

ACADEMIC SENATE COUNCIL MEETING**MAY 1, 2018****APPROVED**

In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and SB 751, minutes of the DVC Academic Senate Council record the votes of all committee members as follows: Members in attendance will have their votes recorded including names of members voting in the minority or abstaining is recorded.

PRESENT: Beth McBrien (President), John Freytag (Vice President), Patrick Moe (Corresponding Secretary), David Vela (English), Kris Koblik (Professional Development), Lisa Smiley-Ratchford (Social Sciences), Carolyn Seefer (Business), Heidi Gentry-Kolen (Math/Computer Science), Theresa Flores-Lowery (Kinesiology), Daniel Kiely (Library), Wayne Larson (Physical Sciences), Nicolette Moultrie (CTE), René Sporer (SRC), Yvonne Canada (Counseling), Jim Blair (Part-time), Leo Bersamina (Applied and Fine Arts), Katrina Keating (Rep-at-large)

ABSENT: Kimberley Taugher (Biology/ Health Sciences)

GUESTS: Scott King, Albert Ponce, Kim Schenk, Becky Opsata, Rachel Westlake, Ann Kingsley, Mario Tejada, Rick Robison, Susan Lamb, Keri DuLaney-Gregor, Lisa Orta, Katy Agnost, Megan Hansen, James Wilson, Laury Fischer, Tom Barber, Joanna Miller

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF MAY 1, 2018 AND MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2018.

It was MSC to approve the agenda of May 1, 2018. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Moe, Seefer, Gentry-Kolen, Flores-Lowery, Koblik, Smiley-Ratchford, Kiely, Sporer, Vela, Moultrie, Canada, Blair, Bersamina, Keating, and Larson. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.

It was MSC to approve the minutes of April 24, 2018. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Moe, Seefer, Gentry-Kolen, Flores-Lowery, Koblik, Smiley-Ratchford, Kiely, Sporer, Vela, Moultrie, Canada, Blair, Bersamina, Keating, and Larson. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott King presented a summation of the following: I am a veteran and a student at DVC. On DVC's website for Veteran Services under the heading, "Our Mission," it states:

"We are honored to assist veterans, guardsmen, and reservists in receiving their military benefits; facilitate their transition into academic life; and support their ongoing academic success."

I wish to assist you in achieving that mission, and I am offering to volunteer to work with you to be a part of the solution.

I have personally had issues trying to use my benefits over two semesters. This included registering for classes, getting paperwork processed, and a lack of communication from Veteran Services. I didn't speak up before because I felt like people make mistakes. I was hoping that once the situation was corrected that there would have been a change in the process to prevent it from happening again to another veteran. This has not proven to be the case. I have spoken with numerous veterans about their experiences, and what I have learned is that the process is broken.

When I submit my paperwork to the Veterans Service Window, I place my faith and trust that the person taking my paperwork will not misplace it. I believe that my paperwork will be processed in a timely manner. When a veteran's paperwork is lost, not processed, forgotten sitting in the "in" box, this affects veterans negatively in several ways, which are contrary to the stated mission.

Financially, the majority of veterans are relying on their benefits to help them afford the cost of attending college. Most of the benefit programs for veterans cover tuition and/or books. Some programs also provide the veteran with a sustenance allowance. Unprocessed paperwork results in decisions being made between paying for daily living expenses and books/supplies for college. I personally know of two veterans who chose to leave DVC because they didn't want to fight to get their benefits.

Academically, unprocessed paperwork affects the veteran from being able to obtain textbooks/ supplies for classes. This puts the veteran at a disadvantage starting the semester off negatively with being behind with homework, reading assignments, etc. This has caused some veterans to drop classes because they are afraid that they won't be able to catch up and make up the work missed. Dropping classes affects the veterans' number of credits per semester, and most veteran programs require them to carry a certain amount of credits. Falling under this pre-set amount causes more issues for the veteran, which results in financial issues that sometimes leads to withdrawing from college.

Mentally/Physically, the veteran feels defeated from the start once they realize that their paperwork hasn't been processed. The semester has started and instead of him/her focusing on their studies they have to devote extra time to trying to track down their paperwork and figure out what went wrong and how to fix it. For those who are struggling with depression, anxiety, and/or post-traumatic stress, the added undue stress makes everything feel like it is unachievable. We feel like we are fighting a system that is designed to go against us, rather than one that is supposed to support and assist us.

I was told of an instance of a veteran being escorted to the veteran service window by a faculty member to assist him in getting his paperwork processed. The faculty member and the veteran was told by a person working the window that "we don't make mistakes."

When I was dealing with the issues that affected me personally those two semesters, I felt like this was just me, that it wasn't happening to anyone else. I didn't reach out to others about it, I just tried to work the situation the best I could. When I started talking to other veterans and asked them about their experience registering for classes, priority registration, etc. I was surprised to hear that many others were having issues as well.

