



Academic Senate Highlights

February 10, 2009

President's Report

Faculty Hiring: Committee appointments for hiring a full time construction instructor were made by the steering committee in the first week of the semester. This was done in order that the hiring process could begin in a timely manner. The faculty appointed to the committee were Neil Ledford, Nancy Schur, Jose Trujillo and Joe Welch. This position was approved by the Faculty Hiring Committee in 2008-'09 and approved by the board at that time as well. No action was taken on the hiring until late last fall when the announcement went out. To see the job announcement go to this link. <http://www.hartnell.edu/hr/jobs/Construction%20Tech%20Instructor-200811.pdf>.

Minimum Qualifications: The proposals to the state senate for changes to the minimum qualifications are in their final hearing period before the vote at the Plenary Session in April. There are proposals for Political Science, Agriculture, Humanities, Math, Statistics, Instructional Technology, Biotechnology and Speech Pathology. To see the proposals and the comments go to <http://www.asccc.org/LocalSenates/Discipline-list.htm>.

Discussion Items

Textbooks/Bookstore: Senators discussed dozens of complaints that have been brought to the Senate regarding textbook availability problems. Issues included not enough books being ordered, books or packets in store but not on shelves, lack of information about availability timelines, and lack of responsiveness to textbook shortages. The Senate has asked for information about the contract with Follett from Barbara Yesnoski. At the next meeting a subcommittee will be formed to tackle this issue and bring a recommendation back to the Senate if necessary.

Also discussed:

- ideas for early posting of text requirements so that students can shop online
- various open source materials available. (See <http://cccoer.org> for more information on this project.)

Mural Proposal: Heidi reported on the negotiations regarding the mural. She brought forward the concerns of the Senate about the proposed images. The mural will include a picture of indigenous people and research is occurring to find accurate representations. Senators discussed concerns that the images don't reflect our population, they send a message of looking backward rather than forward, they are not culturally sensitive and they misrepresent the history of the college as being founded by Hartnell. The Senate will take the next two weeks to talk with colleagues about the proposal and will take action on the proposal at the next meeting. Meanwhile, the Student Senate will be made aware of the Senate's concerns and will discuss the mural proposal as well.

Action Items

Tenure Review Process: Senators and a member of the public expressed concern that the document was not ready for a vote, so a vote on the proposal was tabled. More work will be done and more input gathered. [Note: This is a call for volunteers to join the tenure/evaluation work group. We need people to work on finalizing the revision of the tenure and evaluation processes. The group is meeting on Tuesday 2/24 from 2-3 in the training room in the library. After that they will meet on each 1st and 3rd Tuesday from 2-3. The current draft of the Tenure process, including changes made in response to Senator comments from the last week, is included as an attachment to this email. If you are unable to serve on the work group, we still welcome your comments. Written comments will be forwarded to the work group.]

Accreditation: The Senate received the most recent draft of the accreditation report prior to the meeting. Cathy Noble praised the college community for the large amount of work that has been done to respond to the accreditation recommendations and to write the report. The Senate will take formal action at the next meeting. Any comments about the report should be forwarded to Kathleen Rose.

Committee Appointments: Joe Welch, Alex Edens, Kathy Mendelsohn and Hermelinda Rocha-Tabera were appointed to the hiring committee for the Associate Vice President of Career Education and Economic Development. Maria Teutsch, Peggy Mayfield and Ann de Jesus Riley were appointed to the Distance Education Committee. Due to having many more volunteers than we have slots for, volunteers from Math/Science and Nursing will go back to their respective areas for vote. [Note: Results are in. Janeen Whitmore will be serving for nursing and Raylene Potter and Amy Taketomo (alternate) will be serving for Math/Sci.]