



ACADEMIC SENATE

Adopted Minutes

November 7, 2011

Board Room 626

3:00 pm –5:00 pm

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call:

Thomas Watkins, President

Nick Cittadino, Dale Crandall-Bear – *ex officio*, Susanna Crawford, Joe Conrad – *ex officio*, Tracy Fields, LaNae Jaimez, Richard Kleeberg, Amy Obegi, Scott Parrish, Melissa Reeve

Absent/Excused: Abla Christiansen, Lou McDermott

Guests: EVP Reyes, Corrine Kirkbride, Jeanette McCarthy

Connie Adams, Interim Admin Assistant

3. Approval of Agenda – November 7, 2011

Motion to Approve – Senator Reeve; Seconded – Senator Jaimez;

President Watkins requested Item 7.1 be moved to follow Item 3 for an immediate report from EVP Reyes as administrative representative in S/P Laguerre's absence.

Passed as amended – Unanimous.

4. Approval of Minutes – October 3 and October 17, 2011

Deferred

5. Comments from the Public

Regarding Item 8.2 – Computer Software/Hardware Policy Subcommittee, Jeanette McCarthy suggested formation of an Academic Senate policy oversight committee that could be convened at any time when needed by faculty, students or programs when something is brought forward that is impeding the ability for programs to succeed.

6. President's Report

President Watkins gave the following report:

ASCCC Plenary Institute: President Watkins attended Plenary last week. He forwarded the resolutions to all faculty members, received many replies, and had numerous discussions before the voting on Saturday. The main items on the 50 pages of resolutions were *repeatability* and the *Student Success Task Force (SSTF)*. President Watkins attended the Area B meeting in October where discussions and formulation of resolutions took place to address these topics. Faculty members at Plenary were totally united on the SSTF. He will forward the final documents when he receives them along with his observations from the group as well as from individual discussions he had. Two members of the State SSTF Committee were there: Jane Patton, former ASCCC President and Dave Morris. Chancellor Jack Scott also attended. The Chancellor's office decided students should be moved out quickly and with degrees. Life-long learning has been tossed out and policies, including repeatability, were created to discourage it. President Watkins is drafting a letter about the task force and his observations, including information from Jane Patton and Dave Morris, and he would like to share that information with the Governing Board to foster their understanding of the task force.

In regards to *repeatability*, most of the concern was for PE, performing arts and fine arts which are not as defined as regular courses. There is a movement of accountability to be held to State standards including incentivizing pay for performance. President Watkins affirmed that everyone had concerns for elimination of life-long learning. He attended a breakout session on how to counteract repeatability concerns, including leveling courses, and heard a lot of support from faculty outside of fine arts. For the first time at Plenary, a consent agenda was created as a more reasonable process to handle the many resolutions.

Hiring Policy 4005: A couple of months ago, President Watkins asked HR Interim Director, Sandy Dillon, to speak with the Senate about the Hiring Policy 4005 in order to consider if any changes are needed. She agreed and President Watkins will schedule the topic on the next regular meeting agenda.

Comments/Questions: Ms. McCarthy reminded Senators about the Task Force information she forwarded including scheduled town-hall meetings. She added that these items will be finished in January and then submitted to the legislature.

Senator Cittadino pointed out that with specific requirements for degrees, a little different than CSU, if a student has a BA from CSU or UC, general education courses should be waived. Senator Parrish queried if there is an appeal process and added this repeatability issue will not only impede students but also the potential for passing a bond. President Watkins replied that other resolutions were passed regarding issues that should be considered, including maintaining the mission of community colleges. Reduction of what the state pays to community colleges, is the driving force behind this, and backed by the Koch brothers. Curriculum Chair Conrad pointed out that SSTF was generated by the Chancellor's office as a response to the legislature in an attempt to satisfy the law. Many interest groups involved don't have the same perspective or goals as the colleges.

