



Ohlone College Faculty Senate Minutes
October 15, 2014
3:30 p.m.
Room 7101

Members present: Diane Berkland, Sarah Daniels, Jeff Dean, KG Greenstein, Chieko Honma, Jim McManus, Robert Mitchell, Jeff O'Connell, Jeff Roberts, and Wayne Yuen

Members Absent: Shelly Lawrence and Carrie Dameron

Others present: Leta Stagnaro, Rob Smedfjeld

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p. m.

Agenda

1. Board of Trustees Candidate Forum

Jeff Roberts welcomed everyone and explained the procedure for the candidate forum. He introduced the two candidates who were present (Jan Giovannini-Hill and Joe Lonsdale) and Garrett Yee who was absent due to his deployment in the armed forces

The two candidates read their opening statements and Roberts read a statement from Yee.

There were eight questions and each candidate alternated in answering first or second:

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Ohlone Community College District Board of Trustees and what relevant qualities and skills would you bring to the position?
2. What do you believe the role of the Trustee is and what areas would you emphasize as a Trustee?
3. What do you see as the role of Ohlone College in the local community that it serves?
4. If a Trustee feels strongly about a matter but his or her position is not supported by the other Board members, how should this Trustee conduct himself or herself?
5. A Trustee spends considerable time and effort engaged in discussion on the finances of the district. Describe your current understanding of the financial matters facing the district and share your insight regarding specific areas of focus for the district on this topic.
6. If an employee union decided to picket outside your home secondary to an impasse in contract negotiations, how would you feel and how would you respond to this occurrence?
7. The district is in the process of preparing its Student Equity Plan for submission to the Chancellor's office. What is your position on how the district can make efforts to better serve underrepresented and disproportionately impacted students?
8. The district will soon embark upon a new Strategic Planning process. What do you see as the most important issues facing the college from a planning standpoint?

After the questions, each candidate made a closing statement. The forum ended at 4:20 p.m. and Roberts asked the senators to remain afterward for a short senate meeting.

Roberts discussed the issue of a senate endorsement of candidates and said he would send out an email asking for any motions. Jeff O'Connell suggested that any endorsement be made individually and not for a group.

2. Approval of minutes from October 1, 2014 (Action)

The minutes were approved as read with amendments.

3. Announcements (Information) – Roberts

Roberts gave an update to the discussion regarding the Student Equity Plan (SEP). No substantive changes were made after the College Council meeting which discussed the SEP.

Roberts reminded senators that the SEP can be amended over time as we see how it works. The timeline for final approval has been extended to January 2015. The Faculty Senate will be voting on endorsing the plan at the meeting of Nov. 5, so senators should bring forward any concerns they or their constituents have.

On November 13-15 there will be a statewide community college Senate Fall Plenary Session in southern California. Any senator wanting to attend should contact Roberts.

Jim McManus provided the nomination of Janet Holmes for the October Faculty of the Month. There are currently no nominations. Roberts asked that senators send any nomination to him, and he will forward it to Jim Andrews.

4. Other

A proposed revised college mission statement has been endorsed by College Council and sent to the board for final approval. Roberts read the statement to the senators for their information and to keep them informed.

This is the text of the revised mission statement:

Ohlone College responds to the educational needs of our diverse community and economy by offering quality instruction supporting basic skills, career development, university transfer, and personal enrichment and by awarding associate degrees and certificates of completion for eligible students in a multicultural environment where successful learning is highly valued, supported, and continually assessed.

Roberts discussed the proposed Faculty Professional Development Fund (FPDF) which has been proposed by Dr. Jim Wright. Roberts noted that not much money has been collected and asked senators for their thoughts regarding his sending the message out again.

Jeff O'Connell noted that the first email had gone to adjunct faculty and suggested that another email be sent only to full-time faculty. Other senators agreed that would be the best approach.

Sarah Daniels asked if some of the money used for retirement parties could be used for the development fund. The Senate currently has \$8,000 in its account. While a possibility, Rob

Smedfjeld was concerned about using all of the money at once. Wayne Yuen wanted to make sure we could take advantage of Dr. Wright's offer to match funds up to \$3,000.

Smedfjeld suggested there be significant faculty input regarding the use of the \$8,000. Jeff O'Connell agreed. He explained that while Senate expenditures had decreased, senate dues remained the same, so we ended up with excess funds. Now would be a good time to get feedback from the faculty about what to do with the funds.

Roberts said that the issue of using faculty senate money for the FPDF would be tabled for now, and he will send out a reminder to full-time faculty. The text of that reminder is in the addenda section of the minutes.

Roberts next raised the issue of retirement parties and questions about them. What should the Senate do? Where should the party be? When would it be held?

Several concerns were voiced. Last year we had a combined retirement/tenure ceremony at the pre-graduation dinner. For people who have served a long time, would this seem an inadequate acknowledgment? The Best House was a good venue, but it was expensive and each year fewer people attended.

KG Greenstein suggested we ask retirees what they would like. A concern from Roberts was the possibility of many different wishes. Sarah Daniels questioned if the retirement party was for faculty only or for all retirees. Dean argued that the event should be for faculty only.

Smedfjeld stated that retirement parties used to be big events and more attention was paid to them. O'Connell added that there used to be more of a sense of community at the college and that meant retirement parties were more important than they seem to be now. Another factor raised by Jeff Dean was that many current retiring faculty have not been at the college as long as prior retirees.

Roberts brought the discussion to a close, stating that he would be taking the concerns to other campus groups.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02.

Addendum to the Minutes

Text of Jeff Robert's email to full-time faculty on Friday, Oct. 17, 2014:

All,

As you will recall, approximately one month ago, I sent you a message regarding the proposed Faculty Professional Development Fund (FPDF). The following is the body of that message – I am sending it as a reminder as we are approaching the identified end of October which was identified as the desired date by which to achieve the identified goal. Please let me know of any questions or concerns – thanks!

Dr. Wright outlined the development of the Faculty Professional Development Fund (FPDF). The FPDF exists to augment, not supplant, existing college funds (\$12,500) allocated annually for faculty professional development opportunities. Dr. Wright has identified an aggressive objective of doubling (to \$25,000) the funds available for faculty professional development for this year by the end of October.

The FPDF has a beginning balance of \$1600 from previous donations made by Dr. Wright. Dr. Wright has made an additional \$3000 available to match funds donated by current faculty and Deans through employee giving. If we are able to meet the \$3000 objective and combine that with the matching funds and previous balance, the fund balance would stand at \$7600. In addition, Dr. Wright has reached out to retired academic employees (faculty and administrators) to raise the additional \$4900 to bring the fund balance to the stated goal of \$12,500.

I have attached a 2014 Employee Giving Program form. On it, you can see the Faculty Professional Development Fund identified as one of several programs that can be contributed to via employee giving. If there were at least 30 faculty members willing to donate \$100 – by writing a check to the Foundation or via monthly payroll deductions of \$10 x 10 months - we would hit the goal. If 60 faculty members were willing to donate \$50, we would hit the goal. Of course there are myriad other examples that could be portrayed, but I think the message is clear.

Per Dr. Wright's request, the principal decision makers on the use of FPDF funds will be the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Faculty Senate President and the Faculty Professional Development Committee Chair. The FPDF will support professional learning activities, especially those aimed at improving teaching and learning; activities that promote creative approaches to the assessment of learning outcomes, and innovative strategies for academic Program Review and assessment. Possible expenditures include conference/workshop fees and travel; instructional materials and/or supplies; instructional equipment; computer hardware and/or software; support of Learning College Week activities (speaker fees, food, etc.); or other faculty professional development activities deemed appropriate by the principal decision makers within the stated intent of the fund.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help the cause.

Best,

Jeff