

Academic Senate Minutes



November 13, 2007

3:00 PM

1. Call to Order:

Senators & Officers Present: Larry Adams, Phil Adams, Jennifer Fellguth, Alejandra Gutierrez, Susan Hovde, Carol King, Stelvio Locci, Kelly Locke, Cathy Noble, Ignacio Pando, Sharon Radel, Yvonne Reid, Jeff Roth, Melissa Stave, Joe Welch

Guests Present: Wayne Davis, Mary Dominguez

2. Adoption of the Agenda: adopted

3. Approval of the Minutes: none

4. Public Comments: none

5. Presentation: None

6. Action Items

A. Committee Appointments

The following committee appointments were approved.

- a. Basic Skills Initiative
 - 1. Daniel Perez
 - 2. Alejandra Gutierrez
- c. Diversity Committee
 - 1. Alejandra Gutierrez

B. Adopted the Departmental move form. Signature of the dean will not be required.

C. Adopt General Education/Institutional Outcomes (Resolution 11.07)

The Senate adopted the resolution defining the Institutional Level Student Learning Outcomes as presented by the SLO Committee.

7. Discussion/Information Items

Associate degrees out of compliance with title 5—Associate degree in Transfer Studies is out of compliance with Title 5. . A degree needs to have 18 units in a major or area of emphasis. Must be fixed by February 2008. The counseling department will be working with the curriculum committee on revising the degree to meet the regulations.

Pre-collegiate basic skills course limitation procedures. Mary Dominguez presented the process as proposed by the Student Policies Review committee. Students need to move on from pre-collegiate basic skills after 30 units of basic skills. Due to ESL, learning disability, or following a return to the adult school students can appeal the limit on basic skills. This policy must be implemented by fall of '08. It will be handled similar to probation process. Fewer than 100 students affected.

This is a good reason for developing a non-credit program for our students. Non-credit program could be something that the Basic Skills Initiative group looks at. Currently a GED prep program is in the works and will be coming to curriculum. The college gets funding for non-credit based on positive attendance. Students would have a modified application and would go through the matriculation process.

Counseling Resolution regarding accuplacer

Wayne Davis made a presentation to the Senate requesting that Matriculation be the place where selection, timeline and implementation of an assessment and placement instrument is decided.

There was discussion of the process that took place last year when the Matriculation Committee passed a resolution selecting Accuplacer. Senators recommended that in future decisions of committees the model of the widespread information dissemination to the divisions be used. (Similar to the process followed for adoption of CurricuNet). Faculty in the impacted departments should be involved in determining the recommendation that will be made. In that way the concerns of English and ESL faculty about Accuplacer could have been addressed sooner. The ESL and English faculty have agreed to a timeline for research, visitation to other colleges, presentation, and decision on the placement instruments that will be used. The current deadline is December 1, but that might be too ambitious. A progress report will come to the Senate meeting on November 27.

Faculty Internships The draft faculty intern policy was pulled from the agenda. President Fellguth was directed at the Senate retreat to write a cease and desist letter regarding the hiring of faculty interns. There is a sense that the hiring of faculty interns could be used to sidestep the issue of minimum qualifications. In order to hire interns the district must have a policy in place and a faculty mentor who meets specific criteria. These are Title requirements in order to hire interns. The Senate will send a letter to HR and the deans to cease and desist from hiring faculty interns until a policy is adopted and the other Title 5 requirements can be met.

Senate recommendations for negotiations

The union has asked for recommendations on items that are joint union/senate issues for negotiations of the next contract. Discussion ensued and the following recommendations were made:

- Reassigned time/flex credit/participation stipends: Forwarded to the shared governance task force for recommendations. It has been working on the structure of committees and can work on the items (including faculty chairs and evaluation process/criteria.)
- Senate recommendations regarding semester length—18 weeks to 16 weeks (or other format): Senate established a task force to make a recommendation based on widespread discussion. Ann Wright, Jennifer Fellguth, Melissa Stave, Phil Adams, and Larry Adams will be on the Task Force. An invitation will be sent to other faculty, classified staff and students.