
ACADEMIC SENATE COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 13, 2020

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: John Freytag (President), Patrick Moe (Vice President), Lisa Smiley-Ratchford (Corresponding Secretary), Susan Parkinson (Biology/ Health Sciences), Alan Haslam (Representative-at-large, Bridgitte Schaffer (SRC), Yvonne Canada (Counseling), Craig Gerken (Physical Sciences), Carolyn Seefer (Business), Daniel Kiely (Library), Joann Denning (CE), Anthony Gonzales (English), Kris Koblik (Professional Development), Rick Millington (Kinesiology), Sangha Niyogi (Social Sciences) Concha Gomez (Math/Computer Science)

ABSENT: Leo Bersamina (Applied and Fine Arts)

GUESTS: Mary Gutierrez, Kim Schenk, Tate Hurvitz, Greg Aycock, Kelly Schelin, Claudia Hein, Anne Kingsley, Rick Robison, Kat King, Matt Morrissey, Carrie Million

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF OCTOBER 13, 2020.

It was MSC to approve the agenda of October 13, 2020. The following members all voted aye: Moe, Smiley-Ratchford, Parkinson, Haslam, Schaffer, Canada, Gerken, Seefer, Kiely, Denning Gonzales, Koblik, Millington, Niyogi, and Gomez. No abstentions. No nays. Approved.

There were no minutes for review.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2. COUNCIL COMMENT

Parkinson said she has been hearing from a number of her students that they have not seen the email inviting them to take the **knack?** survey. She has talked with Mark Akiyama, he said when students register they are sent information to the survey. He said there must be something causing some students to not get on the email list. Parkinson said Akiyama has been working to make sure students get the email about the survey. He is also following up when she notifies him as she hears from individual students. Parkinson asked faculty to remind their students to take the survey.

Moe commented that he was very happy about the exit report from the ACCJC visiting team. He said we need to make sure and acknowledge the work of Becky Opsata and Julie Walters, who fearlessly lead us through the process. Freytag added that those two individuals did a monumental amount of work to help us collectively complete our report and organize all the evidence.

Canada said the classes in the spring schedule meeting times are not listed as TBA and that any required synchronous meetings must be listed clearly in the course notes. In counseling, they are seeing a number of students that signed up for classes and found out after it began that there were required meetings via Zoom that were synchronous and they have decided to drop the classes. This is particularly with new students or students that are trying to maintain their status for free tuition for two years. This causes a lot of anxiety for those students. Freytag added that the department chairs should have the second draft of the spring schedule. He emphasized it is very important that that is communicated broadly so faculty get this information in the course notes. He added that faculty have been asking if they can stretch exam times or expand the synchronous times. However, this would inadvertently cause scheduling conflicts for students.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schaffer said the San Ramon campus has a college information night coming up as a virtual event on Wednesday, November 4, 6-7 pm. These are usually well attended.

Gonzales announced the Equity Committee is hosting the author Ana Castillo. Her work highlights themes of feminism, gender, and queerness, migration, generational gaps and connections, mestiza, family connections, and love within the Mexican-American community. Monday, November 2, 11:10 to 12:35.

Niyogi announced the next Social justice speaker is this Thursday October 15 at 12:30. Political scientist Vanessa Tyson will speak on the election.

Kiely said Robison sent an email out with information that the library will be taking appointments for students to come in and scan or make copies of reserve textbooks, next week. They are spreading out the machines and limiting appointments to 5 per hour. Please make sure students are aware of this resource. Freytag commented that that is another example of how we have adapted to better serve our students given the conditions that we're all working within right now. That was something the visiting team saw and heard and commented on last week. He thanked the Library for all of their work.

5. APPOINTMENTS

None.

6. VPI UPDATE

Gutierrez was happy to hear back from the Accreditation visiting team. She said it is important to hear that they observed our level of collaboration and teamwork to serve students with a focus on meeting students' needs and being a student centered institution. She said it is particularly great news as we are focusing on our equity work because the two resources of teamwork and collaboration and our ability to focus on the needs of students as we are working to promote student's well-being and address equity gaps. We need to keep these guiding principles for all of our decision making. She said she is grateful to be doing this work with folks who have that level of commitment and who are interested in learning and growing and expanding our capacity to really move forward in terms of producing equitable outcomes for our students.

7. GUIDING CRITERIA FOR INTEREST AREAS/REALIGNMENT CONVERSATIONS

Gutierrez said the idea of meta-majors emerged in the conversation around Guided Pathways as a tool to ensure student completion. As we think about the ways that disciplines are being grouped in the interest areas. One of the theories that's behind the development of interest areas is choice theory, the idea that when there are too many choices, it becomes overwhelming for students. So the idea is that a student is much more likely to be able to successfully choose an interest area, rather than choosing one of a long list of majors. This concept allows students to explore related majors. This effort facilitates the development of student support services in the related areas.

Meta majors or Interest Areas

Student-centered arrangement of disciplines

- Apply choice theory to major selection
- Allow students to explore related majors
- Introductory course(s) relevant to all students in I.A.
- Facilitate the development of support services in related areas

Freytag said designing the Guided Pathways Model is separate from the administrative considerations needed to align our management structure around the proposed interest areas. There are many shared courses and curriculum overlap between programs and departments that are within the same interest areas. There are also common programmatic elements. However, if a student can identify an area that they're interested in pursuing it is important that they get information about the required courses. We can then direct them to programmatic expertise within that area. Freytag said he and Gutierrez will be setting up meetings with interest areas about placement or potential impacts of realignment proposals.

Placement criteria

Guided Pathways model

- Shared courses/curricular overlap
- Shared program elements
- Similar career paths and experiences

Administrative consideration

- Balanced distribution of FTEF and duties

Freytag said for the next steps we're going to have conversations with program leads about where their program or department should sit within a particular interest area and therefore be interacting with other programs and faculty in that interest area. The areas they will be meeting with are Economics, Foreign Languages, Journalism, Architecture, Engineering, Health and Dental Hygiene. In these conversations we are asking everyone to keep these criteria in mind and that they demonstrate how the criteria would be better satisfied in one interest area, rather than another. Provide any feedback to your AS representative, or him or Gutierrez.

NEXT STEPS

- Address the criteria
- Demonstrate how the criteria are better satisfied in one interest area rather than another
- Describe how programs and faculty will collaborate w/in Interest Area to support student experience and success

8. DVC PRIDE AND DREAMERS WEBPAGES

Freytag said Rachel Luna and Kristina Gomez are here today to talk about some new web resources for a pride web page and also our Dreamer Alliance web page.

Luna said they are particularly excited to be doing this in the month of October, which is LGBTQ history month. Part of this work has been done in collaboration with the Pride Alliance, which is a group of faculty, staff, and students coming together from across the campus. This launch is also in conjunction with our Dreamers Alliance and this is coming right before our Undocumented Students action weekend.

Luna shared the Pride web page with Council. She said our LGTBQ community are in particular need of support and connection at all times, but definitely at this time with the COVID shelter in place. Many students might be going to homes and spaces where they maybe don't have as much support as when they are physically on campus. It is important for us as a DVC community to have all of these resources in one space.

Luna said the link to the Pride page can be shared in your Canvas courses. The page includes both campus and community resources. There is information about our Pride Learning Community. It also includes an events page, faculty and staff resources, and information and links to the Pride Alliance. They have coordinated their resources in categories to help students find the information they need.

Gomez shared the Dreamers Alliance page with Council. She said she worked over the summer with a sub-group to redo the page from a student perspective. She said the timing of the unveiling of these web pages was intentional to keep the narratives of the two alliances tied together. Gomez pointed out the page has an option to get on an email list to regularly get important information. They added testimonials from our students both current and alumni to highlight how great our students are and what they're experiencing while they're with us. They also have added six new sub-pages primarily to follow students on their journey with us. She showed Council the Apply Now page for new students. They have included steps on how to apply for the California Dream Act. They also posted contact information for a direct contact for that support. They included links to resources for grants and scholarships that are available to undocumented students.

Gomez said they have a graduation ceremony for the students that have participated in these groups. The information page for this also includes links for direct contacts and resources for students transferring to CSUs.

Gomez said the Undocumented Student Action Week is a California Community College statewide campaign to advocate and support undocumented students. The week will be filled with free virtual online workshops for both undocumented students and allies, some specific to DVC. The events listed have a register now button.

9. ADJUSTING COLLEGE STRUCTURES TO ALIGN WITH INTEREST AREAS

Lamb said she will be coming to the Senate on a regular basis to continue discussions on this process. She would like to hear initial feedback on the two options she presented at a previous meeting.

Kiely said the Library would like to stay under instruction. They have been reaching out to other California Community College libraries to see where they live in their college structures and the pros and cons. Lamb said she would be interested in the information they are gathering from other colleges.

Parkinson said the concern over separating dental hygiene and health from the other biological sciences was brought up previously. A lot of the prerequisites for dental hygiene are the same as those for allied health. On the website with the interest areas allied health is lumped together with the health sciences but it is also listed with the biological sciences major. Lamb responded that a big part of this effort is to more equally distribute load among the deans. However, she thinks allied health is a small enough program that it might be able to shift either way. The main issue is where students would perceive it.

Koblik said she thinks it was never our intention to create a definitive separation. The curriculum remains the same and remains unified. As Lamb said, we have to look at where a student would expect to find a program, sign up for that program or receive information about that program.

Niyogi asked how we are going to onboard students so that they know this is what is happening and that these are not rigid choices and they can still explore things. And the concern is, especially from cross disciplinary kinds of majors, is that students, irrespective of their major, will go through an ethnic studies course, or a Social Justice course. She'd like to know what are we doing to build that into our structures while doing this realignment.

Gerken asked if these changes happened tomorrow, would he still be the representative for engineering or would they be in a different division and have someone else representing them on, for example, this committee. Lamb said that is a Senate question as it's more a representation question than a management structure question. Freytag said that is going to be part of the equation as we are looking at how things change moving forward and we will need to think about representation and committee and governance structures.

