent an answer via email and reiterated in FaBPAC that he is working with the county and other solutions to make it through. Solano can make another loan and cut back on some expenses, such as conferences and supplies. Budget forums are being scheduled. President Watkins noted that Roy Stutzman, interim Finance Director, is really clear and concise in explaining finances. President Watkins responded to questions: vouchers are not a consideration on the table; 85% of apportionment can be borrowed; and, student services will be kept strong. He also noted plans for a celebration of Puente, Umoja, and other groups, as well as a "Thank You" event for Measure G voters passed. The second question brought from the Senate meeting to the Cabinet was on the reorganization and bringing back department chairs. EVP Reyes announced that department chairs will be brought back, because many faculty have brought up that issue. The Board eliminated chairs in 1990 and S/P Laguerre has assigned the project to EVP Reyes who will begin gathering faculty input and reinstatement should occur with the next two years. Senators discussed questions and concerns regarding release time, contracts and methods of obtaining department chairs through elections, appointments, or by application. President Watkins noted these concerns can be brought forth. Senator Kleeberg expressed the outstanding and wonderful opportunity for faculty to have a little more control and direction for planning and scheduling, as well as opportunities for faculty experience towards becoming a dean. In response to Senator Wanek's restructuring query, President Watkins explained that there will be three "schools" with one academic dean each and many departments which will each have a department chair.

7. Reports

7.1 Curriculum

Chair Erin Duane reported that the Curriculum Committee has almost completed the Stand Alone trainings, with only a couple people left to be trained. Then the College will be approved for the year for Stand Alone courses. The training requirement has to be completed because the Chancellor's Office requires that Curriculum Committee members, deans, and people who sign off on curriculum, must be recertified so everyone understands what they're approving on the Stand-Alone courses for compliance. She defined Stand-Alone courses as: not part of an approved program or degree; not listed as electives for degrees, and, she noted "special topics" as an example. In response to queries: yes, they can become electives, and; if someone is motivated to develop one, its relevance to support other classes and costs would be determining factors.

Ms. Duane reported that CurricuNet is almost up and running, but a few quirks must be worked out before moving forward. In response to queries regarding the timeline, she hopes to have an update after tomorrow's (Tuesday, Sept. 14) meeting and will check into concerns that it could be placed on hold for the semester. She explained that all data is saved and will be rolled from CMS, which has been closed, into CurricuNet.

Ms. Duane reported that SB1440 for CSU transfer waivers, discussed at the August 12 Senate meeting, passed and is on its way to the Governor. Ms. Duane is waiting to hear more about opposition to the bill and will report on that later.

7.2 American Public University System – Articulation/Transfer – Craig Gilman

President Watkins introduced Craig Gilman, from American Public University (APU), who was here to present information on the possible partnership agreement with Solano College and answer questions. Mr. Gilman, in instructor and Outreach representative for APU, shared some personal background information and made the following points:

- APU is the sister of American Military University, and because of that connection, some very unique programs are offered, such as space studies, communications, satellites, intelligence, wireless TV, and radio communications.
- AMU and APU are basically the same university with two doors, one for the military and the other for civilians.
- APU offers 100% asynchronous online delivery, so students are not locked into a particular time and place. It is portable anywhere with software requirements maintained in the server, rather than downloaded, and provides valuable guidance and support to ensure successful completion. The flexibility and choice of when and where to study is especially popular with adults, professional learners, and parents. The medium age (31) is dropping drastically as online education gains acceptance.
- APU regional accreditation is from North Central Association and national accreditation is with Distance Education and Training Council.
- Their current student count is over 70,000 students (approx. 60% military), primarily in the US, but includes people in over 100 countries, partly due to the military presence overseas. APU was created as the public sister school five years ago.
- Currently, about 89%, and decreasing, of students work at full-time jobs and 85% or more bring transfer credit. APU is the number one school for enrollment with the Department of Defense.
- APU keeps tuition very competitive at \$250 per semester credit, which includes text books for students with good GPA standing through book grants.
- There are no admission or registration fees, only credit transfer fees which would be waived, if an MOU agreement is signed, and \$100 graduation fee for record keeping and a mailed diploma.
- Courses run on weekly schedules of 8 or 16 weeks. There are master programs in education that lead to certification. APU is involved in the process of changing from seat time to measuring outcome assessments, currently under debate.
- Full financial aid is available, including all forms of military tuition assistance.
- There is an assessment component and extensive online library, including tutorials for students who need extra help.
- The Block Transfer Agreement (BTA) is fully automated online with a \$50 fee. The proposed Solano College BTA would accept sixty credits guaranteed and students would enter at junior status.
- Students and instructors communicate via phone, email, and live chat.
- An MOU rough draft has been prepared with 20 identified APU course programs that Solano College students could be accepted into, including: general studies, history, intelligence studies, marketing, management, information systems, securities, health sciences, business administration, criminal justice, English, international relations, political science, psychology, and fire science management.
- Personal student advisors are available. Advisement of students would come predominantly from your school. Admissions advisors will come twice a year to answer questions.
- APU will not market, or compete with, courses that Solano College does not offer.
- Reps from APU and Solano College would meet annually to update degree requirements.
- APU provost office will supply feedback data.
- APU uses Learning Management System (LMS) for transfers and will be changing to SAKAI, which offers a lot more student data.
- In 2009 APU was the first for-profit fully online school to win the Sloan Consortium award.

- From the National Survey of student engagement – questions for employers of APU grads: 90% said they would hire APU grads again; 98% agreed that employee academic skills related to the discipline; 98% affirmed job proficiency.

Comments/Questions:

Senators raised and discussed important questions and concerns regarding major articulation agreements, what constitutes transferable degrees, course compatibility, online and proctored testing, proctor requirements or lack of same, compliance with existing federal law for positive student ID, and programs with no testing. Senator Hairston requested these strong concerns should be addressed in the MOU.

Mr. Gilman told Senators he would find answers to address Senators' questions and concerns, including a formal policy ensuring students are who they say they are and information businesses who are hiring APU graduates. He also noted that APU would be putting faith and trust in Solano's graduates and asked that Senators do more research and become familiar with APU.

7.3 Superintendent/President Jowel Laguerre

S/P Laguerre reminded Senators about the meeting with Sonoma state to offer bachelor degree programs at the Vallejo Center, and noted that the Fairfield campus will be next. He announced the Signing Ceremony on Monday, September 27th in Vallejo. President Watkins will deliver a brief speech on behalf of the faculty at 10 am.

S/P Laguerre addressed the budget and cash flow issue and confirmed that money will run out by the end of October. He stated Solano College is taking measures by not adding to the budget now until the State Budget is approved, which should help the College get through until the end of November or so. S/P Laguerre visited the county treasurer's office, which expressed pride and appreciation for Solano College. The Treasurer and CPA will do all they can to help. S/P Laguerre will ask the Governing Board to approve a resolution for the College to borrow more money from the county per their suggestion. He also asked for faculty support to put pressure on any legislators to please approve the budget. However, he was told to not count on budget approval before the November election. S/P Laguerre shared that he will be paying for himself to go to a Presidents' Conference in Houston as an example of cutting back. Hiring, consultants, and legal fees are postponed until the budget is approved. Essential right now is cash as none is coming from the state. To a query, he responded that the fiscal watch is related to everyone. The essential purpose of the College is to teach and serve students. Anything else not essential to running of instructional and service functions of the college will be defrayed. Faculty has to be paid. There can be flexibility with some of this. S/P Laguerre responded emphatically that existing programs, such as Puente and Umoja, would not be eliminated.

S/P Laguerre announced that the Board extended his contract for two more years.

S/P Laguerre announced plans to implement honorary degree awards for the following people who have generously supported the College community: Jesse Branch, former employee, who can be seen around campus with a camera; C. C. Yin, owner of local McDonalds; and, posthumously to Billy Yarborough who built the stadium and supported sports programs. The Senate will vote on this item on September 20, 2010 and, if passed, the awards will be given at Commencement.

7.4 Flex Cal – Chuck Spillner

Mr. Spillner asked Senators to send representatives from PE, Humanities, and Business divisions to Committee meetings. Only three divisions are currently represented. He announced that meetings are held every Tuesday from 4-5 pm in room 902 and they are currently planning Sprig Flex activities for Wednesday, January 12, and Thursday, January 13, which are required days, and Friday, January 14, which is optional. He noted that Monday, January 17, is the Martin Luther King holiday, and Tuesday, January 19, is the other optional day. Optional days aren't well attended when wrapped around a weekend because people take long weekends, especially with a holiday added. He stated the Committee is always squeezed for time to provide pedagogically important

workshops. All College Day and another day with division meetings leave little time for workshops to really improve teaching. Mr. Spillner noted that when only a couple people attend workshops, presenters aren't too motivated. SLO assessments also encroach upon the flexibility in planning workshops. Faculty are required to spend six hours every semester working on SLOs and incorporating that into planning.

Mr. Spillner announced the keynote speaker in January will be Robert Lang (www.langorigami.com), suggested by Kathy Kearns. Mr. Lang presented on TED Talks, which can be seen on YouTube. Mr. Lang links origami to math and science. Because of our budget 'hardship', he will accept \$750 which is 50% of his usual hourly fee. Senator Becker and Senator Crawford offered ideas for other speakers/presentations for 1-3 hour Flex Cal workshops. President Watkins asked Senators to contact Mr. Spillner with ideas or go to the Tuesday meetings.

7.5 Basic Skills – Susanna Crawford

Senator Crawford reported that she is sending out a letter today regarding Basic Skills mini-grants and asked Senators to go back to their divisions with this idea which is good for all. A portion of Basic Skills funding will be set aside for faculty committee for \$3000 funding. Proposals are to be submitted by October 11. Acceptance will be determined by October 20th. Look for detailed information emailed today explaining what would qualify for funding thru BSI. Senator Crawford encouraged Senators to encourage others in their division to apply. Two workshops will be held by Josh Scott and Carlos Esteve to help with forms and questions. Faculty can call Senator Crawford or go to workshops with questions.

8. Information/Discussion Items

8.1 Revise January Senate Meeting date

No discussion – time constraint

8.2 Constitution / By Laws Revision

No discussion – time constraint

9. Action Items

9.1 Election of Secretary

No action – time constraint

10. Action Reminders

11. Announcements

President Watkins announced the SCC Clean & Green Day scheduled for September 25, 2010, and asked Senators to participate. Flyers were distributed.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn – Senator Allen; Seconded – Senator McDermott; Unanimous
Meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm