

## Minutes

Ohlone College Faculty Senate  
March 4, 2009  
3:30 - 5.00 PM  
Room 1407

### Members Present:

Bob Bradshaw, Claire Ellis, Anu Ganguly, Alan Kirshner, Victoria Loukianoff, Jim McManus, Bob Mitchell, Susan Myers, Alyce Reynolds, Jeff Roberts, JoRainie Rodgers, Terry Taskey, Barbara Tull, Wayne Yuen

Members Absent: Sharon Briggs,

Others: Brenda Ahnholz, Connie Olsen, Tim Roberts

### **Start meeting: 3.30 pm**

#### **1. Announcements**

- a. Senators reported that there were not enough responses from the faculty for the Senate to review and revisit the Finals Week schedule. This issue will be left as is.
- b. Bob Bradshaw mentioned that the Fremont-Newark League of Volunteers is sponsoring a fundraising event that mimics the Harlem Globe Trotters model that did comedy basketball starting back in the 50's. The league is putting together a team to go against the Harlem Globe Trotters model and would like a representative from the Ohlone faculty to participate in such a team. There is no upper age limit for participation.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes from February 18, 2009 (Action Item)**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **3. Department Chair Proposal - Brenda Ahnholz (Action Item)**

- a. Brenda reported that the Department Chair subcommittee has met several times and the issue has generated a lot of discussion across the campus. She has sent out a memo to the Senate outlining the recommendations of the subcommittee on the issue of Chairs.
- b. Dr. Browning is supportive of the concept of Chairs, however a series of discussions at multiple levels need to take place. Thus, this is not a "Senate only" decision.
- c. Motion: Alan Kirshner made a motion that the Senate approve the recommendations made by the Chairs Sub-Committee which was sent out to the Faculty Senate dated March 2, 2009. A friendly amendment was made to include in the document, some wording changes suggested by Barbara Tull.  
This motion was seconded by Jeff and was passed with two Senators opposing and one Senator abstaining.
- d. A related article on Chairs had been circulated earlier to the Senate by Susan Myers. Some Senators felt that perhaps we should wait to vote on the above motion till we read this article. However, Susan and other Senators mentioned that this article strongly encourages Chair positions and most of the article is about guidelines and

recommendations for implementation of Chairs. Thus, the Senate felt it was OK to vote on the motion without some senators reading this article.

e. Susan felt that Brenda's memo to the Senate had a language that seemed to be strongly in favor of teaching faculty to be Chairs. The document could perhaps reflect the fact that other personnel such as counselors could also be Chairs.

f. Jim mentioned that some departments may not want Chairs. Some faculty may not want the formal title of Chairs. Alan mentioned that faculty must take a leadership role in terms of curriculum, hiring of part time/full time faculty etc. as Deans do not have sufficient insight about such matters.

g. Brenda mentioned that Joanne Schultz feels that Department Chairs would provide the vital link between Deans and Faculty on issues of budgeting, strategic planning and programming at the department level.

h. Bob mentioned that the culture of the faculty seems to have changed in the recent years. In the past, Ohlone faculty took an active part in college governance. However, recently, due to compressed calendars, e-mails, new technology etc. that seem to take up a lot of faculty time, there seem to be a lack of participation from faculty in college matters. Deans have too broad a responsibility. The Chair positions will ensure that the Deans have a point person to talk to before they make final decisions on academic or budgeting issues.

i. Motion: Alan Kirshner made a motion that the issue of faculty Chairs be sent out for a faculty vote with a pro statement and a con Statement. Bob Bradshaw and Alan Kirshner in their capacities as Senate and UFO presidents would formulate the pro statement. This motion was seconded by Victoria and passed with one Senator opposing and two Senators abstaining.

j. Bob mentioned that unless 60% of the faculty vote "yes" to this issue, the Senate would not pursue the matter any further. He acknowledged that later, if and when the budget improved, and, if funding was attached to this position, then the Faculty might vote differently on this issue.

#### **4. All-Staff meeting on March 12 - Bob Bradshaw and Tim Roberts (Information)**

a. Tim Roberts mentioned that the President has announced a College wide planning summit to be held from 1-4 pm on March 12th.

b. The purpose of this meet is to review and analyze the College goals and objectives for 2005-2010. These goals are published in the College website.

c. Tim is urging all college staff and faculty participate in this event. We have an opportunity to add to the goals especially the ones that extend to 2009 and beyond.

d. There will be 30 tables set up, organized according to the 8-9 goals that will be discussed. Every table will have representation from faculty, staff, Senate, Union and Student leaders.

e. We need to ensure that these goals make sense to us, we are able to clearly envision the direction of the college based on these goals, we see a concrete plan to achieve these goals and we all agree to the general direction and concept of the college based on these goals.

f. Full time faculty may cancel classes. Bob Bradshaw said that he would clarify with Dr. Browning if adjunct faculty could cancel classes during that time.

g. Tim mentioned that a similar planning summit was organized by our past President Doug Treadway, that eventually resulted in the establishment milestones such as the LEED certified Newark campus and our International Programs. It is important for us to have such summits as we will mention them in our accreditation document due on March 15th. The fact that the college participates in such campus wide planning summits every five years or so is favorable for the College.

**5. Change of Meeting day ( Information)**

- a. Bob Bradshaw mentioned that the Dean of Fine Arts and the Dean of Science felt that the timing of some committees were such that faculty were unable to participate due the fact that they were teaching at that time. He wondered of we should change the timing of the Senate meetings.
- b. Important committees such as Senate and Curriculum have not changed their meeting time and day for years.
- c. Anu Ganguly mentioned that several Science faculty were unable to participate in Curriculum or Senate meetings as many of them taught on Monday and Wednesdays afternoons which is when these committees met. The Science schedule is not flexible to change and neither can the faculty swap labs with one another as science faculty teach labs and courses based on their particular fields of specializations. She requested that the Senate and Curriculum Committees consider a change in their meeting time on a rotating basis. This would give a fair chance to other faculty to attend and participate in these meetings.
- d. Some senators wondered if there would be adequate faculty participation in spite of the Senate timings being changed.

**Adjourn meeting: 4.40 pm**