Curriculum Chair Conrad opined that state assessments could be a good thing, but tying appropriations to success is not. Senator Parrish queried if it will be possible to take some of the good items and throw out the detrimental ones. President Watkins affirmed that and added that the Legislative Analyst's Office will have a big influence. Senator Obegi raised concern about potential elimination of stand-alone classes that aren't tied to majors. Curriculum Chair Conrad responded that that was brought up years ago in discussion about the main focus for scheduling courses should be BSI, Transfer and CTE and that stand-alone would be the first classes to be eliminated. He added that the Student Success Task Force is not addressing that.

7. Reports

7.1 Superintendent/President Jowel Laguerre

EVP Reyes reported that the College had an excellent visit with the Accreditation Team and thanked Senators for all their work and participation. The Team gave the College four commendations and seven recommendations which EVP Reyes hopes to see addressed immediately. To begin, he'll be meeting with PERT tomorrow and looking at SLOs soon. He also expressed appreciation to Senators for attendance at the MIG facilitated EMT meeting and the contributions faculty made. MIG representatives were very impressed, and it all went well.

EVP Reyes and the deans have discussed faculty hiring for next year and the hiring process will begin. The State has put the faculty obligation number on hold for the year. Solano College currently exceeds the faculty obligation number. Although there is not a pressing need to hire more faculty members based on those numbers, administration knows it is the right thing to do. Once the process moves to FaBPAC, funding will be reviewed for decisions can be made on positions to be hired.

Curriculum Chair Conrad queried if the 50/50 rule is an issue. EVP Reyes responded that VP Yulian Ligioso informed him that the College has improved from the last three years and all areas are currently fine.

7.2 Sub-Committee Reports

7.2.1 Basic Skills – Corrine Kirkbride

BSI representative Corrine Kirkbride was pleased to announce the hiring of BSI Coordinator Melissa Reeve. A meeting will be scheduled soon with Josh Scott, Corrine Kirkbride, and BSI Coordinator Reeve to move forward. BSI has been in bit of a holding pattern since the loss of a coordinator. Ms. Kirkbride expressed that Coordinator Reeve will bring to BSI her huge passion to help students, a really good vision for BSI, as well as her experience and work with ESL.

BSI has offered success workshops but due to the reorganization eliminating the Dean of Academic Success and Ralphine Andrus' retirement, the Committee is wondering how to get success workshops back up and running. Funding is available and they want to continue. Ms. Kirkbride queried status of the CAS coordinator/director position and why it hasn't been put forth. Coordinator Reeve pointed out that as a part of the BSI team, it would be good to have that person hired as soon as possible to be part of the discussions and decisions on who has what responsibilities. Ms. Kirkbride added that it needs to happen before the beginning of next semester. The position was taken to: the union, which can't make the decision but can make a recommendation; Human Resources; the Academic Senate, and; EVP Reyes. Success workshops should start now. A meeting is scheduled for next week with Dean Lamb, Josh Scott, Corrine Kirkbride, and Melissa Reeve.

There is a little time left to forward the BSI report to the State. VP Ligioso is checking the numbers to verify everything. In the meantime, Ms. Kirkbride and Mr. Scott are continuing BSI work within their own schools and look forward to working with Coordinator Reeve.

7.2.2 Curriculum – Joe Conrad

Chair Conrad commented that the SSTF requirement for new students to deal with BSI classes in their first year is a good one. Course repetition has been set but repeatability has not been decided. Course repetition will only allow three takes (had allowed up to seven) of a class with an evaluative grade, including W, on a student's report card. One possible exception may be a substantial period of time between takes but the timeline has not been defined. The first "W" will count. It may take six months to implement, so the latest start will be next summer for community colleges throughout the state or it may start as early as spring. Grandfathering in will not be allowed. If a student has already taken a class for three semesters, they cannot retake it at Solano College, but they can take it another three times at another community college. Senator Cittadino noted that the definition of "substantial time" will be an important factor.