I would like to convey to you one veteran's situation from this current semester. I will refer to her as "Breanna." Breanna submitted her paperwork like she was supposed to at the end of last semester. She registered for her classes for this semester, she is using the Vocational Rehabilitation program, also known as Chapter 31 educational benefit. This specific benefit pays for tuition and books. Breanna was unable to get her books from the DVC bookstore because her paperwork was never processed. She kept going back repeatedly over the course of the semester to the veterans' service window to inquire, she was always given a different excuse. She was told "It takes 6-8 weeks to process all of the paperwork" and "We are waiting to hear from your VA counselor" or (my personal favorite) "Are you sure you submitted your paperwork?"

After Breanna and I talked about two weeks ago, I could relate to what was happening to her based on my own experience, so I reached out to Professor Vela for assistance in trying to get her situation resolved quickly. During this time, she should be looking at what courses she needs to take in the fall semester so that she can be prepared to take advantage of the priority registration that is afforded to her. Breanna explained to me that she will not be able to use priority registration because her account is showing that she owes for the semester because her paperwork was never processed. After contacting Professor Vela via email, he forwarded my email to others. I believe his email started the motion in getting Breanna's paperwork processed. Breanna relayed to me a couple days later that her paperwork has finally been processed, that she received an email telling her that it had been lost in the "in" box. It was also explained to her that she would not be able to use priority registration because of her account showing that she still owes. Even though this situation was created by paperwork not being processed by DVC at the beginning of the semester, as it should have been, she was going to be penalized for it. Then she was told that she could use priority registration but that she would have to physically come in to the veterans' service window and register...again, because her account still shows as owing.

Please try to place yourself in Breanna's position. All semester she has tried to do what she could to get her paperwork processed. Think of the added stress she endured this semester trying to work within the confines of a system that states its mission is to "facilitate your transition into academic life and support your ongoing academic success" while at the same time this very system is working against her successful transition into academic life and is not offering support for her continued academic success. Early throughout the semester she did not reach out to others because she felt that this was just an error and would be quickly remedied. She relayed to me how she felt like this was something that was only happening to her, so she didn't think to ask others.

The end result of Breanna's situation is that after contacting Professor Vela and his email to some faculty/staff in positions that could help, Breanna was able to use her priority registration without having to walk the paperwork in to the veterans' service window. She was in touch with her VA counselor all along this semester. Her VA counselor was aware that she was working with DVC to get the paperwork processed and submitted to him. Once

he received her paperwork he processed it on his end very quickly and submitted it back to DVC in less than 24 hours. This allowed her account to be paid in full, which then allowed her to be able to use priority registration. Breanna is retired from the military after an honorable and distinguished career of more than 20 years during which time she deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. There is no doubt in my mind that whatever she sets her mind to accomplishing, she will achieve it. For proof all one needs to do is to look at this current semester and how she persevered.

This is just one situation with one veteran. There are more. Some have started to feel as though they are not welcome here because of the issues around their benefits. They feel that they shouldn't have to fight to get the benefits they have already earned. Veterans talk, and we talk to other veterans. If we are hearing that it is difficult to use your benefits at DVC, yet other veterans are telling us that it is easy to use their benefits at XYZ school, they will drop out of DVC and go to XYZ.

I do not want the message that is sent to be all negative. All of us veterans here at DVC acknowledge that the veterans service window helps a lot of veterans every day, all semester, every semester. We are grateful and thankful for their assistance. I also want to note that in my discussions with veterans I have heard from many who have had positive experiences registering for classes and getting their paperwork processed. We understand the complexities of the differences in the various educational benefits offered to veterans as well as the different requirements for each. We are not seeking to blame anyone; we are asking for assistance, and at the same time, I am offering to volunteer to help find a solution to prevent another veteran from having this issue.

3. COUNCIL COMMENT

Blair commented that he was at the Contra Costa Veterans group summit and they discussed the issues that Scott King talked about in his public comment. He said they discussed housing all veteran's services in one location. He agreed with King that veteran's should not have to deal with these types of issues after leaving the service.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

McBrien said revisions have been made to the proposed Mission statement. They will be sent out to Council and they should discuss them with their divisions. They will be on the next agenda for action.

McBrien reminded Council tickets for the retirement dinner are on sale and they are selling fast, so be sure to get your tickets soon.

Flores-Lowery updated Council on the standings and upcoming contest of the DVC athletic teams including baseball, softball, tennis, swimming and diving, and track and field.

Patton informed Council the ballots for the Academic Senate election have been delayed because the District said we can longer use the voting program Robert Burns had designed on the district server. They said they did not think it was secure. Patton is researching other voting programs and will send out ballots soon. In the meantime, she is sending out a sample ballot so faculty can see what items are up for a vote. The items on the agenda are an uncontested vote for the office of Corresponding Secretary, as well as updates to the Senate Constitution to reflect current practices so the delay should not be a problem.

5. APPOINTMENTS

None.

6. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

McBrien introduced Albert Ponce to lead a discussion on Academic Freedom that the Social Science division has been discussing for a while.

Ponce shared Board Policy 2018 on Academic Freedom, a Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure from the American Association of University Professors; and academic freedom as free speech.

Ponce explained Social Science has been discussion this topic in response to outside influences impacting academic freedom. He said first we need to assess and understand the current climate around academic freedom and free speech. He said he as well as many other faculty members have been the target of attacks on their academic freedom.

Smiley-Ratchford explained that we strive to have an inclusive college and we need to speak up for those whose voices have not been heard.

Vela commented that this is not just about academics but also many issues in the broader picture and addressing all the issues is a long process.

Ponce said they are hoping to get a senate resolution to support discussions and work on this topic.

Blair asked if they have a draft resolution for the Senate to review.

Fischer said he also has been the subject of an attack on his academic freedom that was a pretty traumatic experience. He suggested the resolution include a resolve to do a survey of faculty and incidents they have been involved in.

Blair said beyond the resolution, we need to educate the entire campus community on the issues around academic freedom and free speech.

Ponce shared a draft resolution the Social Science division put together. McBrien suggested Ponce put together a workgroup with members from each division to work on the resolution.

Council members and guests discussed the need to expedite the resolution and if Council should vote on it at this meeting. Smiley-Ratchford said they want the resolution to come from the Senate, not just their division. Freytag said we need to make sure the language in the resolution needs to reflect that.

McBrien said if we don't meet during finals week, then we only have one more meeting this semester, but we don't want to rush this through. Freytag said this is the first time the Council has seen this draft resolution and it really needs to go out to the divisions for discussion and feedback before a vote. Also it is not on this agenda as an action item.

Keating said passing a resolution now is not going to change anything at this point in the semester and we need to give the divisions time to thoughtfully read and discuss it.

Koblik said we should meet during finals week for a vote. That would give some time for feedback and vote on it before the end of the semester. Council agreed.

7. PROPOSED PROGRAM REVIEW TEMPLATE CHANGES FOR FALL 2018

Schenk told Council part of the work of validation is to gather suggestions for improvement to either the process or the template. She said the Program Review Committee has a sub-committee that looks at the suggestions and makes recommendations for any changes needed. She said the Program Review Committee has also been looking at the compressed calendar and its impact on the PR timeline. Schenk shared with Council the recommendations for process, data, and template improvements. The recommendations for process set a timeline for the work in 2018-2019. The timeline will start earlier than it previously has which will make it necessary to have some discussions before Fall Flex to implement it.

McBrien reminded Council they have already approved accelerating the process and one result will be that areas get their funding sooner than in the past.

Schenk pointed out in the recommendations on data Anthropology has asked to do a separate program review from Sociology and Social Science. Those two programs will be in the same program review but the data will be presented in separate tabs.

Schenk shared the recommended changes to the template and validation form. She said they include reducing redundancies, updating prompts to reflect the changes on the template, disaggregate data for DE, and add some data elements. The language on the validation form will be edited for clarity. She said the writers and validators will be trained at the same time so they are both on the same page for the process.

Council discussed some possible changes in the rankings in the PRS to better show the high, medium and low priorities and grouping some requests. McBrien said she will agendaize that topic on the May 22 agenda.

It was MSC to approve the proposed revisions to the Program Review Process and template. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Moe, Seefer, Gentry-Kolen, Flores-Lowery, Koblik, Smiley-Ratchford, Kiely, Sporer, Vela, Moultrie, Canada, Blair, Bersamina, Keating, and Larson. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.

8. PROPOSED FALL 18/SPRING 19 ASC MEETING DATES AND NEW MEETING TIME

Council reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2018-2019.

Fall 2018

Aug 22

Aug 28

Sept 11

Sept 18
Sept 25
Oct 9
Oct 16
Oct 23
Oct 30
Nov 13
Nov 20
Nov 27
Dec 11

Spring 2019

Jan 24
Jan 29
Feb 5
Feb 12
Feb 26
Mar 5
Mar 12
Mar 26
Apr 9
Apr 23
Apr 30
May 7
May 21

It was noted that due to the compressed calendar, meetings will be almost every week except when DGC is scheduled. Also due to the compressed calendar and class schedule blocks, meeting times will be from 2:15 – 4:15.

It was MSC to approve the proposed meeting dates and times for 2018-2019. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Moe, Seefer, Gentry-Kolen, Flores-Lowery, Koblik, Smiley-Ratchford, Kiely, Sporer, Vela, Moultrie, Canada, Blair, Bersamina, Keating, and Larson. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.

9. META MAJORS

Koblik shared the Meta majors groupings and asked Council for feedback. There was some discussion about where some of the programs were grouped. Sporer reminded Council that the purpose of this is to not have students having to dig down too many layers to get the information they need. Koblik said the final version will have brief explanations about the programs that aren't so evident in the Program name.

It was MSC to approve the proposed groupings of Meta majors for pathways. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Moe, Seefer, Gentry-Kolen, Flores-Lowery, Koblik, Smiley-Ratchford, Kiely, Sporer, Vela, Moultrie, Canada, Blair, Bersamina, Keating, and Larson. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.

10. VPI REPORT

Westlake said attended the AB 705 meeting the previous day. They heard from both math and English. She said they discussed the need to broaden awareness college-wide of the changes that will be implemented. They also discussed the changes to some support services since students may be placed at higher levels than they might have been placed under the current assessment tool.

Keating asked Westlake when the divisions will learn who their new hires are. Westlake said as soon as the hire's second letter of intent is received they will send out the names.

Westlake reminded Council of the VPI candidate forums scheduled on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

11. OEI UPDATE

Kingsley told Council DVC and CCC have been accepted into the Online Education Initiative coalition. She said the next step is to build an implementation team and then identify the first group of faculty that will put their courses in. They will start trainings in Fall 2018 and the first course will be up in Fall 2019.

Kingsley said a person has been hired at district as a DE Dean. She has 4 years of experience with OEI and has been a DE coordinator. She also wrote her dissertation on Distance education. She will be working with the colleges to provide resources and support such as trainings and data requests.

Kingsley said she is working on getting information about a tool we will get that is for proctoring, also on stronger training on how to build in academic integrity into their courses.

12. AS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

McBrien thanked Lisa Smiley Ratchford for bring the topic of Academic Freedom to the Senate.

McBrien then read and presented a resolution for Rachel Westlake who is retiring on June 30 this year.

Resolution for Rachel Westlake

May 1, 2018

Whereas, Rachel Westlake has shown extraordinary leadership in her role as Vice President of Instruction, as well as making exemplary contributions as a division dean, department chair, and faculty member at Diablo Valley College;

Whereas, Rachel has brought an incredibly calm and quietly powerful presence to her amazingly demanding job at all times, even after working 7 days a week;

Whereas, Rachel has inspired generations of students to pursue careers in education, many of whom now teach at DVC or who have gone on to teach at other institutions;

Whereas, Rachel has been described as a 'marathon runner in the area of social justice', and has always had equitable success for our students at the forefront of her work;

Whereas, Rachel always seems to have an instinct to say yes and is never dismissive, even if the yes doesn't happen right away;

Whereas, Rachel has the poise and grace of the ballet dancer that she is, has a thoughtful demeanor, and has mastered the art of listening;

Whereas, Rachel was central to getting Umoja up and running, a quiet and steady presence who brought her insight and heart to every early step, to every stone laid in the program's foundation, and attended every graduation ceremony;

Whereas, One faculty stated, "Rachel is one of DVC's shining guiding lights, a reassuring voice of reason; when Rachel is part of a decision or conversation, I always have confidence and the feeling that, "everything is going to be OK";

Whereas, Rachel has always had the best interests of the college and our students at heart, always articulate and pleasant, excellent with both people and spreadsheets – and clearly enjoys them both;

Whereas, When asked to describe Rachel, her colleagues used these words, "inspirational, wise, grace, kindness, tireless, incredible empathy, focused, determined, humble, authentic, amazingly calm, compassionate, and a saint";

Whereas, "Rachel is my life-line" "I owe my professional life to her" "I have always appreciated her genuineness, her wisdom, and the kindness she has always shown me" "When I did not believe in myself, Rachel was there to support me" and "I love Rachel" were just a fraction of the comments from colleagues whose lives she has profoundly influenced,

Whereas, Rachel makes the impossible seem possible, and the merely difficult look effortless;

Resolved, The Academic Senate of Diablo Valley College honors the service of Rachel Westlake, and thanks her for her multitude of contributions to Diablo Valley College as our Vice President of Instruction; and

Resolved, The Academic Senate of Diablo Valley College recognizes Rachel Westlake as a unique, extraordinary, and influential leader who has left us a legacy of grace and integrity, and a focus on equitable student success; and

Resolved, The Academic Senate of Diablo Valley College recognizes that DVC is a far better college because of Rachel's character, guidance, and quiet strength; and

Resolved: The Academic Senate of Diablo Valley College sincerely thanks Rachel Westlake and expresses our profound and lasting appreciation for her contributions to the college.

Council approved the resolution by acclamation.

Westlake thanked the council for their work and said it has truly been a privilege to work at DVC and the DVC faculty. She said she is proud of the work we have done coming back from some hard time in the last few years.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ann Langelier-Patton
Administrative Secretary*