



ACADEMIC SENATE

Adopted Minutes

January 12, 2011

Board Room 626

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

1. Call to Order

President Watkins called the meeting to order at 9:12 am

2. Roll Call:

Thomas Watkins, President

Darryl Allen, LaNae Jaimez, Richard Kleeberg, Karen Wanek

Late: Nick Cittadino, Lou McDermott, Svetlana Podkolzina - sub for Susanna Crawford, Alena Hairston, John Nagle

Absent: Erin Duane – *ex officio*; Kim Becker, Abba Christiansen, Dale Crandall-Bear – *ex officio*, Susanna Crawford,

Guests: Jowel Laguerre, Mostafa Ghous, Patricia Itaya, Jeffrey Lamb

Connie Adams, Interim Admin Assistant

3. Approval of Agenda – January 12, 2011

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

4. Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2010

Deferred

5. Comments from the Public

None

6. President's Report

Governing Board & Faculty Dinner: President Watkins reported that S/P Laguerre has scheduled a faculty dinner on the first Wednesday in May. Senators are invited and S/P Laguerre requested suggestions on other faculty to invite. Jeff Lamb noted he chose faculty last year from a cross sampling of the campus.

New Faculty Hiring: At the November 15, 2010, Academic Senate/Ed Admin meeting, faculty positions were prioritized and the top nine chosen are expected to be new hires. Hiring committees will be forming soon when the positions are confirmed. There will be at least six new hires. The other three will depend on the budget. President Watkins will update the Senate.

State Budget Update: S/P Laguerre sent campus-wide the comments from the Chancellor's Office.

Points addressed were:

- Student fees will increase \$10 to a total of \$36 per unit
- Community colleges will see decreased funding for 1.29 % growth, rather than the original 2% expected which equates to 22,700 full-time FTAs.
- \$129 million funding deferral in addition to the current deferral, totaling about \$961 million in deferrals for community colleges. These deferrals may be permanent.
- No cuts to categorical
- Chancellor's office webinar budget discussion archived at www.cccconfer.org

7. Reports

7.1 Superintendent/President – Jowel Laguerre

S/P Laguerre presented Community College Completion Agenda power point (copies distributed), *Converging of Forces*, a national and state perspective on higher education achievement. Since George Vaughn, past CEO of the Association of American Community Colleges, wrote *The Higher Education Dream* in 2004, community colleges have brought in those thoughts but haven't done as well on the promise. The Association of American Community Colleges, the Association of Trustees, Phi Beta Kappa and other organizations jointly established the Completion Agenda which has components to support and act on. Shared data shows 70% of high school students graduate, while only 59% of Hispanics and African-Americans graduate. Colleges who join this nationwide system of community colleges believe in: success; completion; every student has potential, and; agree to foster an open door policy rather than a revolving door where students leave.

The Solano College student population is unique as they are out in the public and there are many lifers who never get credited for graduation. Prosperity for our country and students is fostered by what is done. Solano College has many talented and committed people who have asked us to sign the Completion Agenda, which would commit the College to drastically increase the number of students who graduate. College culture would have to change emphasis from access alone to access and success and would require action to increase Latin and African-American graduation rates above the current 50-60%. Everyone needs to support President Watkins challenge to prioritize development opportunities to all. Students, community, and elected officials will also be asked to help and support this agenda. The challenge can be lessened by focusing on completion to increase graduates by 734 per year in the next ten years. The equity gap must be closed in order to reach these numbers. Difficult conversations, including funding to meet student need, will be addressed. In closing, S/P Laguerre expressed his desire that everyone become aware of the issues. Many activities will be needed, including improvement of the Educational Master Plan and bonds to support infrastructure in the next 2-3 years.

Comments/Questions:

In response to questions, S/P Laguerre defined a "high quality" degree as one that would support student transfers or job potential and it will be important to find a way to count students who transfer without a degree and also help students understand that completion of a degree is in their best interest. Senator Cittadino pointed out that Native American figures are not included in the statistics and they always have the lowest rates. Senator Kleeberg agreed with the goals but found it discouraging about these suggestions that the community colleges need to do more to bring in and graduate more students and that the state continually asks Colleges to make up for what isn't happening at the beginning, particularly K-8th grade. S/P Laguerre responded that the Agenda focus is not to bring in more students but to graduate more students and that's what can be done at this level. Senator Allen noted the huge achievement gap between genders.

The Completion Agenda agreement would be a pledge and Vision 2020 addresses finance and affordability. Dean Lamb informed Senators that the College has worked with Diablo Valley College for a Completion by Design grant which has ongoing potential to bring in quite a bit of money. S/P Laguerre asked to return to the Senate for a decision. Conclusion 2 of the Completion Agenda addresses what Solano College would do towards the goals. S/P Laguerre has also challenged the black community to start working on these issues.

