



Ohlone College Faculty Senate Minutes  
Feb. 4, 2015  
3:30 p.m.  
Room 7101

Members present: Brenda Ahnholz, Diane Berkland, Carrie Dameron, Jeff Dean, KG Greenstein, Chieko Honma, Shelley Lawrence, Jim McManus, Robert Mitchell, Jeff O'Connell, Jeff Roberts, Kathy Sparling, Jackie Vetter, Shelly Lawrence, Wayne Yuen, William Wong

Members Absent: Carrie Dameron

Others present: Robin Kurotori, Kimberly Robbie, Ron Travenick, and Leta Stagnaro

The meeting was called to order at 3:30.

**1. Announcements**

Two new Senators were introduced: Jackie Vetter and Brenda Ahnholz

The Faculty of the Month is Jesse McEwan.

Jim Andrews has a faculty member identified as the March Faculty of the Month. No one has been identified past March. Faculty are encouraged to submit nominations.

Jeff Dean noted that there was supposed to be a student drop box at the new Mailroom. Jeff Roberts stated that a secured drop box will be installed by Friday, Feb. 6.

Roberts noted two state academic conferences which will be held in San Francisco and San Jose this spring and June.

**2. Approval of Minutes from Dec. 3, 2014 (Action)**

Minutes were approved as read with two revisions: Jeff Dean was not listed as present last time and Dr. Carli's name was misspelled.

**3. Accreditation follow-up report-first reading- Stagnaro (Information)**

Dr. Stagnaro reviewed the working draft of the Accreditation Follow-Up Report which is due by March 15, 2015. In her presentation she reviewed the recommendation and presented the college's response.

**Recommendation 1:** In order to meet the standards, the team recommends that the College complete the process to develop institution-set standards for student learning and achievement and to use those standards to systematically improve student learning and achievement and learning within the College.

**Conclusion:** Institution-set standards are incorporated in the assessment of student learning and achievement and are an integral part of how the College assesses and plans. Benchmarks set

achievable aspirational goals, as well. Both criteria were developed through a collegial process with the Faculty Senate. This recommendation has been addressed.

**Recommendation 2:** In order to meet the standards, the team recommends the College develop and implement a data-driven plan to provide appropriate, comprehensive, and reliable support services to students regardless of service location or delivery method; and develop and implement program-level student achievement data that assures the quality of all student support services and demonstrates that these services support student learning and enhance the achievement of the mission of the institution.

**Conclusion:** The College has developed a comprehensive data collection process to assess both the access to, and the success of, multiple student services. The College has also engaged in robust dialogue about the results and findings of this data collection, and has already begun to use the data findings as a part of program review. The templates and queries have been created to enable regular and on-going data collection and analysis for the future, and dialogue about student services data have been and will continue to be a part of the College's planning processes. This recommendation has been addressed.

**Recommendation 3:** In order to meet the standard, the team recommends that faculty and others directly responsible for student progress toward achieving stated learning outcomes include, as a component of their evaluation, effectiveness in producing those learning outcomes.

**Conclusion:** The College has as a component of the faculty evaluation, effectiveness in producing learning outcomes. The recommendation has been addressed.

In reviewing the document, Dr. Stagnaro noted that for Recommendation 1, floors and ceilings have been added to the benchmarks and no follow-up is necessary. Recommendation 2 was more complicated to meet because it means an expansion of services. However, the data we have collected shows that we are meeting the recommendation. Recommendation 3 is being met through such actions self-evaluation of one course and committee work.

Jeff O'Connell stated that the third recommendation seemed to be controversial initially because it seemed faculty would be evaluated on whether students met the SLOs. However, the focus on self-evaluation as a method of meeting SLOs is a good outcome. Dr. Stagnaro agreed that the faculty self-evaluation process meets the recommendation.

#### **4. ADT/C-ID update- Robbie (Information)**

Kimberly Robbie gave an update about the status of Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) and the C-ID descriptors. Originally the state's position was that any course that was part of the degree program had to have its C-ID descriptor approved by June 30, 2015; otherwise, the degree would be cancelled.

However, there is a big backlog because the state is not able to get the approvals done in a timely manner. Because of this, the state has rescinded its decree to cancel the degrees. While this is good news, Robbie stated that a new deadline will probably be put in place as the backlog is reduced.

Currently we only have six degrees that have met all requirements. Roberts stated that we are in very good shape compared to the other state community college.

## **5. Outstanding alumni/graduation speaker discussion-Roberts (Information)**

Roberts reminded senators we have been discussing this issue since last fall. Jill Rojas is working on the program and has requested an update.

Currently the only role for faculty at the graduation ceremony is to introduce the alumni speaker. If there is no speaker, no faculty member speaks at the ceremony. The consensus was that we wanted a faculty role.

Jeff O'Connell recommended that we look for a graduation speaker who has a good connection with Ohlone and has been an outstanding supporter of the college, even if the person did not graduate from the college. We might even be able to offer a stipend to the speaker.

Roberts noted that the consensus seemed to be to try this approach.

William Wong noted that there are Ohlone graduates who live in Japan and have been outstanding supporters of the college.

Roberts will send out a memo detailing this new approach to finding a graduation ceremony speaker.

## **6. Discussion of +/- grade issue- Roberts (Information)**

Because the issue of having grades with a plus or minus was raised during the faculty meeting at fixed flex, Roberts wanted to bring the issue to the senate. More than ten years ago, the faculty decided not to have a plus/minus policy because some transfer institutions take away the plus or minus.

Wayne Yuen noted that having a plus/minus policy would give us a better evaluation tool. In addition, no one would be forced to use it. Jim McManus contended that a +/- policy would pressure faculty to use it.

Roberts reminded the senate that during fixed flex, there was an overwhelming vote against having a +/- system. Yuen wondered if the vote would have been so solid if faculty knew they did not have to use the plus/minus.

Jeff O'Connell stated that if this were a major campus issue, it might be big enough to also have a vote to change the senate constitution. Because we have to have a 2/3 vote of all faculty (not the faculty voting), this might attract a 2/3 faculty turnout.

William Wong was concerned that for many deaf students a minus grade might lower their GPA. Diane Berkland agreed that there could be repercussions in other areas. Shelley Lawrence suggested we do a survey to assess faculty opinion.

Roberts will check on the statewide policy which can give us perspective. Consensus was to also do a faculty survey.

## **7. Senate representative organization-Roberts (Information)**

Roberts brought forward the issue of how the Senate is currently organized. We have eight academic areas, and he is concerned that current Senate membership does not accurately reflect that division. This was an information item and Roberts wanted to get more information from Mike Bowman and the HR department regarding faculty totals in the academic areas. The consensus was that Roberts get the information for future Senate discussion.

## **8. Other**

Roberts stated that some faculty had expressed opposition to President Browning being given the floor at the spring flex faculty meeting. At the time he wanted to keep with the tradition of having the president attend the faculty meeting. For future flex meetings, Roberts wanted to get a sense of the Senate.

O'Connell argued that the president should stand before the faculty and answer questions. Even though she might have responded to similar questions in division meetings, it was important she come before all faculty. He stated it would be short-sighted to not allow the president to appear before the faculty.

Roberts noted that it seemed only a few faculty were really upset about the president's appearance. The consensus seemed to be to continue the practice as is.

Our next meeting will be on Feb. 18.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.