



Academic Senate Highlights August 26, 2008

Public Comments: Mark your calendars for the first annual Community Tribute Day held on Saturday September 6. The day includes a free barbeque and activities for families. It will also introduce the athletic teams to the community. Free tickets to the football game will be provided. Volunteers needed-contact Teri Pyer.

Discussion Items: The Senate discussed difficulties for students placed incorrectly by the newly implemented Accuplacer placement system. Students in ESL and Math have been placed in classes too low for their abilities. The process for using multiple measures (including the expertise of the faculty to assess student abilities and transcripts, for example) was not clear and students faced obstacles to obtaining the correct class.

The Senate learned that the Accuplacer test has not had the cut scores validated and the college "suspended multiple measures." This is a problem that the Senate will follow up on. Legally the college must place students using multiple measures—rather than solely on placement test scores. In addition, decisions about student placement policies fall under the category of "Student preparation and success." This is one of the 10+1 items under the Academic Senate's purview. On these items, policies are to be developed based on recommendations from the Senate. (See http://www.hartnell.edu/board/board_policies/2000/2005.html). We will seek to resolve this issue before spring registration starts, and will report the plans for using multiple measures and validating cut scores.

Senate Vacancies: The Senate has many vacancies due to expired terms. Many Senators with expired terms were present at the meeting and wish to be considered to continue on the Senate. Additional faculty interested in serving should contact Kelly Locke. Slates of Senate candidates will be sent to each of the divisions (as defined prior to the reorganization) for their vote if there are more volunteers than there are vacancies. Where division meetings are still held, (e.g., counseling) the election will be at a meeting. In divisions where a meeting is not possible, the election will be done via email. Stay tuned for an email regarding Senate elections!

Senate Membership 2008-'09

Officers

Senate President: Kelly Locke

2nd Vice President: Vacant

At-large: Larry Adams.

1st Vice President: Nancy Schur (moved up from 2nd VP to fill vacancy),

Secretary/Treasurer: Vacant

Senators

Counseling: Stelvio Locci and one vacancy

P.E.: Yvonne Reid and one vacancy

Math/Sci/AHT/Nursing: three vacancies

Fine Arts/Language Arts/Social Science: three vacancies

Library: Peggy Mayfield

Occ. Ed.: Peter Calvert and one vacancy

Action Items: The Senate appointed the following faculty to committees:

Financial Information Subcommittee

Phil Adams, Peter Calvert and Melissa Stave

Program Planning and Assessment

Kelly Locke, Peggy Mayfield, Larry Adams, Barbara Durham, Carol Kimbrough, and Kathy Mendelsohn

Student Learning Outcomes

Cheryl O'Donnell, Cathy Noble, Rhea Mendoza, Kathy Mendelsohn, Melissa Stave, Lisa Storm, Peggy Mayfield and Bob Spier

Additional appointments will be made at our next meeting.