7.2.3 Distance Ed – Dale Crandall-Bear

Chair Crandall-Bear reported that the DE Committee is continuing review of LMS platforms and all companies have presented demos except eCollege. The representatives arrived at the planned time today with a business plan instead of a demo, so a reschedule is necessary. The RFP is almost complete. The Committee is in process of getting all questions asked because once the RFP goes out there will be no communication with the platform representatives.

Chair Crandall-Bear reported on the DE Committee meeting with the Accreditation Team. In the course of conversations with the team, they mentioned they had read every single Academic Senate and DE meeting minutes for the last 10 years which included many long discussions held about DE, the moratorium the Academic Senate had imposed, and the controversy around that. The Team made note of that and they went out of their way to commend DE and the Academic Senate on the great job they did, and especially commended the attention given to the quality of the program. Chair Crandall-Bear concluded that for those who were around and remember the difficulties, it was especially good to have people acknowledge the good work that was done.

7.3 Treasurer's Report

Secretary/Treasurer Kleeberg reported a balance of approximately \$8000 with no income or expenses in the last month.

8. Action Items

8.1 Curriculum Committee Representation Proposal

Senators voted on the proposal as discussed at the last meeting. No other changes were made. Motion to Approve – Senator Kleeberg; Seconded – Senator Jaimez; Passed – Unanimous

8.2 Computer Software/Hardware Policy subcommittee

This item was brought forth for action after a discussion, initiated by faculty, on October 17th. If the subcommittee is approved, IT Director Jim Ennis will appoint Kimo Callahan as the IT representative. President Watkins and Director Ennis agreed that members would participate with open minds and look at everyone's needs. Director Ennis affirmed that IT is open to any improvements necessary. The vote will decide whether or not to form a subcommittee. Comments were heard from the public and that advisement can be discussed at the next meeting, if the committee is formed. Senators pointed out, questioned, and considered the following:

- It is the job of senators to communicate with their constituency on this and all items within Senate purview.
- Be cautious with topics, such as grievance, to maintain and distinguish roles of what the Academic Senate and the union are authorized to do. This topic is not about a dispute between one faculty and dean. It is a request from an entire division.
- The committee would not address disputes between a dean and faculty member unless absolutely sure that it's not a union grievance.
- The Academic Senate could request that the College create dual policies on computer software and hardware: an academic policy based on individual departments, divisions, or schools and a curriculum policy.
- Set up a system to allow faculty to make some changes to overall general policy.
- No one would or should be given super server access that IT has. It was noted at the last meeting that the division had purchased hardware which the district later took away from. No faculty had super access.
- District policy has inhibited delivery of some curriculum to students, which interferes with teaching and SLOs. Faculty need programs for student learning and instruction and a policy that would allow optimal delivery of instruction.

- It might be best to start with a basic policy to recognize academic differences and needs and bring that to administrators, many of whom have expressed support. After that, address what other computer hardware/software issues there are.
- When new programs are released, students expect to see them in the next semester, yet the College may take years to add and policy could handle that.
- Many faculty members want to use different hardware, software or both because it is standard for the curriculum they teach.

Motion to Approve formation of a Computer Software / Hardware Policy subcommittee – Vice President Crawford; Seconded – Senator Reeve; Passed – Unanimous.

Senators agreed the committee would include eight members with one representative from: each school, IT, DE Committee, Student Services, and Curriculum Committee.

Motion to Approve the subcommittee representation as written – Vice President Crawford; Seconded – Senator Reeve; Passed - Unanimous

Senators should inform constituents and solicit a representative from their school.
The subcommittee purpose will be to prepare and bring a resolution back to the Senate.

9. Information/Discussion Items

None

10. Action Reminders

11. Announcements

President Watkins announced the formation of a Commencement Committee which will hold the first meeting on Thursday.

Three volunteers are needed to be Marshals at Commencement. Senator Cittadino volunteered.

12. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn – Senator Kleeberg; Seconded – Senator Cittadino

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm.