



ACADEMIC SENATE

Adopted Minutes

February 7, 2011

Board Room 626

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

1. Call to Order

President Watkins called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm

2. Roll Call:

Thomas Watkins, President

Darryl Allen, Kim Becker, Abba Christiansen, Nick Cittadino, Susanna Crawford, Erin Duane – *ex officio*, LaNae Jaimez, Richard Kleeberg, Lou McDermott, John Nagle, Meredith Harris – sub for Karen Wanek
Excused Absence: Dale Crandall-Bear – *ex officio*, Karen Wanek

Guests: Jowel Laguerre; Yulian Ligioso, Robert DaPrato

Connie Adams, Interim Admin Assistant

3. Approval of Agenda – February 7, 2011

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

4. Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2010, January 12, 2011, and January 14, 2011

Motion to Approve Dec. 6 and Jan. 12, 2010 minutes – Senator Kleeberg; Seconded – Senator Nagle; Unanimous

5. Comments from the Public

None

6. President's Report

President Watkins announced a request for some faculty to be marshals for Solano College Commencement on May 25th. If interested, please contact him as soon as possible. Marshals will need to arrive at 9:30 am to assemble for Commencement which will begin at 10:30 am.

Senator Kleeberg had suggested Senate agendas be sent to the Governing Board Trustees to inform them of current Academic Senate discussions. President Watkins spoke with S/P Laguerre, who opined the minutes might be more useful. President Watkins will discuss those options with Trustees.

President Watkins reported that the College has received an Alternative Fuels Grant to fund the start of an EV (electric vehicle) automotive program. A modification to add the EV training component would be made to the automotive program that is already in the catalog. Vallejo and Will C. Wood high schools have shop space from their discontinued programs that Solano College may be able to use.

EVP Reyes announced development and advancement through the curriculum process of new wind turbine and computer forensics programs. EVP Reyes is attempting to obtain approval through regional CTE Deans. The College has had a program without certification validation completed. The Chancellor's Office is assisting completion through the correct process. A tentative place-holder is in while waiting on expected approval by mid-March. Input is needed from the department to create a plan for the students who have completed two years of study to finish an undetermined process to acquire certificates.

7. Reports

7.1 Curriculum – Erin Duane

Curriculum Chair, Erin Duane confirmed a minimum of two UC/CSU transfer degrees need to be in place by fall. She noted that SB1440 is now Ed Code 66745. Two groups of Transfer Model Curriculum have been released (or will be released soon) to the Community Colleges:

Group One - Communication Studies, Sociology, and Psychology, which are all under Dean Rota's purview and are being discussed by her division's faculty. Ms. Duane expressed confidence with the current progress that at least one of these will be ready by fall

Group Two - Criminal Justice, Kinesiology, and Math are slated to be to be approved by the Chancellor's office by the end of March. The Curriculum Committee will discuss these two groups at the next Curriculum Committee (February 8th) meeting.

7.2 Superintendent/President – Jowel Laguerre

Accreditation: S/P Laguerre, out of town on business, arranged a conference call to report to the Senate. The Accreditation Follow-up Report came back with good results. The College has been removed from Probation status. He thanked everyone and noted several units and organizations that helped tremendously with this effort, including the Academic Senate and Shared Governance Council joint meetings. S/P expressed reasons to be pleased with administration and the Governing Board as most issues were focused there. The Governing Board is doing more to police itself for continued success. He encouraged all to be vigilant and keep in mind the Self-Study recommendations.

Budget Challenges: S/P Laguerre reported that many things are being considered and everyone will be kept informed. There will be a joint meeting with SGC and FaBPAC on February 9th, open forums will be held, and a memo will be sent College-wide today. He stressed the importance of action rather than reaction.

Reorganization: EVP Reyes reported that a plan to reorganize in 1 ½ years has been moved ahead to be effective this fall because of the budget situation. EVP Reyes spoke with Deans and ALG to work on alignment and reorganization from their perspective. In order to make changes by fall, decisions must be made this month, and non-renewal notices must be received by March 15. If administrators have retreat rights, their faculty service area, where they would go, and the consequences in those areas need to be reviewed. If there are fewer divisions, classified staff will decrease, and there will be seniority issues. With this sense of urgency, EVP Reyes told deans, who want a say in practicality and disciplines, that he'd speak with the Academic Senate and have one or two senators included in a group of three to five people to dialog and participate in moving this forward. The group would come back with two to three options, get recommendations, and forward to a joint SGC/FaBPAC meeting. EVP Reyes noted this is not secretive but can't be too comprehensive for quick resolution. S/P Laguerre stated that things have to be negotiated, and even with the best scenario, there will be problems, but it will help the severity of cuts in other areas.

Comments/Questions: Senators expressed concerns of major decisions on so many levels without having everyone's voice. EVP Reyes responded that it ultimately came down to efficiency and timeliness. Participants will need input from the Academic Senate, so everyone can have a say and look at options to move forward. President Watkins queried if this includes only faculty or are other people involved as everyone will have to live with the outcome. Senator Crawford queried if a committee is set up to look at program discontinuance. EVP Reyes replied that the discussions include everything on the table with financial savings as the bottom line. He will address program discontinuance with deans who will then discuss it with faculty. The Academic Senate will have a review process. Senate guest Robert DaPrato suggested that former S/P Armand Phillips' reorganization vision might be a resource for efficiency. Mr. DaPrato further opined the importance to understand what items are negotiable and to have decisions made when faculty are in session and not on vacation, which has happened in the past. EVP Reyes reiterated the planned timeline. He added that Academic Affairs and Students Services will be reorganized and how that affects positions will come out of the process. Efficiencies, sensible alignment, and financial issues need to be considered. The addition of department chairs will be discussed later.

7.3 Sub-Committee Reports

Basic Skills: Senator Crawford reported that Flex is moving forward with plans for basic skills flex activities and a drop-in webinar day session on March 23rd. The webinar will be played on the wall in the teachers' lounge so faculty can drop in and get flex credit. If you have ideas for sessions, speakers/keynote speakers, especially basic skills related, email Senator Crawford. Senator Crawford will send an email with the agenda.

7.4 Treasurer's Report

Report supplied by Treasurer Wanek:

Nov balance forward \$9,569.28

Dec/Jan payroll contribution checks received \$260.80

Dec expenses - Marc Lancet/Ceramics Conference \$450.00

Feb 7 balance \$9,380.08

8. Information/Discussion Items

8.1 District Budget Impact – Yulian Ligioso, VP Finance and Administration

VP Ligioso distributed three documents: 1) Executive Vice Chancellor Erik Skinner's analysis of the Governor's budget; 2) Community College League District Budget Impact on Solano College, and; 3) 2011-12 General Fund Unrestricted Budget Planning Worksheet – version 2. The latter was reviewed at FaBPAC and the President's Cabinet. FaBPAC recommended scenario #2 if Proposition 98 fails. He shared some comments on the Governor's budget, its impact on the college, and welcomed input from the Senate to take back to FaBPAC.

To put information and numbers in perspective, VP Ligioso pointed out:

- The Governor has to resolve the \$25 billion problem against the State of California \$85 billion operating budget.
- \$25 billion would be spread over 18 months. The staggering numbers would be equivalent to cutting about one third of SCC's \$50 million unrestricted budget.
- Vice Chancellor proposed \$400 million in cuts to the system (no immediate cuts) .
- Compare \$400 million to \$25 billion – doesn't do much to resolve the state problem, but to the college system it creates an enormous challenge.
- The Governor's proposal is probably the best that can be expected.
- Proposed remedy would be accomplished with apportionment reforms, workload reduction rather than changing how students are accounted for, and look at completions, not just FTS at census. This might have much further reaching implications as Solano College serves more of a basic skills population than a more affluent district.
- Proposed student fees \$10 increase to total \$36 which could mean an additional \$810 million increase.
- Additional \$129 million of inter-year deferrals. This translates to approximately \$8.5 million that SCC wouldn't see until next year and would create a large cash flow challenge.
- Good news – no cuts to categorical programs and continued categorical flexibility provision.

The League's Solano College related analysis suggests budget decreases from \$2.4 million to \$6.6 million. The former figure is dependent on passage of Prop 98 and the latter if Prop 98 fails. One to three thousand students might be lost. Results of a recent independent and informal NPR poll in San Francisco concluded there will not be much support. Republican support would be needed to get it on the ballot and voters would need to be convinced it should be supported, which could present a challenge with many people experiencing financial and job challenges of their own.

Additional points VP Ligioso noted from Solano College plans included:

- Lessen \$6.8 million impact by savings from 2010-11
- Growth funding from two years (2010-2012) considered for workload augmentations. These funds have not yet been received nor spent.
- Some claims reimbursements may be received from the state.

- SCC filed with the federal government for early retirement incentives which could be used to lessen the impact in 2011-12.
- Total of \$1.4 million expected revenues would lessen the potential \$4.3 million revenue loss and \$2.6 million cost increases to total an approximately \$5.5 million decrease.

In reference to the decreased expenditures suggested in negotiated items, VP Ligioso added the following clarifications:

- Identified as one of the options, the OPEB contributions figure speaks to future unfunded contributions. Solano College District has joined the League and set up a mechanism with a total contribution to date of approximately \$1.7 million. Not everyone is contributing, many are on a pay as you go method, and many districts are viewing this particular item as an option.
- If the College is able to cut back as shown, the budget problem could be solved for 2011-12.

