

Ohlone College Faculty Senate
Minutes
September 7, 2011
3:30 PM
Room 7101, Fremont Campus

Members present: Jeff Dean, Jeff Roberts, Terry Taskey, Cheiko Honma, Jeff O'Connell, Jennifer Harper, Wayne Yuen, Jim McManus, Alyce Reynolds, Nicole Sandoval, Alan Kirshner, Bob Mitchell, Nabeel Naqbi (student representative), Luc Desmedt, Kim Stiles

Members absent: Wayne Yuen

Others present: None

Announcements

Victoria Loukianoff of the Math Department passed away over the summer. A donation to the fund in her name will be made to the Foundation.

The updated list of committee assignments will be sent to the appropriate committee chairs. O'Connell noted his consciousness about the lack of full-timers to fill all of the empty slots on the various committees, but a preliminary examination shows that most faculty are fulfilling their obligations, if not exceeding them.

Parking concerns have been brought to the attention of the Senate as well as others. O'Connell asked for observations of the recent changes made. Kirshner noted his agreement with a message received recently by Rob Smedfjeld, that changes were made to give Lot B to students without a study done on actual numbers of spots gained on the upper lot near the new Chemistry Lab portables. The change seems to leave us short of faculty spots. Returning only one row of Lot B does not seem adequate. Naqbi adds that ASOC would be looking at the trends, as this impacts student options. Kirshner adds that a close look should be done at the actual numbers, especially considering the fluctuating number of adjuncts who need parking spots at prime times. There seemed to be consensus that more faculty/staff only spots were needed in Lot B. Stiles indicated a preference to have parking for both groups (faculty/staff and students) on both sides of campus. O'Connell will keep on top of this and update the Senate as the need arises.

The issue of Senate dues was raised. O'Connell noted that only about half of faculty have automatic deduction for Senate. This is different from the UFO. O'Connell has received the list of those doing the payroll deduction and will soon be providing more information on dues for the coming year. It was noted that the previous treasurer was Victoria. Cheiko took on the role temporarily during Victoria's leave. Taskey expressed the desire for us to have a current balance. O'Connell noted that the account still had Victoria's name on it, so there was some complication with that.

Approval of minutes from May 4, 2011 (A)

Motion: McManus

Seconded: Taskey

Abstention: Berkland

Minutes are approved without objection

Bookstore Committee (I): O'Connell

O'Connell noted that a lot of concerns have been expressed by faculty about the bookstore as the semester has started, but also left over from the Spring and the change to Follett. There is a bookstore committee and Kirshner is on this committee. This was set up last spring. It will meet in the coming weeks. Those concerns expressed to O'Connell will be passed on to the Bookstore Committee. Kirshner asked if others had feedback. Naqbi indicates that the ASOC will be putting out a survey to get student information on their bookstore experiences. Kirshner indicates that the committee will seek to improve the bookstore's relationship with and service to the faculty.

Update on Faculty Hiring (I): O'Connell

A timeline regarding the process for hiring full-time faculty for 2012-13 is coming. O'Connell will be attending a meeting later this week on this subject. It appears that departments will have a window of four weeks to submit application to hire. The reason that there has been a slight delay is that there are five mid-year retirements which have not been announced. This will affect the hiring rationale. It is expected that the timeline will be publicized to the faculty directly and there will be a prioritization period, with the ultimate recommendations going to the College president in November. Information will be forthcoming.

Senate Constitution and By-Laws (I): O'Connell

The Senate's Constitution and By-Laws were updated 2007. Representation/distribution of Senators is a component of the by-laws. These were based on department numbers at that time.

O'Connell has reviewed the by-laws and sees some minor changes to be made based on administrative changes, like the number of times the Board of Trustees meets.

O'Connell showed a chart which indicated the changes in the number of faculty as it has impacted the percentage in terms of representation to Senate. Based on these numbers, O'Connell indicates that there doesn't appear to a need to change the representation. Despite the changes in faculty since 2007, there are not wild imbalances from 2007.

O'Connell announced that Senators are being given homework. He will send out the by-laws and ask Senators to review them and have their suggestions ready for the next meeting, at which time changes should be suggested. Next time will be information item for suggested changes to the representation, perhaps just removing the numbers from the representation page. O'Connell will be sending out an e-mail to Senators.

Stiles asked if there were any dramatic changes. O'Connell indicates that there do not appear to be the kinds of dramatic shifts one would expect.

O'Connell is open to discussing the possibility of changes to other areas of the by-laws as well.

Newark Meeting: O'Connell (I)

O'Connell asked if the Senate should have a meeting at Newark this semester. We have done so in the past, but this involved almost every Senator driving to Newark and there was only one person from Newark who attended who wouldn't otherwise attend. After brief discussion, no meeting at Newark will be scheduled for this semester. The issue will be revisited when Spring meetings are discussed.

Future Topics for Senate Meetings: O'Connell (I)

O'Connell asked Senators for future topics. His were:

Deborah Griffin will talk to the Senate about financial aid fraud at the next meeting. This was a flex workshop that has been updated. Enrollment fraud is a concern for faculty, since it requires us to be attentive about attendance (or lack thereof) of ghost students.

The issue of "authentication" of students in fully online courses was raised last term. Students need to be authenticated in online formats. Platforms other than Blackboard are being used, but this needs to be discussed, since Title 5 requires some form of verification. Lesley Buehler will come to Senate to discuss this and its implications for faculty teaching online courses.

The issue of having a designated UFO member sitting on College Council to specifically report to the UFO was raised. Other unions are represented on the Council, but the faculty who are on Council are not specifically from the Executive Committee of the UFO. The designated College Council member wouldn't have to be on Executive Committee per se to represent the UFO. Since Senate appoints committee members to Council, this will be brought up as an information item and will then be pursued in more detail.

College Council worked over the summer to delineate College Council committees versus committees that report to Faculty Senate. An example of a committee reporting to Senate would be the curriculum committee. Other committees reporting to Senate would be: the Committee on Committees, the Equivalency Committee, the Sabbatical Leave Committee, the Student Learning Outcomes Committee, the Student Awards Ceremony Committee. These committees will be invited to report during the year.

The issue of emeritus status was raised and should be addressed this year. Senate has been asked to look into the process of granting of emeritus status for retiring faculty. The policy regarding this was recently revamped to delineate privileges for emeritus faculty, such as keeping websites, e-mail, etc. The way the policy was written in the past was that the request for emeritus status comes from the dean of that faculty member, but often initiated by a colleague in the department. O'Connell does not want Senate in the business of deciding who gets emeritus status, but there should be some definition and consistency to the process.

The subject of replacing faculty computers will be looked at this year. There is a question about how money from Measure G might be used to replace faculty computers. Bruce Griffin and Rob Smedfjeld from the Technology Committee may be invited soon to discuss this. McManus asked whether or not most faculty have their own computers rather than a College-owned machine. Stiles notes that she does not provide her own. Kirshner notes that in previous years faculty were discouraged from

bringing their own computers. Stiles noted the importance of having a plan for replacement. O'Connell notes that there is a plan. The problem has been that there was previously no money to fund the plan. The plan involved replacing faculty computers in a cycle every three years. Sandoval indicates the need to discuss in-class resources related to computers (i.e. making sure classrooms are adequately equipped as there are some classrooms still without adequate technology).

SB1440 degrees were a major topic last year, and this is a continuing issue.

Senate Presidency: O'Connell (I)

O'Connell asked: "Who is going to be the next faculty senate president?" Dramatic silence filled the room. The current vice-president is Diane Berkland. O'Connell notes that the by-laws indicate that there should be past-president and president-elect positions. Delineated rules about elections are also in the by-laws. O'Connell would like to see us go back to that process of having past-president and president-elect positions to smooth transitions. O'Connell noted (aloud) that he would be willing to serve another term, but he would like us to start discussing who is in line for leadership. McManus asked about small departments contributing a Senate President (and how it is harder for a small department to spare a member who would have release time) and indicates that release time is more appealing to some faculty members than others. The current release time is 50%. It was noted that it is important to make sure we avoid burnout among some faculty doing a lot and plan succession for faculty leadership. Kirshner suggests that Senate consider pay/compensation for the president-elect position. O'Connell will look into the possibility of asking administration for additional and limited release time.

Sandoval notes that she has heard of other campuses who offer stipends to those who serve on Senate. Kirshner asked about the possibility of an adjunct becoming a Senate president. He noted that this would present several obstacles in terms of compensation for such an arrangement. O'Connell noted the commitment to a single campus required of a Faculty Senate President.

Sandoval asked about previous leadership conference attended by O'Connell and Berkland in June. O'Connell noted that much of the discussion centered on SB 1440 and the state budget. O'Connell and Berkland will discuss what they learned at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at: 4:33 p.m.

Next meeting will be September 21, 2011 in Room 7101 at 3:30 p.m.