

Senate minutes (draft)
December 7, 2009

Present: Davison, Holcroft, Cormia, Arca, Denver, Frankel, Jordahl, Lin, MacNeil, McLeod, Macias, Marasco, Morriss, Murphy, Ong, Peter, Rosenberg, Seyedin, Spragge, Wilkes

Liaisons: Mustafa (ASFC), Erickson (FA), Gilani (Classified Senate)

Announcements: (informal) Harry Satterfield (retired faculty from BSS) suffered a stroke over the weekend, and is at El Camino Hospital; his family would like people to visit.

Three requests for committee members

1. Student Equity Committee; meeting times to be announced
2. Academic council Tuesdays at 9 a.m.
3. PDL meets Thursdays at 2 p.m.

Konnilyn Feig distributed the budget report in the form of a printed PPT (will be posted electronically later). The budget will be the major topic at the FHDA District Board meeting this evening.

Rosemary Arca announced the spring quarter SLO convocation – the date is March 12, 2010.

The minutes from the November 23rd meeting were unanimously approved.

Consent Calendar:

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COOL Committee:

Una Daly

Konnilyn Feig

Jordana Finnegan

Meredith Heiser

Carolyn Holcroft

Kate Jordahl (Chair)

Lesley Loudon

Allison Lenkeit Meezan

LaDawn Meade

Lisa Verissimo-Bates

Sandi Watkins

Anita Whitehill

Academic Senate – Language Arts – Richard Morasci

BTEC Hiring Committee:

Martin Melia (Chair), Gillian Schultz, Karen Erickson

Respiratory Therapy Hiring Committee:

Larry Miller (Chair), Brenda Hanning, Phyllis Spragge

Radiologic Technology Hiring Committee:

Bonny Wheeler (Chair), Jenene Key, Judy Yamamoto

Interim VPI Hiring Committee

Dolores Davison, Bernie Day, Carolyn Holcroft, Pam Wilkes

Regular business:

1. Bill of Particulars – Dolores Davison received significant feedback from faculty and senators on the Bill of Particulars, facilitating a large number of edits to the document.
 - The Biology/Health Services Division met Friday (12/4) where faculty reported to their senators a desire that the BoP action be tabled at the 12/7/09 meeting (today) such that a less vitriolic document could be prepared, and ideally brought back to senate for a read in early January 2010.
 - Specific comments about the document included a desire that required actions on the part of the President and Cabinet be measurable, with metrics and timelines, and that language in the document relating to the ‘reaction’ on the part of faculty be removed. Biology/health senators commented that there was general support for the action of a Bill of Particulars, but not with the specific wording in this document. PSME division similarly reported there was support for a BoP, but not with the current wording.
 - Senators also expressed concern that we move forward with a formal statement about how the faculty feel about the VPI dismissal, and in particular how this will impact faculty and the curriculum process. Additional comments about the BoP focused on separating language about Katie Townsend-Merino from instructions to President and Miner and Cabinet regarding restoring trust and transparency.
 - One senator commented that while we are trying to ‘speak the truth’, and in a timely manner, the form and contents of this document are important as the senate is working outside the ‘ten plus one’ areas of responsibility. Some of the dissent regarding the BoP was specifically to ‘distance’ the document from the personnel issue (VPI dismissal) and focus instead on building trust and transparency.
 - Another observation and concern was that if a (BoP) document were prepared and submitted that was too general in specifications, it might be too easy for the President and Cabinet to claim (later) that they had met the concerns, and hence were ‘in compliance’ with the actions requested.
 - In general, senators reported that the document needs too much revision to vote on the BoP today. Additionally, most divisions reported that faculty sentiment on the BoP was divided, and they really were

unable to vote for action on the BoP given this uncertainty. One senator observed that many faculty who were most concerned about the VPI dismissal were perhaps more 'engaged' with the inner workings of the college, e.g., curriculum issues. Further, senators should work to help less-engaged faculty understand the importance of being aware of what the College is deliberating. This is of special importance during staff reductions and reorganization resulting from the budget situation.

- A motion to table the resolution on the BoP was passed 13-6.
 - Further comment suggested a first read of a newly drafted BoP at the first senate meeting in winter quarter, January 11, 2010.
2. Resolution in support of Katie Townsend-Merino
 - The senate suspended the rules in order to vote on the resolution in support of Katie Townsend-Merino. A comment was made that both the content and format of the resolution might be (legally) construed as a formal statement of Katie's contributions and competence in her role as VPI. Not all senators felt that their division faculty had enough contact with Katie Townsend-Merino to support all the statements made (as assertions) in the resolution.
 - Motion to approve the resolution in support of Katie Townsend-Merino's contributions to Foothill College and curriculum was passed (13-4) - specifics of the document to be completed at a later date.
 3. Administrative evaluations – Dolores will forward (by email) the list of administrators to be evaluated to senators to see who can assist in the process of administrative evaluation.
 4. The District Board meeting will discuss (in closed session) the Chancellor search – and announcement on selection of a final candidate may be forthcoming.
 5. The senate meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.