



ACADEMIC SENATE

Adopted Minutes

August 12, 2010

Board Room 626

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

1. Call to Order

President Thom Watkins called the meeting to order at 10:11 am.

2. Roll Call:

Thomas Watkins, President

Darryl Allen, Abba Christiansen, LaNae Jaimez, Richard Kleeberg, Lou McDermott, John Nagle, Karen Wanek

Absent: Kim Becker, Nick Cittadino, Dale Crandall-Bear – *ex officio*, Susanna Crawford, Erin Duane – *ex officio*, Alena Hairston

3. Approval of Agenda – August 12, 2010

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

4. Comments from the Public

None

5. President's Report

President Watkins reported on the Faculty Association Retreat he was invited to attend on Tuesday, August 10th. He distributed a page for Senators to read what he discussed at the meeting.

President Watkins attended the two summer meetings of the President's Cabinet. Last semester the Academic Senate approved the Senate President's membership on the President's Cabinet. President Watkins reported that S/P Laguerre was cognizant of the fact that faculty was not there over the summer, so there was nothing to report at this time. President Watkins asked for Senators to bring forth any issues they or their constituents have and he will present them at these meetings. S/P Laguerre assured President Watkins that he wants faculty to be informed. About half of the members attended the summer meetings. The meetings will be held every Thursday from 2:30-5:00 pm.

6. Reports

6.1 Committee Reports

None

7. Information/Discussion Items

7.1 Discussion of election of Vice President / President Elect

President Watkins noted that the revision of the Constitution By-laws needs to be completed before the election is scheduled, which will be campus-wide. Senators discussed the issues around the current absence of a vice-president and past president. Senator Kleeberg suggested that something could be inserted in the By-laws to address these situations. He also noted that there has always been a problem to find someone to make the four-year commitment. During last semester's review, changing back to the more common method of having a president and vice-president elected was discussed. The review of the Constitution By-laws revisions will be on the next agenda.

7.2 Senate Priorities / Goals

Senators discussed the following list of priorities and goals for the College year:

- Constitution By-laws (See 7.3)

- Academic Integrity II
- Flex Cal (See 7.4)
- Faculty Association

Senator McDermott suggested Senate should be working with the Faculty Association to establish a joint committee to address issues which overlap. He noted that things became a little disjointed for some reason between the Union and Senate some years ago. The Education Code addresses relationships between the Academic Senate and the Faculty Association. In order to have a working relationship, some sort of exchange of information is needed.

- Reorganization

Senator Kleeberg suggested reorganization as another possible goal. There have been rumors of the College heading towards a three-division structure. He expressed concern that faculty have not been involved enough in plans and noted that item number 6 of Title 5, is “district and college governance, structures, as related to faculty roles”.

Other Priorities discussed:

Accreditation: President Watkins informed Senators of communication just received from Dean Lamb and Tracy Schneider, informing him that a challenge has come up regarding the Accreditation Self-Study timeline. While it seemed to be understood that the self-study wasn’t due until October of 2011, the final report is actually due in the summer of 2011, when most faculty are away. The October timeline is for the Accreditation Team to visit the College. President Watkins brought forth two proposals as possible solutions: 1) work by committees would be completed by January and approved so that the Accreditation Coordinator would have time to complete the report by May; or, 2) have one meeting of the Academic Senate in the summer for approval. The latter solution would require a guarantee that revisions would be brought forth to Senate for reviews, with a meeting scheduled to approve the final document.

Concern was expressed by Senators that many people are away on vacation and unavailable. After more discussion, the topic was put on hold until the next meeting. Dean Jeffrey Lamb will forward a timeline graphic soon. President Watkins considered inviting Dean Lamb and Accreditation Coordinator, Tracy Schneider to the next meeting to present the issue. He also noted that Ms. Schneider would like more time past January for work to be completed.