VP Ligioso noted that the California Department of Finance believes there could be \$12 billion less to work with state-wide for the next 5-7 years, approximately half from deferrals and half from cuts. This also assumes there would be no mid-year cuts. He concluded with a request that everyone speak with friends and neighbors to support Proposition 98 if it gets on the ballot. VP Ligioso noted that additional revenue sources, such as grants, will be reviewed to confirm accuracies of estimates and refine numbers. Research and Planning will send out a survey requesting suggestions and comments towards budget resolution. Open forums will be held to disseminate items coming through surveys and additional information. These are unprecedented times with the state in fiscal crisis and a new approach is needed.

EVP Reyes reported that the College is increasing towards 10,000 to become midsize. If the 9300 FTES for the academic year is confirmed, numbers could possibly be taken from summer to decide whether to pursue midsize status, which would bring in another \$1.1 million.

Comments/Questions: Senator Nagle asked if the \$8.5 million deferral was factored in. EVP Reyes clarified that VP Ligioso's numbers speak to the budget, not cash flow. The \$8.5 million deferral means it will cost more to borrow the funds and that should be an added factor. The county auditors and treasury are working out borrowing arrangements to advance through cash flow issues. EVP Reyes added all options are under consideration, including land sales, grants, strategic use of Perkin's funds, and not backfilling categoricals with general funds.

Senator Cittadino queried what Solano College can do to support Prop 98. EVP Reyes responded that part of the challenge is that the 111 colleges and 72 districts in the state is a loose federation. The League helps with unification. Increased UC and CSU fees should increase the demand for community colleges. The budget message will be sent out campus and community-wide to get broad participation and maintain a high level of transparency. For the remainder of 2010-11, spending vigilance will be a priority with some focus to help shoulder the impact from 2010-11 for 2011-12. EVP Reyes, VP Ligioso, and HR Director Ulrich will look at justification for expenditures. An example was given regarding large postage expenditures that could be reduced by more online access.

Senator McDermott queried if contracting out the bookstore would be a trade-off. VP Ligioso responded that Ohlone Community College privatized their bookstore, the money paid for inventory, and they are guaranteed commissions. How the bookstore here is operating financially will be reviewed first.

President Watkins thanked VP Ligioso for his work and updates and implored everyone to inform their divisions. Changes are needed as never seen before and everyone's help and understanding is needed. Senator Christiansen noted that out-of-state and international students bring in higher fees and marketing to them should be considered.

S/P Laguerre requested everyone look at department reorganization and curriculum enhancement. Decisions will be made before summer as much as possible, though some items may have to be dealt with in meetings later. VP Ligioso is looking for accuracy, where money may be setting, at staffing adjustments where technology could be more useful, and at efficiency across the board. S/P Laguerre expressed appreciation for VP Ligioso's valuable direction and leadership.

8.2 Constitution Senate Proportional Representation – Richard Kleeberg

Senator Kleeberg suggested an addition to the bylaws that will enable the Senate to approve parallel adjustments with reorganizations. He confirmed the Bylaws will allow the secretary and treasurer offices to be combined or revised if need be. President Watkins noted that Article II Section G Senate Officers states: “The President and the Vice-President serve concurrent two-year terms.” He suggested that will need to be made a one-year term for the current situation. Senator Kleeberg affirmed that the revised bylaws will allow important adjustments as needed, including bringing representation parallel with reorganizations. A complete revision will be voted on at the March 7 meeting. Senators should review the Constitution and Bylaws before the March 7 action. Senator Kleeberg pointed out that he changed By-Laws Article II Section 1: Representation to 2/3 vote rather than a majority considering the significant decision required for this item.

9. Action Items

- 9.1** Community College Completion Agenda
Deferred/time constraint
- 9.2** Commencement Funding
Deferred/time constraint
- 9.3** Faculty Title Designation Resolution
Motion to Approve
Ayes – 5; Nays – 2;
- 9.4** Constitution Revision on Voting Rights

President Watkins noted that Constitution Article III Section 4: Voting Rights for Senate Elections - option “B3” should be clarified to “Only full-Time Faculty shall vote in Senate elections, except that only Part-Time Faculty Members shall vote for their Part-Time Academic Senators”.

Motion to accept voting rights option “B3” (as amended above) - Senator McDermott; Seconded – Senator Cittadino; Ayes – 6; Nays – 4; Abstention – 1; Passed

Senator Jaimez, Senator Allen, and Senator Crawford requested notation that they voted against this item.

10. Action Reminders

- Review Constitution and Bylaws revisions
- Community College Completion Agenda
- Commencement Funding Request
- Foundations in Art conference funding request

11. Announcements

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn – Senator Kleeberg; Seconded – Senator Crawford

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm