



## ACADEMIC SENATE

### ADOPTED MINUTES

**April 21, 2008**  
**Board Room 626**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**

#### **1. Call to Order**

President Kropp called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call:**

Gail Kropp, President

Jeffrey Lamb, Vice President/President-Elect

Robin Arie-Donch, Emily Blair, Joseph Conrad, Erin Farmer, *ex officio*, Ferdinanda Florence, Ruth Fuller, Lou McDermott, Rennee Moore, John Nagle, Carl Ogden

*Absent/Excused:* Jackie Rock, Thom Watkins

Senate Administrative Assistant Mary Swayne

Michael Goodwin, new senator for CTE, Lisa Giambastiani, new senator for Humanities

Marianne Flatland, Counselor/Veterans Affairs, Counseling representative to Curriculum Committee

#### **3. Approval of Agenda – April 21, 2008**

- Motion to approve – Senator Arie-Donch, seconded – Senator Ogden; President Kropp asked to change the order of Information/Discussion Items by moving **6.c** to **6.a**
- Voted to approve agenda as amended – M/S/P - Unanimous

#### **4. Approval of Minutes – April 7, 2008**

- Deferred to next meeting

#### **5. Reports**

##### **a. Curriculum Committee – Erin Farmer**

- No report

##### **b. Distance Education – Rennee Moore**

- Tour of new .NEXT was held April 10, 2008.
- Distance Education is on the Flex Cal Agenda for one optional and one required Flex Cal day to introduce the new software.
- Committee member elections will be held at the May meeting.
- Committee will vote on the Online Curriculum Committee Appendix #1 changes at the May meeting.

##### **c. Study Abroad Committee – Ferdinanda Florence**

- First official meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2008.
- Mary Swayne will handle the recording of the minutes.

**d. Spring Plenary Report – President Kropp**

- Federal Government and Department of Education actions with Perkins Act funding
  - Created a new standard entitled the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Standards. Institutions will be judged whether or not they are going to receive their VITEA funds based on this standard.
  - The Bronze standard allows an institution to do locally developed testing; to achieve the Silver Standard, the institution must use statewide independent testing to prove that students are learning what the institution claims they are and the Gold Standard requires third-party, nationwide testing.
  - By 2010 all institutions will be required to use the Gold Standard

President Kropp related the concerns from the Chancellor's Office and the ASCCC that the federal government and Department of Education are using the VITEA funding and the Perkins Act as a step-in to mandatory third-party testing across the board in higher education. Noting that to her knowledge there has been no discussion of the gold standard at SCC, President Kropp asked CTE Senator Godwin if he had any information or knew whether discussions were underway in the CTE Division. Senator Goodwin replied that there has not been any discussion to date. President Kropp emphasized that this is an area of great concern, and stated that LOAC Tracy Schneider would issue a more thorough, compiled report later about the bronze-silver-gold standard.

- Spring Plenary speakers asserted that this is an attack by the Department of Education on ACCJC to attempt to wrest control from the accrediting body.

➤ ACCJC is trying to preserve the way accreditation is done, which is essentially peer review

Comments/Questions: Senator Ogden asked whether it was President Kropp's understanding that the Department of Education was planning to have a single test for someone at Harvard and someone at SCC. President Kropp related the sense among Plenary speakers that this is a government attempt to bring "No Child Left Behind" to "No University Student Left Behind." She added that there is a great deal of resistance on our part; California is leading the charge and other states are supporting us in resisting this attempt by the Department of Education. Members of the ASCCC Committee on Accreditation and Student Learning Outcomes are making this assessment as well as representatives from the Chancellor's Office. They believe this is what the Department of Education's intention is, and this is probably what we will want to vigorously resist. Ms. Farmer noted that "No Child Left Behind" is here to stay regardless of any political changes nationally. The goal is to use standardized testing as a step to standardized curriculum. President Kropp reaffirmed that there is strong resistance, pointing out that many institutions have chosen to do SLOs in the manner of the Cabrillo model, which is designed for as much autonomy as possible. The question was raised whether Cabrillo College's successful accreditation review might suggest that the Department of Education will be satisfied by SLOs? President Kropp stated that as long as an institution can demonstrate that they have developed SLOs, are closing the loop on assessment, and are using the assessment to inform their planning and expenditures, then the institution is in a strong, defensible position. SCC is in excellent shape, in terms of SLOs, for its accreditation review.

- State Budget Report – CCL CEO Scott Lay reported that the shortfall is currently estimated to be at about \$14 billion.
- Papers accepted at Plenary included Distance Education; Academic Integrity Grade Distribution/Grade Inflation. These will be posted on the ASCCC website and are of particular interest to SCC.

**6. Information / Discussion Items**

**a. Basic Skills Action Plan – Joshua Stein**

- Distributed draft "Overview – Solano College's Basic Skills Initiative Action Plan"
- Executive Summary goes to the State by May 1, 2008, including matrices laying out the steps and an expense plan detailing how we propose to use the 2007-08 funding

- Draft plan formulated based on coordinators' information reported in the form of a matrix that will go to the State
- SCC pulled plans together in 21 months with a large response now in place; SCC in the top 40% of responses

Mr. Stein reviewed the components of the action plan, noting that SCC did a literature review, used materials from the State, and spent spring 2007 to develop best-case scenarios. Such scenarios were based on discussions of what could be done, without consideration of money, staffing and space limitations. These discussions became the starting point, with the understanding that BSI would realistically only get half of what was asked for. The report shows the different strands that will eventually come together in several different ways. One example is the Student Success Center support area, a one-stop intake center that will provide for students, rather than sending them to look elsewhere. Another is the first-semester experience upon which skills can be added.

Comments/Questions: President Kropp clarified the process for BSI report, noting that an approval would need the signatures of herself and Vice President Steinback, with Senate discussion beforehand. President Kropp revisited the issue of whether funding had been increased for the Math Lab and Writing Skills Lab, asking if it was still true that the additional funding had not yet resulted in additional hiring. Mr. Stein responded that there is a three-step process: idea, actual plan, and implementation, commenting, "we have found that we can coordinate and make recommendations, but we cannot direct the actual implementation." He noted that BSI has no direct responsibility for areas involving faculty oversight and that hampers implementation. He further noted that he is aware of hiring and staffing issues and that some of the things being passed down from the Vice President level to the Dean level have not been implemented. Senator Lamb advised that the Spring 2008 Plenary included the discussion that the Academic Senate should have a bigger role in hiring and evaluating faculty with CTA. The Senate should be consulted on every hire, not just faculty hiring. The BSI Expense Budget Report goes to the State July 2008.

- SCC report will be presented to the Governing Board

President Kropp observed the sense from the Senate that she should sign off on the report; however, she will include a positively-framed letter to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Superintendent/President, encouraging that the stumbling blocks to implementation be alleviated.

**b. Resolution Commending Kathy Kearns for Supplying Tenure Tea Mugs – Ferdinanda Florence**

- First reading of resolution took place
- No changes or improvements offered
- Will be added to agenda as an action item at May 2008 meeting

President Kropp – received a request from Senator Arie-Donch that she would like to move item **6.f.** to **6.c.** because Ms. Flatland will have to leave soon. The request was accepted/approved by attendees.

**c. Proposed Revisions to Liberal Arts Degrees – Robin Arie-Donch and Marianne Flatland**

- Distributed Associate in Arts in University Studies with Emphasis (Draft version 4) and Associate in Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (Draft version 5)
- Two degrees replacing Liberal Arts Degrees that are out of compliance
- Ms. Flatland will present drafts to Curriculum Committee April 22, 2008
- Senate to review and submit feedback to Senator Arie-Donch, Barbara Paváo, and Marianne Flatland
- Requesting Academic Senate to vote on revisions at May 2008 meeting

Comments/Questions: Senator Arie-Donch reported that here are two new degree revisions replacing the out of compliance degrees. University Studies is designed for students who will probably not get an Associate Degree if we require them to do much more than what they are going to have to do to transfer. The task force looked at the requirements from some feeder

schools to see what students were going to be taking for various transfer majors. In doing this, they were trying to find things that were in more than one school. If senators have any ideas, omissions, suggestions, questions feedback from their divisions on the drafts, they should send an email to Marianne, Barbara, and Senator Arie-Donch. A senator sought clarification on why a University Studies student would probably not get an Associate Degree; a student is going to transfer, so don't they need the Associate Degree? Senator Arie-Donch replied that in order to transfer, for the most part, they do not need an Associate Degree.

The Interdisciplinary Studies is designed for students who are not going to transfer or may transfer in the distant future. These are students who may not have a particular vocational major. The idea behind the Interdisciplinary Studies is to give them a way to explore disciplines that may lead to majors, and to be able to earn an Associate Degree.

Senator Arie-Donch is seeking division feedback on the issue of potential overlap: some of the Interdisciplinary Studies emphasis areas overlap a little with some of the Associate Degree majors. For example, Communication emphasis was purposely made different from the Communication major for the AA Degree, but there are a lot of courses that are in common with it such as speech courses. The Communication emphasis gives a little more flexibility and allows students to take courses that involve writing skills, listening skills, foreign language skills as well as speech. But, it could impact and there are a number of emphasis areas like that. We need to hear from the divisions – do they think it would be better not to offer courses that could overlap with degrees we already have? Do they want to modify some of the degrees we already have to make them more flexible?

There was a concern regarding the number of students choosing different majors; is there a record? Ms. Flatland replied there is a document from Robert Johnson that lists the degrees and the frequency of choice. Liberal Arts is our most popular major. This list can be sent to interested senators. One of the senators commented that if one looks at it from a scientific point, one wants all the degrees one can have and the students will pick the one that they want and so more degrees will be awarded.

A concern was voiced regarding abolishing the most popular major as being odd. President Kropp noted that Counseling is not abolishing the major; they are bringing it into compliance by creating the areas of emphasis. Senators should make sure they have circulated the proposals in their areas. Senator Arie-Donch will email the proposals to Ms. Swayne to clean-up and she will send to the Senators. The senators expressed sincere thanks to Senator Arie-Donch, Ms. Flatland and other Counseling staff for their hard work in creating the draft University Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies degree proposals. Senator Arie-Donch noted that the Vice President of Academic Affairs wants the Governing Board to have these degrees by May 21, 2008. To achieve this, we would have to vote at the May Senate and Curriculum meetings. Ms. Flatland commented that the reason for the deadline is we do not want to hurt students by not having some options for the next catalog. If it is at least online, the students will not lose out on this degree opportunity.

**d. Accreditation Midterm Report**

- Standard #3 – Planning Agenda 61 (SLO faculty evaluation and CTA inclusion); Planning Agenda 63 (Statement of Faculty Academic Freedom and Responsibilities)
- Planning Agendas 61 and 63 were read aloud

Comments/Questions: President Kropp began with a discussion of Planning Agenda 63. Senator Florence inquired whether the Academic Integrity Policy approved in 2005 met part of that agenda item. President Kropp advised that the Academic Integrity Policy was primarily directed towards the students, but does not contain everything we need to meet the planning agenda item. President Kropp noted that the President of the AAUP had addressed one of the ASCCC general sessions at

Plenary, touching on the *1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure* in his remarks. In addition, President Kropp spoke to others senate leaders about their academic freedom and integrity policies, which she has since researched on the web. Pasadena Community College suggested that SCC could use their Faculty Academic Integrity policy, since they had made use of SCC's Academic Integrity Policy for students. Vice President Lamb offered a visual presentation of the AAUP website and several college websites, showing various policies that the Senate might consider borrowing and modifying for SCC use. President Kropp asked senators to meet the challenge of coming up with or borrowing a draft statement of faculty academic freedom and responsibilities by the next senate meeting on April 21st.

- AAUP website has a statement on professional ethics; 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure
  - Pasadena Community College website has a policy on academic freedom and responsibility
- President Kropp noted procedures and further details of the Pasadena policy, reminding senators that SCC had their official blessing to use the policy. She pointed out their professional ethics faculty policy, noting that the Senate should first concentrate on developing an Academic Freedom and Responsibility policy, but they should do so with an eye to developing the professional ethics policy as well.
- West Valley Mission College website shows their policy on Academic Freedom, approved by their Board

President Kropp recommended that the Senate create a draft to circulate at the end of this semester, which could be approved by the Senate in the fall 2008, prior to the Accreditation visit. That should meet the requirements of our Planning Agenda item, but we need to start it now. We want to make certain that any policy that is drafted and approved is also followed. Senator Conrad, as the Distinguished Faculty Award recipient 2006-2007, was asked to consider heading the task of drafting the statement language, with the assistance of one or two other senators and faculty members. President Kropp noted that a small group should be tasked, because we have to move quickly. Senator Moore volunteered to copy, paste, and massage a unified policy from the models presented; Senator Conrad stated that this kind of response was possible within two weeks. President Kropp stated that such a document could at least be a starting point, if Senators Moore and Conrad were willing to work on it. She added that the senators who will be here in the fall should keep in mind that this must be a completed task by the end of September 2008.

- Planning Agenda 61: *The College administration and the Academic Senate will decide how student learning outcomes will be infused into the evaluation process for full-time and adjunct faculty. At the same time, the College and the CTA must negotiate such inclusion into the evaluation articles of the labor agreement.*
- President Kropp will email Diane White and copy Tom Grube, who is the incoming CTA President, to address this item
- Faculty concerns about linking SLOs and faculty evaluations

Senators identified two different interpretations regarding how SLOs might be “infused into the evaluation process”: evaluation based on SLO assessment outcomes and evaluation based on whether a faculty member is doing SLO assessment. Senator Blair observed that SLOs should be infused into the written evaluations only with regards to whether faculty are participating and putting forth the paperwork to establish evidence of participation. President Kropp agreed that no one would ever agree to use assessment outcomes as a basis for a teaching evaluation; this will be the substance of what the Senate should address in terms of our Accreditation Midterm Report.

In regard to Senate work on the four standards in general, President Kropp noted that a Plenary session entitled *Hot Topics in Accreditation* listed the four standards and next to them the 10+1 items over which the Senate has purview with cross-references drawn. While there is already consensus in the Senate that Standard #2 is “our” standard, encompassing everything we do, the point made in the Plenary session was that all the standards are our standards, and the Senate needs to be looking at the other three standards as well, finding linkages between them and the

10+1 in order to make Accreditation work for the institution. President Kropp reminded senators of Vice President Steinback's suggestion to senators that they look at the ways the standards affect both what we do and what our rights are as faculty members in terms of the 10+1.

- e. Request from CTA that Senate Fund Dessert for Fall Flex Faculty Luncheon – Jeffrey Lamb
  - Spoke with CTA Treasurer Dorothy Hawkes – normally we have 140 people in attendance
  - Dessert can be simple, cookies or something more elaborate depending on what we want to do
  - Cookies would cost approximately \$50 from Costco; an elaborate dessert could be \$100 or more
  - Recommended allotting between \$100 to \$150 for dessert

Comments/Questions: Vice President Lamb observed that the Senate should fund the dessert as a point of good faith. Suggestions were offered with the consensus that the Senate should approve \$100 to \$200 towards the dessert. That will be an action item at the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

- f. Faculty Concerns re Safety in 100 Building – Ruth Fuller
  - Building 100 staff attended President's Coffee with printed documents of recent dangerous and disturbing incidents in 100 Building, seeking some sort of response from the Administration
  - Main problem – slow response to Building 100 problems
  - Not regular student behavior problems
  - Verbal threats, including threats on lives and screaming at Library and Reading/Writing Lab staff
  - Attacking staff, harassing threats outside SCC; safety of staff is compromised

Comments/Questions: Concerns were expressed regarding the situation. Library staff are asking what to do, and to whom to turn for solutions. Due to reconstruction, the area is deserted; a presence is needed to fill that space. Construction will start in the summer, which might solve the problem. The response from students who are told “no” by faculty and staff has gone up a level. President Kropp stated that, on the basis of what has been described, the chain of command should include Jay Field as a Vice President in that building (his domain); Vice President of Student Services, Lisa Waits; Chief Dawson, Head of Police; and Mazie Brewington, Vice President of Administrative & Business Services. Senator McDermott recommended that the faculty members should file a grievance on working conditions as intolerable; it is a safety issue and the CTA should be apprised of this. Senator Ogden suggested that the Senate President write a letter; President Kropp agreed to draft an email to the Superintendent/President, the Vice President of Business Services, the Vice President of Student Services, and the Vice President of Technology, mentioning that these issues have been raised in the Senate and there is great concern for the safety and welfare of faculty, staff and students in Building 100. The email should also address the fact that there has been a slow and inadequate response to the situation. President Kropp will copy the email to Diane White and Tom Grube.

- g. Senate Elections Update – Jeffrey Lamb, John Nagle
  - Checked with Senator Nagle regarding the process
  - Drafted an email, sent to President Kropp and Senator Nagle for review
  - Waiting for response regarding suggested language of the email to be sent
  - Nominations should be in by April 28<sup>th</sup> and election results by the end of week Friday or the following Monday
  - Will add the yes/no straw-poll question on Senate representation
  - President Kropp or Ms. Swayne will forward the Academic Senate Constitution/Bylaws to Vice President Lamb

President Kropp welcomed the Senate's newly elected senators, Lisa Giambastiani from Humanities and Michael Goodwin from CTE.

## **7. Action Reminders**

- a. Senators are to circulate drafts of Liberal Arts Degrees in divisions for feedback Senator Arie-Donch will email drafts of proposals to Ms. Swayne which she will edit; will send the clean drafts to the senators
- b. Academic Freedom and Responsibility Statement

## **8. Announcements**

- Senator Florence announced that Lorenzo Phillips needs a faculty member to be a judge for the fashion show on May 1, 2008 from 12-2:00 p.m.

It was suggested that Senator Florence send an email to everyone letting them know that they can contact her about this request. Senator Blair offered to judge, and President Kropp volunteered Mary Swayne to be a judge.

- Ms. Swayne reiterated the importance of reading the *Rostrum* for additional information on subjects covered at Senate meetings. In the February 2008 issue, for example, articles of interest are: “Have You Heard about the Two-Year Rule and Accreditation,” “Disciplines List Review,” and “Julie's Inbox.”

## **9. Adjournment**

- Motion to Adjourn – Senator Ogden; M/S/P – Unanimous
- President Kropp adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.