



ACADEMIC SENATE

Adopted Minutes

**October 4, 2010
Board Room 626
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order

President Thomas Watkins called the meeting to order at 3:07pm

2. Roll Call:

Thomas Watkins, President

Darryl Allen, Nick Cittadino, Dale Crandall-Bear – *ex officio*, Susanna Crawford, Erin Duane – *ex officio*, LaNae Jaimez, Richard Kleeberg, Lou McDermott, John Nagle,

Absent: Kim Becker, Alena Hairston, Karen Wanek

Late Arrivals: Abla Christiansen,

Guests: Jowel Laguerre

Connie Adams, Interim Admin Assistant

3. Approval of Agenda – October 4, 2010

Motion to Approve – Senator Nagle; Seconded – Senator Crawford; Unanimous

4. Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2010, and September 20, 2010

Motion to Approve – Senator McDermott; Seconded – Senator Kleeberg; Unanimous

5. Comments from the Public

None

6. President's Report

Senate Meetings: President Watkins reported the addition of two new meetings in January: Wednesday, January 12, regular meeting from 9am-noon; Friday, January 14, joint meeting with Ed Admin from 9am-noon.

MOU: The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sonoma State took place at the Vallejo Center on Monday, September 20. President Watkins noted this marked a great addition for Solano College and the community. Students will be able to obtain 4-year degrees in Vallejo and there may be an opportunity for Solano College faculty to teach some of the upper division classes.

Napa College Meeting: After the MOU event, S/P Laguerre spent three hours with the new Napa College President, who had contacted him and expressed her desire to rekindle a cooperative relationship. Sometime ago, the colleges shared sports fields and classes and re-engagement of this opportunity will benefit both colleges.

California State Budget: The budget is expected to finally be approved this week.

Q&A Forums: President Watkins announced the new schedule for S/P Laguerre's Q&A Forums. Copies were distributed.

Senator Becker: President Watkins shared that Senator Becker is on the East Coast with her dad, who is having surgery. Everyone extended her dad wishes for a very successful operation and speedy recovery and best regards to Senator Becker and her family.

Faculty Hiring: President Watkins noted that last May 17, Trudy Largent and Leslie Rota visited the Senate to discuss replacing retired faculty with new hires. President Watkins will meet with EVP Reyes on Monday, October 11, to discuss who to hire. The new faculty will be permanent full-time, starting in August. The deans will schedule a meeting with the Academic Senate once they decide on which faculty positions to hire, so recruitment can begin in January.

Title 5 10+1: President Watkins had laminated cards distributed and noted the importance for Senators to understand what constitutes Senate business to be discussed at the meetings. He noted that he'll announce other Solano College topics at times for information purposes only. The Senate meetings need to be kept orderly with discussion focused on Senate business.

7. Reports

7.1 Curriculum – Erin Duane

Ms. Duane reported on the status of CurricuNet which needs more fine-tuning, some things need to be sorted out, but the data is there. Pei-Lin Van't Hul will have another phone conference today.

7.2 Superintendent/President Jowel Laguerre

California State Budget: S/P Laguerre announced the news that a vote is expected on Thursday to approve the budget. If it is not approved, the state won't have a budget until after elections. He reported; it appears that legislators and aides aren't talking to the Chancellor or League offices, but what has been seen looks promising for approval this week; it also looks like Solano College will have enrollment increase funding as opposed to getting a cut; there have been cautions about lots of gimmicks, and; deferrals could be common. Regarding deferrals, the District would need a contingency for cash. S/P Laguerre noted the efforts being made with the county to establish a 27 million dollar line of credit will benefit the College to help meet obligations and eliminate the need to return for more credit if the budget doesn't pass or the state doesn't come through with funds soon. He also noted that while there may be a budget, the State Treasurer reported he doesn't have enough money to pay the first three months that are owed, which means deferrals. At least with a budget passed, there is the authority to spend, the Chancellor's office will prioritize who will get the first few checks, and they're working hard to make sure colleges are on that list. S/P Laguerre opined that once the budget is passed, the College will know its budget, including the enrollment growth percent, and it can take a couple more weeks to receive the funds. In response to Senator McDermott's query, S/P Laguerre noted that the Sonoma State MOU will not increase the College budget, but it does increase the chances for future facilities funding. Sonoma State will give Solano College the lab and tech fees they receive for the Vallejo courses.