Department Chairs: Senator Kleeberg expressed concern that the decision this summer to hire an interim Dean from outside the campus was made without discussion and input of faculty. He suggested that administration should be informed that faculty should be involved to have input in faculty roles for government structure and he’d like to see the Senate bring up the concept of department chairs. They were eliminated by the Board of Trustees in 1990, when the concept of division deans was introduced. Now, 20 years later, Solano could rejoin the rest of the colleges in the nation and discuss department shares. Senator McDermott noted that department chairs are normally elected by the department faculty, not by administration.

7.3 Finishing Revision of Constitution / By-Laws

In response to queries from new Senators, Senator Kleeberg stated that the Senate has a committee which completed about 80% of the By-Laws revision. He noted that the By-laws can be changed by the Senate, while changes to the Constitution would require a campus-wide vote. By shifting some things into the By-laws, future changes needed, such as major restructuring or other issues, will be easier to implement. Senator Kleeberg will gather and forward materials to Senators before the next meeting.

7.4 Flex Cal

Senator Kleeberg shared his plan to present some materials to the Senate when time is available at an upcoming meeting. He noted there are some differences from what Flex Cal requires by law versus the Solano College version. In some divisions the Deans have decided whether faculty activities qualify as instructional improvement, yet there is nothing in the law that authorizes deans that power and authority,

which belongs to faculty. Senator Kleeberg will present materials that Senators can share with their divisions. Some ways things are handled at the College are questionable for Flex Cal. Also some divisions are not allowing faculty to have credit with activities that, by law, are clearly covered. Though Flex Cal is a Senate issue, some mutual discussion would be beneficial so that Deans are aware. Some Deans have not allowed faculty Flex Cal credit for preparation necessary with new textbooks or time spent in division meetings, which is for instructional improvement. Senator Kleeberg stated that while they may be required by contract, the state says division meetings are listed as Flex Cal credit. Past S/P Jensen brought up concerns about Flex Cal some years ago and the issue should now be addressed. Senator Nagle queried if this noncompliance has been brought up before, was it not addressed appropriately? Senator McDermott stated that a lot of administrators get in on it, though it is supposed to be faculty. Senator Wanek queried how other colleges handle approvals. Senator Kleeberg suggested continuing the discussion at the next meeting.

Appropriations discussion:

Questions were raised and concerns expressed regarding state delayed appropriations. The law states 85% of appropriations at minimal interest rate can be borrowed when necessary. Senator Kleeberg expressed his understanding that the College has enough to pay August payroll, but if the state doesn't have the budget passed in September, we may have problems for September 30 payroll. President Watkins noted that a TRAN (bond) was issued for the future in case appropriations aren't received. Senator Kleeberg queried if the college has a plan to meet September payroll if there is no state budget. President Watkins will look into this.

8. Action Items

9.1 Election of Secretary & Treasurer

Senator Wanek volunteered for the Treasurer position. The Secretary position will be brought forward to the next meeting. Senators can read the Constitution By-Laws for the description of duties.

9.2 Senate Meeting addition Academic Senate normally meets on the first and third Mondays of each month. The first Monday is Labor Day holiday, so Senators discussed meeting on the 13th and 20th. Motion to Approve the addition of Sept. 13, 2010, Academic Senate meeting – Senator Kleeberg; Seconded – Senator McDermott; Unanimous.

9. Action Reminders

Election of Secretary at Sept. 13th meeting

10. Announcements

President Watkins announced that Connie Adams will be back as Academic Senate Administrative Assistant for 60 days, following approval by the Board of Trustees. In 30 days, this will be posted as a permanent position, which may be 3/4 or full-time as S/P Laguerre mentioned the possibility of sharing the position with Senate and other needs.

From Chancellors office: SB1440 about waivers - legislation is in process for transfers to California University system colleges, guaranteeing CSU admission, if requirements are met. Students would not be required to take unnecessary repeat courses, as Associate degrees would be recognized as readiness for transfer.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am