

The Academic Senate meeting was called to order by Academic Senate President Gold at 12:45 p.m. There was a deliberate delay in starting the meeting to accommodate the travel of ECC/Crenshaw Senators to the Board Room at the Compton Education Center. Although there appeared to be an insufficient number of Senators present to constitute a quorum, President Gold indicated that there were no items on the agenda which required a vote, other than approval of the last meeting's minutes.

Approval of April 5 Meeting Minutes

The production of the minutes was rushed because of the spring break, and as a result, there were some typos. Contingent on correction of the typos, the minutes were approved.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

President's report—Christina Gold (henceforth CG)

[See packet pp. 12-17]

- One of the discussion topics during the most recent College Council meeting has been the slow movement of policies and procedures through the approval process prior to presentation to the Board. Dr. Nishime introduced a transmission tracking form, the use of which should help speed the process.
- Now only five of the original 20 faculty positions have been approved for hiring. Dr. Arce identified the five positions to be in the areas of ceramics, welding, fire technology, geography, plus one other that he could not recall. Depending on the budget scenario that eventually develops, there could be no positions authorized for filling.
- In terms of facilities work, the campus paving projects are coming to an end. The remodeling of the BSS building is on track to be completed in the summer.
- “The Academic Senate Guidelines for Budget Cuts and Reductions” have been distributed to the College Council and the Board of Trustees. Also, the document will be given to the PBC.
- CG attended the state Academic Senate Plenary session last week. Much of the session focused on SB 1440 and the transfer model curriculum. Many of the campuses are creating or reconsidering program discontinuance policy/procedures. Quite a few of the resolutions dealt with repeatable courses, and there was considerable debate on this topic. The general conclusion was that any limitations on repeatability should be considered very carefully. Mr. Wells asked what happened on the resolution requiring community education classes to be considered by Curriculum Committees. CG could not recall the details, but Mr. Kjeseth noted that community education classes are not currently within the scope of the ECC Curriculum Committee's work.
- Senate Unit Plan: CG has been reorganizing the Plan and considering the opinions of faculty expressed at the Plenary. CG believes that there needs to be an ECC educational campaign regarding the role of the Senate. Any ideas regarding this should be communicated to her.
- Some information about a pilot program to speed up the processing and online publishing of student survey results is provided on p. 16.
- The schedule for Program Review during this spring term is included in the packet on p. 17 as an informational item.
- ECC/Crenshaw's “Hands Across California” event in support of community colleges took place this past Sunday. The corresponding event for the CEC took place a couple of weeks ago.

- The CEC’s Faculty Council has invited the ECC/Crenshaw Senators to an April 21 update on the state budget, featuring Brian Ha, Membership Director of FACC (Faculty Association of California Community Colleges) to be held in the CEC Board Room.

Chair, Curriculum Committee—Lars Kjeseth (LK)

LK apologized to L. Widman (absent) for failing to send before the spring break, as promised, an email note to faculty about developing SB1440 transfer degrees. That email note will be sent soon.

V.P., Compton Center—Saul Panski (SP)

The CEC Faculty Council has ratified the proposed revised by-laws. The Compton faculty is voting on the by-laws today.

V.P., Educational Policies Committee—Chris Jeffries (CJ)

See Minutes of last meeting on pgs. 18-19. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, at 1 p.m.

Co-V.P., Faculty Development Committee--Christina Pajo (CP)

CP reminded all faculty to complete the Faculty Development Survey that was emailed recently.

V.P., Legislative Action—Chris Wells (CW)

Chris reported that at the federal level, there has been a great deal of discussion regarding the possible elimination of Pell Grants for summer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Faculty Concerns & Comments – November 2010 Draft Campus Standards – CG

The Director of Facilities Planning and Services, Bob Gann, has responded to CG’s email about faculty concerns. See pgs. 20-26. CG noted that the 20 square feet per student formula implemented in recent ECC construction compares favorably to the Chancellor’s standard of 15 square feet per student.

Response of the Deans and V.P., Academic Affairs, to Program Viability Policy (AP/BP 4021) --CG

A meeting of the Deans, the V.P. of Academic Affairs, and the people involved in the drafting of the Program Viability Policy will be convened to discuss comments.

“Course Reductions for Consideration on the Torrance Campus”—CG [See p. 31.]

CG asked for guidance on whether the Senate wants to continue working on this document or not. Mr. Wells indicated that he wanted further discussion, but was uncertain as to the best forum. Mr. Kjeseth recommended the formation of an ad-hoc task group that would include Senators and representatives of other constituencies. Dr. Arce suggested that the Senate might want to work with the Enrollment Management Committee during its meetings. However, Mr. Wells noted that not many teaching faculty would be able to participate because of class conflict with the Committee meeting schedule, and recommending holding a couple of meetings during the college hour. CG concluded that we will proceed with further work on the document, with a smaller group of people.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft ASCCC Resolution Re: Elimination of CSU Service Areas—CG and C. Wells [See pgs. 32-36]

CW presented a draft resolution for the ECC Academic Senate to challenge the policy of local area access priority to CSUs as a discriminatory practice which should be eliminated. The draft resolution would have ECC (including the CEC) file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education, and requests that the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges join in the complaint.

He has worked with Irene Graff in IR to provide charts and a graph of CSULB's admission rates for ECC and a few other Southern California community colleges. It indicates that the ECC admit rate into CSULB has fallen from 64% in fall, 2007 to 26% in the fall, 2010, primarily because of the implementation of Local Area Access priorities. ECC has no priority admissions arrangement with any CSU. Long Beach City College students get priority admissions into CSULB. Golden West College and Orange Coast College students get priority admissions to CSULB and CSU Fullerton. [MI's note based on the charts and graph: The admit rates for these other colleges have fallen also during the same period, but not as significantly.] Furthermore, local area admissions priorities impact our ability to recruit students. CEC students actually lose the priority for CSULB that they would have as high school graduates from the Compton area when they attend ECC/CEC. According to CW, the grade standards for CSULB admission also vary by community college. ECC Communication Studies majors must have a 3.2 GPA to be considered, while priority Local Area Access students need only have a 2.0 GPA. SB 1440 and the actions of the Legislative Analyst Office further reinforce Local Area Access priorities. CW believes that the Local Area Access policy has been set by the CSU Chancellor's Office.

Dr. Nishime remarked that President Fallo is very concerned about this issue relative to CSULB admissions and has sent a letter of appeal to Chancellor Reed. The Administration will be following up on this matter. SB 1440 exacerbates the situation since it guarantees admission to the Local Area Access CSU for recipients of A.A. transfer degrees, and ECC has no Local Area Access CSU for admissions priority. Her understanding is that ECC has no designated local area admissions priority with any CSU because of our access to CSUDH, which is close and not "impacted," i.e. not a campus that traditionally receives many more applicants than it can accept. However, Mr. Kjeseth pointed out that CSUDH is commonly perceived to be a "lower quality CSU" compared to CSULB and others. He also recommended more study of the data and the potential outcomes of various strategies. The appeal to the Office of Civil Rights might lead to an undesirable outcome such as the designation of CSUDH as our Local Area Access priority CSU. C. Wells responded by saying that the issue is not new, the state Academic Senate has supported resolutions in the past that called for remedies but to no avail. The situation calls for aggressive action. Mr. Panski remarked that he thought that we should wait to see what happens with the letter of appeal before taking further action.

Mr. D. Vakil thought that any ECC Academic Senate action would be more effective if it was in concert with the Academic Senates of other community colleges. Ms. B. Perez expressed the opinion that since the CSUs are regulated by the state legislature, the same body that passed SB 1440, it would be more effective to work through the legislature rather than the Office of Civil Rights. Dr. Arce recommended that we should contact State Senator Padilla, if we implement the dual strategy of organizing the Academic Senates and working with the state legislature.

CG summarized as follows:

- Passing the proposed resolution is still a possibility that can be considered.
- There will follow-up on the letter of appeal.
- Further research will be conducted on the outcome(s) if any of previous state Academic Senate resolutions on the issue.
- The Academic Senates of local community colleges such as Santa Monica and Cerritos, which are in similar disadvantaged situations, will be contacted.

Dr. Nishime added another recommendation: communication with the Board of Governors as to the unintended consequences of SB 1440. Dr. Arce mentioned that Ann Garten is ECC's liaison with the state legislature.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

MI-4/20/2011