Academic Senate

Open Meeting

Monday, October 11, 2004
3:00-5:00

Room 1108

Minutes

Members Present

Frank Nigro

Warren Lytle
Chuck Spotts
Ron Marley
David Cooper
Kevin Fox
Sue Loring
Scott Gordon
Vickie Kimbrough
Toby Bodeen
Kendall Crenshaw
Laura Valvatne
Dave Bush
Michael Pitcher
Marsha Ray
Gary Lewis
Terry Turner
Carolyn Borg
Ramon Tello

Guests

Cassandra Ryan
Nata Greenleaf

Mary Retterer

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:00.

2. Approval of Minutes 09/27/04 (1 Attachment): Dave Bush moved to approve and Kevin Fox seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Reports

>   a. Student Nata Greenleaf asked the Senate about an issue apparently left over from last year. There's a private lesson option for certain classes under Music. The Music Department does not seem to be letting people in unless they are majors, even though the prereqs seem to suggest it is open for non-majors on an independent study basis. Gary Lewis noted that the school cannot mandate that an instructor do independent study, so whether a class gets done in this manner is totally up to the instructor who would do so on a purely voluntary basis.

>   b. Mary Retterer came to get our thoughts on a possible reorganization. We've had one center dean leave us and another dean serving on an interim basis, so that presents us with a great opportunity to reorganize. Do we want to go back to a divisions arrangement or stick with centers?

>   Dave noted that in the past, reorganizations have gone according to who was in charge; they tended to put people in configurations that were most comfortable to them, rather than what was best for the institution or for instruction. Vickie Kimbrough said that she had done a quick survey of other community colleges, and in her area, many of the schools have already gone to have division coordinators. Marc Kemp noted he had worked in several other school districts and that ours was the first he's been in where they didn't have chairs or coordinators.

>   There were questions about whether such directors would be involved in evaluations; Mary said schools did this, some didn't. Dave suggested we consider grouping together vocational programs in one area.

>   There was another question about how to make these different coordinator positions equitable given that some centers have more adjunct than others.

There seemed to be general support for the idea of division chairs or coordinators. Mary encouraged us to email her or Gary about any other ideas we might have about reorganization. Cathy Anderson reminded us that this last year, the state Academic Senate issued a perspective on academic chairs. This article can be found at http://www.academicsenate.cc.ca.us/Publications/Papers/RolesResponsibilitiesAcademicChairs.htm.

4. Discussion/Action Items

a. Date for Last Day to Register (No Attachment): *Cassandra Ryan and Gary Lewis will lead a discussion.*

Cassandra and Gary would like to change the last day to add a class. There's a discrepancy between the census date and the last date to add. We can only collect apportionment on students up to the census date. Cassandra and Gary would like to move the dates closer and make this effective in Spring 2005. No one was opposed to this idea.

b. The Problem of Plagiarism (No Attachment): *Marc Kemp will lead a discussion.*

Marc noted that a few semesters ago he started to have problems with plagiarism in his classes. He went to the Office of Student Development, then staffed by Kathleen Lampeter, and she said that the worst she could do would be to call a student in her office and "make them cry." The problem: we have a policy in place, but we don't have any way to enforce the problem. Marc mentioned a recent Primetime episode that focuses on how academic dishonesty, aided by technology, is now becoming endemic at high school and college campuses. He related several instances that he's encountered in recent years.

Chuck Spotts noted that a group had explored this a few years ago, and they found that legally, the best they could do was to expel someone from the class for a day. Gary said that a lot of this has to do with what's in the instructor's first day hand out and how consistent it is among instructors. There was a question about whether we should put something on the transcript

Here's what we need to do: 1) find out what our legal rights are; 2) work on our policy so it's more specific about disciplinary action; and then 3) make sure each department goes through and presents to the students what cheating means for the class. Chuck and Cathy will look at the legal aspects; Marc, Laura Valvatne, and David Cooper will try to re-craft a policy once this is verified. We will aim to have something in place for the fall 2005 semester. The class catalog section on academic honesty will have to be modified to reflect that this policy is under review.

c. Plan for Faculty Computers (No Attachment): *Frank Nigro will lead a discussion.*

Frank pointed out that in recent years, dozens of classrooms on campus have been equipped with computer and multimedia equipment, and more and more instructors were using computers to enhance their instruction. Moreover, our online offerings continue to expand so that where we offered a mere five computer classes a few years ago, we offered a dozen the next year, two dozen the next, four dozen the next, and then 73 this semester. Despite all this we don't seem to have added any staff to service all this equipment, and we don't seem to have any logical plan for replenishing equipment in a timely fashion. He mentioned a projector that recently went out in Room 2149. The Title III grant was able to replace this $2000-3000 item, but this is the last year of that grant; when such items go out in the future, instructors who have become dependent on it may be left high and dry. Several Senate members chipped in with their own instructional technology horror stories.

Frank asked that the Senate discuss this issue and possibly put in request to Technology about how we're going to maintain our resources. There's something called the Tech II Plan put out by the Chancellor's Office. It details faculty computer replenishment and other instructional technology issues. Many schools have adapted it with modifications, for example changing the recommendation to replace faculty computers every three years by replacing them every four years. Frank would like to look at this plan, present it to us at a future date, and have the Senate make a recommendation on it.

5. Other: Ø.

6. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

7. Next Meeting: 3:00 pm, October 25, 2004 in Room 1108.