Green & Clean Day: S/P Laguerre thanked everyone who made it to the first Green & Clean event on September 25th. It is planned to have another event in the spring.

Cal Maritime: S/P Laguerre reported that the President of California Maritime Academy has made a commitment to work with Solano College. Meetings will begin soon and the projection is to have classes offered beginning Fall of 2011.

MOU: S/P Laguerre reported that many city and county elected officials and Chamber of Commerce members attended the Sonoma State MOU signing on Monday, September 20th. President Watkins spoke on behalf of the Senate.

State Building Funds: S/P Laguerre reported that he spoke with the California Post-Secondary Education Commission in Sacramento on September 21st. This group approves college eligibility to receive capital funding from the legislature for buildings. S/P Laguerre made a presentation to them, and they enthusiastically and overwhelmingly approved the Vallejo Center which hadn't been recognized before. The day after that signing, the Commission Report was released and commissioners were making very positive comments about the College. While this doesn't mean dollars now, approval means that Solano can request building funds, which would be matching funds from the state. The five planned projects S/P Laguerre noted are: a new building in Vallejo; a science building, new library and innovation for the theatre here; and a biotech building in Vacaville. Solano will explore bonds for funding support as well.

Comments/Questions: In response to questions about Solano partnering with other state college, S/P Laguerre noted that Sacramento State was asked to offer classes at the Vacaville Center. The President there was very supportive and would like to serve us; however, the topic was turned over to a bureaucrat who stated that 1200 students would not be enough. S/P Laguerre and EVP Reyes will return to Sacramento State for a meeting with the President sometime next month. If they say no, Solano may ask Sonoma State to offer classes at the Vacaville Center. UD Davis will likely partner with Solano College for biotech classes in Vacaville. Senator Crawford noted that UC Davis partners with Sacramento City College which has a full wait list and she finds it encouraging that there could be potential for growth associated with that. S/P Laguerre expressed the possibility of partnering with UC Davis in ESL in addition to biotech. Solano has a wing at Dixon High School which could attract students from UC Davis, if classes were offered there.

Senator Christiansen queried if Solano could have a donation link on the website as many other colleges have. S/P Laguerre stated that there are I Modules in BANNER development now that will allow that. Solano will continue to sell bricks for fundraising. An Office of Advancement has been made an item.

S/P Laguerre reported plans are in process for a 65th anniversary gala celebration for Solano College in 2011. He would like to have an event that focuses on alumni and asked Senators to email (S/P Laguerre, Peter Bostic, or Nora O'Neill) names of notable alumni to contact.

7.3 Academic Senate Sub-Committee Reports

Senator Crawford reminded Senators that the deadline for mini-grant proposals is October 11th and requested Senators remind their divisions.

8. Information/Discussion Items

8.1 Flex-Cal – Richard Kleeberg

Senator Kleeberg distributed copies of Flex-Cal Program Guidelines, a resolution draft, and an email from 2001, to present Senators with some history for this discussion. He explained that the Flex Cal Guidelines have excerpts from a 20-page State Academic Senate document. These excerpts describe and explain what Flex-Cal was supposed to be at that time. Senator Kleeberg told Senators that they may be surprised by how much is supposed to be for the faculty and chosen by faculty. He added bold lettering for emphasis but didn't change the wording. He explained the memo he wrote for Christine Kress (now Christine Ducoing) and three former Academic Senate presidents (including himself) has been sent out at least a couple times to explain to faculty, especially deans, that Flex-Cal credit covers a great deal more than what some administrators believe, such as: reviewing textbooks you're considering for next year; division meetings; and working on courses. Senator Kleeberg could not find anything that says Flex-Cal hours need to be approved by division deans, rather the Academic Senate decides. On the Title 5 Ten Plus One card, #8 "policies for faculty professional development activities" was a Flex cal program initiative signed by legislature. There does not seem to be a Flex-Cal policy at Solano College, but any such a policy must be mutually agreed to by the Governing Board and the Academic Senate. Senator Kleeberg went on to explain the final handout is a copy of a resolution he was asked to prepare about 8

years ago for the Senate about Flex-Cal. Though the Senate has the authority to organize, plan, and run Flex-Cal, many faculty are quite complacent and enough faculty might not be willing to run the entire Flex-Cal program. Senator Kleeberg does not recall an action taken on the resolution.

Comments/questions: Following are questions, concerns, and responses:

- It may be appropriate for deans to have a record of what Flex-Cal activities faculty have attended, for verification record keeping, but it is not appropriate for deans to decide if an activity qualifies for Flex credit.
- There is nothing in the law that addresses prior approval of Flex activities from administration. Prior approval comes from the Governing Board & Faculty approval. The program itself comes from the Academic Senate.
- There is a form (probably HR) requesting prior approval from deans for Flex-Cal.
- President Watkins will check the faculty handbook for Flex-Cal reference. He gave a presentation at orientation a year ago and didn't see mention of dean approval anywhere.
- HR forms are from around 1990, the Flex-Cal program was created by the legislature in 1988. The College may have misinterpreted what Flex-Cal was from the beginning as well as misinterpreted the role of the Academic Senate. It took until 1997 for the Senate President to be acknowledged by the Board as a regular Board meeting participant, and not someone forced to sit in the back of the room.
- Senator Kleeberg suggested creating a subcommittee to initiate recommendations to the College for changes: remove pre-approval on form and guidelines should be on the Flex-Cal form. These changes would help faculty and deans understand the law.
- Flex-Cal at Solano College requires 60 hours, or 10 days at 6 hours a day (from a contract 1990 or prior).
- "Optional" means you can choose to go if you want. There are many activities that can cover optional hours.
- Required = 24 hours. President Watkins will check on where this time originated.
- Faculty contract says full-time members must go to department meetings and requires mandatory Flex-Cal attendance.
- Senator Allen requested clarity of the term "regular" hours.
- Senator Kleeberg noted the administration and union can agree on whether or not to require attendance at division meetings, but that agreement can supersede the State law that states division meetings are eligible for flex time.
- Varying opinions were expressed on whether or not faculty are docked for missing division meetings; however, faculty salary has not been changed by the number of meetings attended, or by the total number of hours for those meetings.
- Senator Crawford expressed concern that serious faculty input has been entirely lost with respect to hours which has been engulfed by administrative driven things.
- Senator Kleeberg suggested that the Academic Senate move forward to correct this. A couple people could put together a proposal for the Academic Senate to take some control and at least have equal representation for what is offered on required days.
- Interest was expressed by a number of Senators to have well-respected individuals speak about teaching basic skills in different course situations. With little instructional improvement currently in Flex-Cal, three hours or so could be requested to cover basic skills.
- President Watkins spoke about the Academic Senate plan to look at Flex-Cal at a Governing Board meeting and with S/P Laguerre and Flex-Cal Chair Chuck Spillner.
- Bring topic forward to S/P Laguerre and EVP Reyes, make changes, vote in Senate, take back to S/P Laguerre, then proceed to the Governing Board when a proposal is ready.

8.2 Accreditation Special Report

President Watkins expressed appreciation to Senators who came to the special meeting held on October 29th to approve the Accreditation Special Report. Quorum was barely made. It was very important to have the report approved on time.

8.3 Senate Accreditation Task Force

President Watkins noted that the Academic Senate had an accreditation sub-committee at one time and Senate has discussed having a permanent accreditation sub-committee. Last year, one of the Senate had an accreditation task force, though no one served on that committee other than President Lamb. After some discussion, Senators agreed that because Tracy Schneider, Accreditation Coordinator, will present Accreditation reports to the Senate for updates on the status and work to be done, a separate sub-committee does not seem to be necessary. President Watkins had a discussion with Ms. Schneider and Dean Lamb about bringing changes regularly to Senate meetings which will benefit a quick approval at the end. He deemed this the most efficient use of time and personnel. Senator Cittadino opined that accreditation is in a different mode now with many people working on the wiki accreditation pages and a task force could be implemented anytime, if needed.

8.4 Working with SCFA

President Watkins noted that Title 5 addresses working with the union. He was asked to bring the topic up at a Senate meeting. Overall, Senators agreed that a cooperative relationship is important.

Constitution/Bylaws revision: Senator Kleeberg reported he is gathering information which will be forwarded to Senators. President Watkins and Senator Jaimez offered to help. This item will be back on the agenda soon.

9. Action Items

10. Action Reminders

Flex-Cal research and proposal ideas

11. Announcements

Senator Cittadino announced an item to place on a Senate agenda, the International Baccalaureate degrees, whereby classes from high school can get credit at community colleges. Ne noted that many Armijo students go through program and expect to get credit at Solano College. Senator Cittadino will forward information prior to Senate discussion.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn – Senator Crawford; Seconded – Senator Cittadino; Unanimous
Meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm