



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

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

Absent: Chieko Honma

Others present: Robin Kurotori, Leta Stagnaro

The meeting was called to order at 3:34.

1. Announcements

Robin Kurotori announced that she and Dr. Stagnaro were attending a regional meeting at De Anza College in early February which was going to be focused on CTE (career technical education) development. She encouraged faculty participation.

2. Approval of minutes from November 19, 2014 (Action)

Minutes were approved as read with the deletion of one sentence.

3. Student Equity Plan (SEP) – Roberts/Bowman (Action)

Jeff Roberts announced that further minor revisions have been made to the SEP.

Wayne Yuen moved for endorsement of the SEP, and KG Greenstein seconded. Discussion of the plan then followed.

Mike Bowman started the discussion by noting that there have been some minor changes coming from many sources. Because three major groups (College Council, Faculty Senate, and the Board) must approve the final draft, it is important that the different concerns be addressed.

Diane Berkland said that many of the counselors still have concerns about the SEP. The desire is to have student focus groups so that it is clear what interventions students want. Bowman indicated that would be part of the final draft.

Some board members wanted terminology to be revised so that references were made to “ethnicity” and not to “race.”

Another revision was to unlink the connection between the Puente program and programs for Pacific Islanders. Bowman indicated that more research needs to be done, but it is possible there would be a learning community for Pacific Islanders.

It was stressed that the SEP is to be integrated with other plans. Research still needs to be done to determine what would be the most effective plans. With all of this, the SEP is going to be a dynamic document, changing as we go along and determine what works best.

The Puente program requires a full-time English instructor and Berkland expressed concern that no one is currently in that role. Bowman indicated that is a concern with or without the SEP. Dr. Stagnaro said that Dean Mark Lieu will discuss the issue with the English faculty.

There was a call for a vote, and it carried with no opposition and one abstaining vote from Jeff Dean. Roberts reminded senators that the SEP is open to revision as we work with the plan.

There was a brief discussion about the budget for the SEP. Berkland noted that the budget totals did not seem to balance. Dr. Stagnaro said this was because some funds come from other programs.

4. Bachelor's degree programs at community colleges update – Stagnaro (Information)

Dr. Stagnaro gave an update on the bachelor degree program application. Dr. Carly is preparing the application, and Stagnaro thinks that Ohlone has a strong application and we have a good chance to be one of the pilot programs. Board approval is needed by December 19, and they are very supportive of the proposal.

5. Outstanding alumni discussion – Daniels (Information)

Sarah Daniels began a discussion of the Outstanding Alumni program.

One concern was finding some way to track the accomplishments of outstanding alumni of the college. Daniels noted that the process is random now and does not produce a lot of nominations.

Shelly Lawrence said that many schools track their alumni and suggested we do that at Ohlone. Daniels responded that there have been discussions that the Ohlone Foundation take that project on; however, nothing has come of the discussions.

Jeff Dean raised the issue that many students at Ohlone are passing through on their way to a four-year institution, and that is where their allegiance stays. They do not see themselves as alumni of Ohlone College.

Jeff OConnell suggested that we have a graduation speaker who could be either an alumni of Ohlone or someone with an Ohlone connection. He suggested the term “graduation speaker” so that we could widen the net for potential speakers. The speaker would not have to be a graduate; they would just need a strong connection with Ohlone. He also argued that a faculty member be involved at the graduation as either the speaker or the one who introduced the speaker. The Senate would still approve the choice of speaker.

Nominations will be called for in February, 2015. Because of the time needed, Daniels agreed that we could ask for both a graduate or someone with an Ohlone connection. Consensus among the faculty senate was that this would be a good way to approach finding a speaker.

Roberts will bring the issue to the senate again in the first February senate meeting.

6. Future Senate business/topics – Roberts (Information)

Roberts asked for suggestions for future Senate topics, and several were made.

OConnell suggested we discuss the issue of senate dues while Daniels suggested we continue the discussion of the proposal by Dr. Wright for an endowment program.

Roberts suggested that as part of our fixed flex day we ask what faculty might want the senate to focus on. This brought up the issue whether faculty understood the different duties of the Senate, College Council, etc. OConnell thought flex week would be a good time to discuss this.

Roberts said that some faculty had questioned whether Dr. Browning should be invited to the Senate/UFO meeting on fixed-flex day. The general consensus among the senators was that we should continue to invite her. It reinforces a sense of collegiality between the faculty and administration. In addition, Dr. Browning has always been respectful of our time and leaves when the questions have been responded to.

Roberts will continue to ask her to attend the meeting.

7. Other

Three new faculty will be hired in English, Math, and Chemistry. Postings will be made in late January or early Feb, and interviews will be conducted in late March.

Enrollment figures are encouraging, and if they were high enough, there might be a possibility of hiring a fourth faculty member.

KG Greenstein raised the issue of where to place the Faculty Senate President plaque and the In Memoriam plaque. In the past these were in the library. However, the library is moving and Greenstein asked where senators wanted the plaques to be placed. Consensus seemed to be to keep the plaques in the library for the present.

There was a reminder that faculty in Buildings 1, 2, and 8 are moving, and all personal items must be taken home. Moving can begin on December 5.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm.