

**Shasta College
Academic Senate Minutes
March 12, 2001
Board Room 3:05 PM**

Members Present:

Nick Rogers
Estella Cox
Sandy Johnson
Laura Valvatne
Richard Saunders
Frank Nigro
Carolyn Borg
Lew Schmitt
Eve-Marie Arce
Ron Marley
Philip Roché
Dave Bush
Dan Scollon
Randy Reed
Gary Lewis

Guests Present:

Raleigh Ross
Dean Hinshaw
Doug Soccio
Michel Small
Robert Soffian
Monica Lippingwell
Dean Munroe
Tom Masulis
Christine Flowers
Cathy Anderson
Elaine Crowe
Margi Rooker
Joe Adams

I.. Call To Order: Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m.

II. Approval Of Previous Minutes

a. Revised minutes were distributed by Randy Reed. Motion made to approve (Cathy Anderson); seconded (Dave Bush). Approved unanimously.

III. Guests

a. Elaine Crowe

IV. Reports

a. Nick Rogers: Nick reported that the cards listing the Academic Senate's mission are ready and he distributed them. He and Estella will be going to the State Academic Senate meeting in April; Frank Nigro will be going to the Summer Leadership Institute.

b. Estella Cox: Senate representation nominations are going out next week. The Senate mission cards will go out with them as attachments.

c. Frank Nigro: Frank expressed thanks to Randy Reed for doing the February 26 minutes.

V. Discussion/Action Items

a. Part-Time Hiring Issues: Eve-Marie Arce reported on the adjunct hiring subcommittee's findings. She reported discovering a number of old documents on hiring of adjunct hiring. She distributed a draft of the committee's recommended guidelines or process for adjunct hiring. It was decided that we will discuss this next week when President Treadway will come to speak with us about hiring priorities. Gary Lewis spoke to the issue of adjunct hiring relating to Extended Ed. He passed out a form used by Extended Ed for adjunct hirings and wanted to clarify that adjunct for Extended Ed. cannot be hired without being interviewed by relevant faculty. Randy Reed raised the issue of how it's decided which courses are offered at the Red Bluff Center that compete with courses offered on campus. Dan Scollon recommended that a form for scheduling be developed to be signed off by the Center dean. The subcommittee will meet again to discuss this further.

b. Theatre Arts Issue: Nick introduced this issue, noting he had asked Ron Johnson to attend today's meeting. Johnson, however, was advised not to attend by the President, who felt that Johnson's presence at our meeting was not very productive, and who expressed his preference that the issue be resolved between Johnson and the two faculty members involved.

Robert Soffian gave his side of things, clarifying that the press had come to him and not visa versa. He has been busy answering letters and emails from all over the country from people who are interested in this issue. He passed out copies of Johnson's December 4 memo to him regarding the plays. He noted that Ron was the first Dean to ever want to pre-approve plays, and the only one to reject a play. According to Soffian, this is strictly an academic freedom issue, and not one of community standards. The play Art that he did was the most produced play in America. The resume of what he and Dean Munroe have shown over the last 10 years, including some 70-80 plays produced by Soffian, he said, would stand up qualitatively and quantitatively to anything put out by anyone out there. The issue, he said, is who controls our classes. Soffian expressed a willingness to work with a mediator to resolve the dispute with Johnson.

Gary Lewis asked if any sort of agreement that had been reached about what sorts of plays should be put on. Michel Small recalled that there had perhaps been some discussions about having a certain number of money-making productions such as Grease and Peter Pan (also directed by Soffian). But, he said, nothing was ever formally decided upon. Dave Bush stated that Gary seemed to imply that this decision was made to ensure that a wider variety of material would be presented. If that was the case he asked if any data had been collected on the types of plays that have been done over the past several years; no one was aware of any. Dean Munroe noted that since his hiring in 1976, the basic philosophy at the college has been that summer was for box office plays and the school year was for more avant garde productions because it was felt that the high schools and Riverfront Playhouse have been doing more mainstream works. However, he maintained, even the less mainstream productions at the college have all been high quality, nationally respected plays.

Dave Bush picked up on Soffian's willingness to meet with a mediator to negotiate a solution to the conflict with Johnson and recommended that this be done. Doug Soccio noted that this is an

issue of censorship no matter how it is cast. Monica Lippingwell noted several instances where ASB events have been censored or controlled when sensitive material was involved. Concerns were raised about what the "community standards" are that Johnson mentioned in his December memo. Soffian reiterated that he was not amenable to censorship, but he was amenable to some sort of negotiation where we could work out a compromise.

Laura Valvatne moved that "The Academic Senate recommend that scripts for the theater that are accepted nationwide be allowed to be done here." This motion was not seconded.

Bush made the motion that "The Senate recommends that a mediator be brought in to negotiate a resolution to this issue." Dan Scollon seconded this motion. Discussion ensued in which some noted their opposition to the idea of the Senate moving on mediation. Gary Lewis offered to meet with Soffian and Johnson to help negotiate and to keep the discussion "in house." Dave noted that his notion of "mediation" was not synonymous with "compromise." This motion carried. Seven voted in favor of it. Four voted against.

Bush moved, "The Senate take a position that this appears to be an occurrence of censorship, and as such the Senate condemns it." Eva-Marie Arce seconded it. This motion carried unanimously.

c. Surveys - not discussed

d. Senate Goals - not discussed

e. Information Competency Hearings - not discussed

f. Re-organization Issues: SINR, Math - not discussed

VI. Other

VII. Adjournment; Next Meeting - March 20