Senators continued the discussion, which included the following questions and comments:

- Will this lead to pressure to pass more students in order to increase graduation rates?
- Deans are requesting to add more students to classes and with budget issues that will increase even more. How can improvements be made when much is taken away while faculty are asked to do more?
- A key number is the 40% high school dropout rate. A decrease to 10% would quickly generate hundreds of thousands of community college students. With the first assignment every semester, faculty see many students who cannot read.
- There is a need to look at families and there are undocumented students who can't go on and get lost. These issues aren't addressed.
- Solano should look at checking all documents to assure students live here and are legal.
- There are structural issues and the budget proposed would adversely affect minority communities. Are grants and programs that can help out?

- Factor a single program, measure where students are in the beginning and at the end, and not just how many people succeeded at the end, but through the process.
- Do not change standards and parameters, but allow flexibility where needed.
- Not passing people can be a good thing. In nursing it can save lives!

President Watkins acknowledged these are good points and should be addressed with S/P Laguerre.

7.2 Sub-Committee Reports

None

8. Information/Discussion Items

8.1 Commencement Committee Funding Request

President Watkins introduced Mostafa Ghous and Pat Itaya from the Commencement Committee. Mr. Ghous thanked the Senate for time on this agenda. He distributed the expense sheet drawn up by the committee, which has met regularly in attempts to cut costs as much as possible. The budget was \$6700 when held in the gymnasium but they don't have those budget details yet. This year Commencement will be held in the stadium which will entail additional items and expenses and many cannot be lowered. The committee is asking for \$1688 from the Senate to fund most of the things identified as necessary.

Comments/Questions:

Senator McDermott would not want to see cheap diploma covers used. Money comes from the district. The committee is looking into the possibility of borrowing some items, such as golf carts and tents. Questions were raised regarding the sound system needs and costs and the reasoning to purchase chairs rather than renting each year. Quality of the sound system and storage of chairs seems to require rental rather than borrowing or purchasing. Graduates pay \$25 which covers their cap and gown rental. It was suggested that additional fees be charged to cover some of the costs as many other colleges do. There are approximately 300 or one fourth, of the 1200 graduates who attend the commencement ceremony. The president's cabinet, not the Board of Trustees, approves the funding. Senator Jaimez opined the budget seems reasonable and there might be ways to clarify what is really needed. Senator Cittadino suggested that this budget should be increased for future years with the increase in expenses that will be ongoing. Mr. Ghous will request funding from ASSC also, which has been done in the past.

Action will be taken on this item at the next Senate meeting.

8.2 SB 1440 – Nick Cittadino

President Watkins announced that after discussions on SB1440 at Plenary, he inquired into having someone from the State Senate visit the College for information and discussion. He spoke with EVP Reyes, who agreed to call the State Chancellor's office and request they send someone to attend a special joint Ed Admin/Senate meeting within a month.

Senator Cittadino requested to place this item on the agenda to deal with it right away, rather than scramble later, though everything is now on hold because the State Academic Senate is proposing courses that can be modeled by California community colleges rather than each one having to come up with their own. Senate Bill 1440 is to create continuity within the college system. Senator Cittadino distributed information handouts. Erin Duane forwarded key points as follows:

- rather than every college develop their own 1440 degrees (chaos), the Chancellor's Office recommends that colleges adopt degrees based on statewide Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC)
- TMC are being designed (led by discipline faculty); the Chancellor's Office will fast track approval of degrees that are built using the TMC
- for the counselors: TMC are being built using C-ID descriptors, but their use will not be required in the new degrees
- colleges are encouraged to find ways to fast track their local approval of these new degrees (i.e.: if we have a lengthy process to approve degrees... which I don't think we do...)
- local Senates are advised to appoint faculty to the C-ID groups to develop the TMC
- by fall 2011, each college needs to have *some* degrees in place. (NOT "all" degrees in place, which has been the major issue frightening many colleges)

- "some" is being defined as 2 or 3 degrees
- some degrees won't make sense as a SB1440 compliant degree.
- the Chancellor's Office will continue to advise us as to the best (easiest) ways to accomplish the SB 1440 requirements, as they know more. (i.e.: as the TMCs are vetted, as the conversations/details with the CSUs are hammered out, how to deal with high-unit-degrees, etc.). The general message is: "don't panic and try to invent a new wheel just yet".
- the c-id website to review current TMC and to sign up for C-ID groups/listservs:
<http://www.c-id.net/degreereview.html>

Senator Cittadino explained that degrees will be very specific and only require 60 units. He covered how to locate on the handouts the general education and elective classes needed to cover the 60 units for UC/CSU/IGETC transfers which depends on the major and on the school a student plans to attend. Solano College has three types of Gen Ed: A, B, and C: type B is for IGETCE; type C is for CSU, and; type A doesn't transfer. If a student is not sure where they will transfer, they can use the IGETC as it covers both places. Elective classes are usually transferrable, but should be confirmed. The State Academic Senate has brought forth some majors and the local colleges only need to decide on 2-3 majors this year. EVP Reyes will meet with the deans who will propose these majors by November. SB1440 approved the use of IGETC. Senator Cittadino explained that a student chooses their general ed and then chooses what general ed package to use. Faculty and counselors get a feel for the student as to what their chances are of going to UC and which form to use. Faculty should show them what they'll need to choose from in Areas 1, 2, and 3 and then confirm with Articulation Officer Robin Arie-Donch. The University then decides if they will accept those choices. Go on www.assist.org and see where listed and cross-listed. Students need help most of the time with general ed, but it's getting better. While waiting to see what the State Senate comes up with, be informed and know what's going on. There is a certain time of year to get courses on the sheet which should come out in April. A major class in general ed can be double counted, but not a general ed regular class, so an area needs to be chosen where the student wants to count that class. Students should have catalog rights from when they started. The transfers will be guaranteed based on areas and how impacted the school and degree is. The areas haven't been defined yet.

8.3 Constitution Revision – Richard Kleeberg

Senator Kleeberg pointed out the two main issues to discuss are voting rights and Senate representation. He had not received additional input or questions on the Constitution. It was agreed to discuss the voting rights issue now and move it to an action item at the next meeting. Senator Jaimez requested discussion on proportional representation at the next meeting. The recommendation is to put these items in the Bylaws so that the Senate can update as needed without a campus-wide vote.

In regards to voting rights, Senator Kleeberg sees three options: full vote; no vote, or; a percentage vote. Part-time faculty need to be clearly defined. For example, would instructors be counted who teach one online course or who taught here previously or will be teaching in the next semester? Senator Kleeberg noted that he is not allowed as an adjunct at UC Davis to vote and agreed that adjuncts generally do not have an understanding of issues at the college because of limited time on campus. He recommended that the Senate look at the compromise and assign a fraction vote and avoid the dramatic problems of full or no vote. Senator Jaimez queried if all senators have one vote on Senate issues, including part-time representatives. President Watkins clarified that there are two types of voting, one within the Senate and the other faculty-wide. Senator Kleeberg confirmed that no changes had been proposed within Senate voting and that would remain as it is with one full vote for each senator. Faculty-wide voting gives full-time faculty a full vote and part-time faculty 1/5, 2/5, or 3/5 vote depending on their course load. The main items voted on faculty-wide are changes to the constitution and elections of president and vice president. In response to issues part-time faculty vote on and the reasoning to not give them a vote, Senator Wanek opined that the part-time faculty would outweigh full-time and it had been a problem to obtain a current list of part-time faculty. Senator Kleeberg's concern is that part-time faculty don't generally have the knowledge of day-to-day issues. If part-time faculty are teaching online classes or are on campus only one night a week, for example, they wouldn't likely have an understanding of campus issues. He agreed with UC Davis for not allowing him to vote as he doesn't know what the day-to-day drama is. Senator McDermott remembered that the voting pattern among adjuncts nineteen years ago was only two and now it may be about 10%. Senator Jaimez opined giving no vote would be easier. Senator Wanek experienced a

challenge getting ballots to adjuncts at the last election. Senator McDermott opined that the best thing to do is put the ballots in their boxes and it is up to them to check them. More discussion ensued on the 75/25 % rule and waivers granted because of the difficulty in meeting that number. Senator Allen queried if there are legal constraints regarding voting rights. Senator Kleeberg stated that the Academic Senate can set its own rules. President Watkins noted that the only constraint is that the Board of Trustees has to vote on our decisions. It was agreed that this discussion could have another half hour at the next meeting and will be an action item. This will be one of the revisions to the Constitution. When completed, the entire faculty will vote on the final revision. Some Senators further opined that part-timers never come to division meetings or get involved in issues and should have no vote. Others disagreed.

Senator Kleeberg will bring back a short list of alternatives to look at. Senator Cittadino asked that it be sent out before the next meeting. President Watkins confirmed that the next meeting will have time for completing the discussion, vote on voting rights, begin discussion on proportional representation, and plan to have all the revisions ready in March to proceed with faculty-wide vote for approval.

9. Action Items

Faculty Title Designation Resolution

Senator Kleeberg will update the original resolution and bring this item back to the next meeting for a vote. President Watkins explained that it would then go to the Board of Trustees for approval, after which Human Resources will make changes on their documents. Anything that affects the school has to be approved by the Board. S/P Laguerre has agreed to support this.

10. Action Reminders

11. Announcements

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn – Senator Wanek; Seconded – Senator McDermott
Meeting adjourned at 11:18 am