



Ohlone College Faculty Senate Minutes

Feb. 18, 2015

3:30 p.m.

Room 7101

Members present: Brenda Ahnholz, Diane Berkland, Jeff Dean, Chieko Honma, 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: Leta Stagnaro and Sally Bratton

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

1. Announcements

The drop box has been installed at the Fremont Mailroom; the one for the Newark campus is still in the process of being installed.

Nominations for the graduation speaker are due by Feb. 25. We already have four nominations and will discuss them at the March 4 meeting. Jeff Roberts will resend the request for nominations.

Recently an email was sent to faculty about a mandatory IIIP (Injury and Illness Prevention Program) and Workplace Violence Workshop. Because of the short notice, it has been decided to also put this training as part of the fall flex schedule. Roberts indicated that adjunct also have to take this training, although Dr. Stagnaro was not sure. Jim McManus asked who is requiring this training? It was not clear if it was a state requirement.

Roberts reminded senators of the academic senate plenary session to be held in April. Any senators wanting to attend should let him know.

Emeritus faculty proposals will be voted on at the next board meeting on March 11 for Yvette Nichols, and for Rick Arellano at the April 8 meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2015

The minutes were approved as read with the following revisions:

Carrie Dameron was actually not present. Under announcements, note that new senators Jackie Vetter and Brenda Ahnholz were introduced. Kathy Sparling will be taking the place of KG Greenstein who served in the fall. William Wong will be taking the place of Shelley Lawrence this semester.

3. Accreditation follow-up report-approval-Stagnaro (Action)

Dr. Stagnaro stated there had been minimal input on the accreditation follow-up, so it seems that most people are content with the document. There were some minor edits but no major change in the content. For example, a new table had been added for benchmarks and standards. The document has been approved by College Council and the Board.

Jeff O'Connell said it was a good report and moved that the Senate endorse the Accreditation Follow-Up Report. Wayne Yuen seconded. The Senate voted to endorse with one abstaining vote from Jeff Dean.

4. Education Master Plan-first reading-Stagnaro (Information)

Dr. Stagnaro introduced a first draft of the Education Master Plan for 2015-2020. This was a first reading for the senate. The entire 50 page document is on the senate web page. The second reading will be on March 4 followed by a consideration for endorsement on March 18.

Originally it was thought it would only be necessary to update the plan; however, Stagnaro said there was too much that needed to be done. The plan needed revision, not just an update.

Stagnaro focused on three different sections of the plan: (1) Implications for the District Facilities Master Plan; Standards for Learning Spaces, (2) Institutional Planning and Data Analysis, and (3) Academic Directions.

The issue of enrollment planning was discussed. Stagnaro noted that we have lost a lot of FTES and need to build these back up. When campus construction is completed, we anticipate an increase in Fremont enrollment.

Increasing full-time faculty was another issue that Stagnaro addressed. As we continue to get increased state funding, we will put that money toward increasing faculty. Currently we have 115 full-time faculty, and our goal is to reach 141 full-time faculty.

Stagnaro stated that we have switched measuring data from the Bay 10 colleges to the state average so that we would have a wider range of data.

Jeff Dean raised a question and concern about why the e-campus is considered a site. Stagnaro said we need to consider online classes, the e-campus, as a site and that according to the accreditation committee, wherever you offer classes, you have to offer services.

The Strategic Goal and Objectives part of the plan need to be updated by the end of the semester according to the Strategic Plan.

Roberts asked senators to review the document before our next meeting.

5. Admissions & Records documents update-Weaver (Information)

Laura Weaver had originally been scheduled to discuss issues around course overlaps and late adds. While the issue of overlapping is becoming cleaner, there is a lot of concern about how the district is handling late adds. We are not in compliance with Title 5 requirements and Weaver wants to do more work on how to handle this. It therefore is better that she come at a future meeting when this issue has been resolved.

6. Ohlone College mental health campaign-Bratton (Information)

Sally Bratton was scheduled next on the agenda; however, she would not be coming until 4:15, so Roberts skipped to item 7 on the agenda.

Bratton made a presentation on the Step Up program at Ohlone. This program is designed to take away the stigma associated with seeking mental health services, and this is the third year it's been at Ohlone.

Bratton thanked the faculty who have mentioned the program in their syllabi and in their classes. There are now videos that instructors can show, and Bratton showed two of them.

Bratton said that surveys had shown that 320 Ohlone students had attempted suicide in the last 12 months. That's why the program is so important. She is hoping to come into classrooms and administer a questionnaire (lasting about 35 minutes) that would give a better picture of student mental health.

7. Continued discussion of +/- grade issue-Roberts (Information)

Roberts had consulted with Diane Berkland, Stephanie Ramos, and Dr. Stagnaro about having a plus/minus grading system.

Within the CSU and UC system, some schools accept a plus/minus grade and others don't. There's no uniform policy, and there are a lot of different issues.

Dr. Stagnaro had concerns about whether students getting a C minus would be able to transfer that course, whereas a regular C (as we currently do) would transfer. If there was no real impetus to change to a plus/minus system, she questioned whether it was worth pushing the issue.

O'Connell noted that there was no momentum on this issue. No one is pushing for it. The overall consensus seemed to be not to continue the debate.

8. Other

With regard to the issue of senate representation, we have received information from Mike Bowman but more research is needed. Both Jeff Dean and Jeff O'Connell agreed to help do that.

Currently there are five full-time instructor searches being conducted. A future point of discussion will be the process used in organizing and conducting search committees.

Roberts indicated how far we are from having enough full-time faculty. While Ohlone is average when it comes to classified and managerial personnel, we are below average on full-time faculty. O'Connell noted that some of the other colleges have many openings, and we are in danger of losing some good adjunct teachers.

Roberts had been asked by Jesse McEwan how we decided to cancel classes. There are many variables. For example, is the class part of a degree? How often is it offered? Etc.

Stagnaro said we always try not to cancel a class after its first day. We also sometimes let faculty try to build up enrollment in a class. We currently have a lot of low enrolled classes (less than 15 students) being offered.

Diane Berkland stated that more students are looking for late start classes because other classes are filling. Stagnaro agreed that late start classes might be a good approach. She also wanted to get more counselor input in the process.

Jim McManus raised the question of whether the current construction might be a reason for lower enrollments. Stagnaro said our spring enrollment was actually higher than last year, so that does not seem to be an issue. Online classes are also filling well. In addition, Stagnaro estimates that we will have a higher enrollment in our summer classes.

Our next meeting will be on March 4

The meeting adjourned at 4:57.