



Academic Senate Highlights

April 24, 2007

President's Report: President Fellguth reported she had received a letter from faculty alerting the Senate that a decision had been made by the Matriculation Committee on items that should have been brought before the Senate. The Matriculation Committee has apparently made the decision to purchase Accuplacer and to hire a consultant to implement it as our electronic assessment/placement instrument. This was done without the input of English or ESL faculty and was not brought to the Senate as a recommendation. Student preparation and success is one of the 11 items under the purview of the Academic Senate and such items should come through the Senate as recommendations from the committee. Also, English and ESL faculty would like the opportunity to examine the test before any recommendation is made. President Fellguth will investigate this with the Matriculation Committee chair.

The draft of the Technology Master Plan will be coming before the Senate at the next meeting on May 8.

Committee Reports

The Senate Task Force on Shared Governance will be moving forward with its plan to study the committees, their function, and their place in the committee structure. None of the other groups invited have submitted a representative but the Senate will be moving forward on this regardless. When finished, the Task Force will make a recommendation to the Senate.

Action Items

The Senate adopted Resolution 5.07 regarding the Professional Ethics Statement and adopted the Professional Ethics Statement itself.

The Senate adopted Resolution 6.07 to Establish Information Competency as a graduation requirement.

Both of these resolutions will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees. The Senate is requesting mutual agreement on Resolution 6.07 so that the graduation requirement can be changed. To see these documents go to http://www.hartnell.edu/academic_senate/documents.html and scroll down. Ethics Statement and Information Competency document are under the heading "Proposals," the resolutions are under the heading "Resolutions."

The Senate adopted a motion to have the topic of Presidential Search on all agendas in the near future. Tamberly Petrovich, Director of HR, informed the Senate that the Board had decided to hire a placement firm who will work on the hiring of the Interim President. This will allow representatives of constituent groups to focus fully on the search for the President rather than use resources

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conducting a full search process for both the interim and the President. The hope is that an interim will be on campus by July 1. The Board and HR are currently working on information about what will be required of the representatives so that those who are appointed will know the commitment they are making. The Senate will be prepared to meet during the summer, if needed, to provide input into the Presidential search process.

The Senate would like input from the discipline faculty about the important characteristics of the presidential search as well as important characteristics of the candidates. Please forward any comments or concerns or ideas about this to President Fellguth for discussion at future meetings. The Senate plans to determine its position on search process and candidate characteristics using the input from the full faculty.

Discussion Items

Senate Elections will be held in May. The Divisions will need to elect Senators and the current Senators will elect officers. A nomination committee was formed (Liz Estrella and Peggy Mayfield). They will identify vacancies, notify divisions of the vacancies so new senators can be elected, and nominate candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and At-Large Steering Committee member.

The Senate has budget has declined drastically over the last few years. With the new budget development occurring in the Budget Committee, the Senate has an opportunity to request adequate funding for its work. In addition, funds for Senate reassigned time have never been built into the budget although the agreement for reassigned time has been in place since 1997. This puts an undue burden on the Divisions to cover this unexpected cost. The cost of reassigned time will be built into the budget request of the Academic Senate. The request will be brought to the Budget Committee by Vice President and Budget Committee member, Phil Adams.

Cheryl O'Donnell brought forward the idea of implementing College Hour, an hour where no (or very few) classes are held. It would provide time when students and faculty would be available for meetings and events. There are obstacles to doing this, but there are also benefits. Students are anxious to have faculty participate in their events, they would also like to see increased student availability to participate. Another benefit discussed was the ability for faculty to have more contact with one another. This could be an important catalyst for improved college culture. A subcommittee (Cheryl O'Donnell, Kelly Locke, Melissa Stave) will investigate this, including how it is done at other colleges. They will also speak with the other Senates about the idea.