



Ohlone College Faculty Senate
Minutes
November 16, 2011
4:30 P.M.
Room 7101, Fremont Campus

Members present: Jeff Dean, Chieko Honma, Jeff O'Connell, Jennifer Harper, Wayne Yuen, Nicole Sandoval, Alan Kirshner, Diane Berkland, Bob Mitchell, Jeff Roberts, Luc Desmedt, Terry Taskey

Members absent: Jim McManus, Kim Stiles, Alyce Reynolds, Priyanka Upadhyay (ASOC)

Others present: Ron Travenick

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M.

Announcements

The priority list for hiring full-time faculty was sent out from the committee by Jim Wright last week via e-mail. Another item worked on by the committee and just sent out by O'Connell to the Senate was a statement of attributes being looked for in ideal candidates. This statement is being looked at with the idea that it will be sent out along with the job announcements. In terms of a timeline, O'Connell indicates that job announcements might be ready to go out in January.

Approval of Minutes from November 2, 2011 (A)

The date at the top of the first page was incorrect. It will be changed to reflect the correct date.

Motion: Roberts

Second: Mitchell

Abstention: Taskey

Approved

Academic Freedom (I): All

The last draft reviewed by the Senate from Yuen was again looked at. O'Connell reviewed this with Dr. Browning and the last line with its mention of case law was a concern, since Browning did not know if this information was accurate. So, O'Connell indicated, perhaps this reference could be left out of the final draft.

The statement reviewed was:

Faculty members who wish to use sexually explicit materials in the classroom for teaching purposes are suggested, but not required, to have the material reviewed by an administrator to determine whether or not this violates sexual harassment policy. Faculty should be aware that if academic freedom and harassment policies come into conflict, case law in the past has favored harassment policies over academic freedom.

In addition to removing the reference to case law, other wording was slightly changed for grammatical reasons. A revision will be sent to Senators and the statement will be up for a vote at the next meeting.

Add/Drop Study and Recommendations; Academic/Registration Calendar (I): Travenick

Ron Travenick came to Senate to briefly discuss three items. The first was a different calendar, which illustrated important registration dates for students that spanned across several semesters and better reflected the way students need to look at the schedule. Travenick noted that students are often not focused on just one semester at a time the way others on campus are and that they consider registration dates for subsequent semesters at the same time they are considering current dates, such as the W dates. There are plans to share this calendar with the larger campus community soon.

The second item brought to Senate by Travenick was about ways to have faculty encourage students about their eligibility for certificates and other marks of progress in their educational careers. One way is asking faculty to mention this to students and perhaps asking them to note it on the syllabi of classes in which students would be reaching the end of a certificate program. Sample wording will be sent to O'Connell and then forwarded on to the Senate for consideration.

The last topic discussed by Travenick was the frequency of running waitlist updates more frequently in future semesters so that we can maximize enrollment. Updating the waitlists more frequently, removing students who have no plans to take a class and moving students from the waitlist into the class, may improve the current situation, where it appears that some are "clogging up the rosters" with no intention of remaining enrolled. From what Travenick has seen, refining the add/drop process in the way he proposes may clear the way for those truly eligible for the course. O'Connell wants to make sure that this plan would leave control of the rosters to instructors. Kirshner asked about the possibility of getting permission to close a class (and prevent automatic enrollment from the waitlist) before the actual start of the class. Travenick responded that it is a possibility to close a class so that there is no movement from the waitlist into the class so that instructors could control enrollment after the first day. Harper asked about the possibility of an instructor closing a class electronically via WebAdvisor. Travenick is hesitant to think that this could work in time for the start of the Spring semester, since it will take time for this be worked on. This information was shared with the Deans also. Travenick will send further developments on this issue to O'Connell.

Other

Copies of the Senate Rostrum were distributed.

Next time Sandoval will discuss how we can support part-time faculty in different ways and how this should be a goal for the college and particularly the full-time faculty.

Meeting adjourned at: 5:01 p.m.

Next meeting will be December 7, 2011 in Room 7101 at 3:30 p.m.