10. REVITALIZATION PROCESS AND PROGRAMATIC UPDATES

Freytag said we currently have three programs going through the revitalization process. He has invited leads from those programs to help us better understand the process and how it is going for them.

Mickey Huff referred Council to DVC procedure 4001.08 that covers the program revitalization process. It talks about the differences between program deletions versus program discontinuance. He said when we hear that a program is in revitalization, we often think that it doesn't look so positive for a program or an area. He wants to dispel that negative stigma. He said he has been at DVC since 2000 and he has never heard much about revitalization before. He said then he was asked to be Chair of the revitalization program for the journalism department, he realized he needed to look at what the department could do to improve. Is it out of date, or does it have a full-time faculty member? He said it has been a steep learning curve to fully understand the process but for him he felt it was an exciting opportunity given his particular love of journalism and his work outside of DVC. It was also a great opportunity for the whole college because the DVC journalism program has the platform of the Enquirer which is supposed to be one of the voices of the Diablo Valley College community, students, staff, faculty, and the community beyond.

Huff said he had expressed at the last Senate meeting that journalism is in favor of moving journalism from English to Social Science. There are a lot of connections with Social Science and social justice.

So he and his team looked at how they could re-envision and rebuild the program, and where do they get the institutional support for department or program needs. He said they have assembled a report and also commissioned an external report from an academic field and industry expert. He said journalism is interdisciplinary and that's why he included people from English, Social Sciences, Political Science and Counseling on the team. They came to the conclusion given DVC's culture that it behooves us to put the department where people are championing it. He said there were circumstances where a full-time hire fell through so they included a full-time hire in their recommendations. They are boosting outreach in recruitment and they are creating an advisory board and committee for CTE and Career Education. They have also been talking about future plans to build a student center where they can merge journalism with media studies and critical media literacy.

Squire Davidson said he was hired 9 months before in part to help with the revitalization process for Culinary. He said he has been in the industry as a chef for 35 years and was teaching at a private culinary school. He said he started looking at our enrollment trends which had been going steadily down. He said there are many factors that impact it. Then, one month after he was hired, the college was shut down because of COVID. The lockdown greatly impacted the food service industry that was the highest employer in the country and now there's more people in this industry on unemployment than any other industry. We are not sure how long this situation will continue and we will be re-opening up in a very different environment with very different required skills. He explained the Culinary Program is a business as well as a program. So at this time none of the food venues on campus are open, they have been using this opportunity to really focus on what's best for the students and updating their curriculum to make it more congruent with what is happening within their industry.

Davidson said they have started having Zoom meetings with the Industry Council since both our faculty and the industry representatives have more time than previously to do that. He said in the spring they will be starting a food truck program partnering with entrepreneurship programs. Another effort they are starting is developing cannabis cuisine courses. These are really high paying jobs. And they are working on opportunities to partner with horticulture. He said there are so many new innovations for opportunities in the food service industry such as pop-up kitchens/restaurants, food bloggers and many others. He said the Kim Schenk and her department have been very helpful as they work through this process and update their program. He said the program had been essentially operating as an apprentice program which made students feel like they were free labor. Since COVID, they have adapted to hybrid instruction where there is more online instruction with videos, online testing, and using other software programs for culinary instruction. He said the food that is produced from their in classroom instruction, they pack up for the food pantry. It is a great addition to the program that they would like to continue.

Kimberly Valmore said her area recently started the revitalization process. She is the only full-time faculty in the dance program. She said over the last few years they have had a bit of an identity issue but she thinks Guided Pathways that can really help them at this time. She said dance is housed in kinesiology and athletics and they have been benefitting from the professionalism of the individuals in the department. But they realized there's been some things missing and time has not been kind to dance as a discipline. A few years ago they were greatly impacted by the changes to repeatability rules that were overly specific. And then of course the COVID shutdown so she restructured the committee to make sure they were taking a holistic view by adding committee members from drama and music. Through the work of the committee, she has realized the need to have a connection to the arts. She is rewriting two courses, one in dance appreciation which is multicultural based and more broad to showcase. They are also taking their dance history course which is a transfer course, to more of a critical thinking class.

11. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHARGE/FUNCTION

Postponed

12. ACADEMIC SENATE COUNCIL GOALS FOR '20-'21

Freytag said after the last Senate meeting a few Council members got together and drafted some goals to align them with our student demands, the Chancellor's Office call to action and our Educational Master Plan. They included language that make the goals actionable. Council reviewed the updated document and had no additional edits.

It was MSC to approve the updated Senate Goals for 2020-2021. The following members all voted aye: Moe, Smiley-Ratchford, Parkinson, Haslam, Schaffer, Canada, Gerken, Seefer, Kiely, Denning Gonzales, Koblik, Millington, Niyogi, and Gomez. No abstentions. No nays. Approved.

13. DISTANCE EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES

Rick Robison reviewed a few updates that were made to the camera optional policy. One is the addition of language specifying that if an assignment is based on visual performance it can be required. He said he has been talking with the instruction office about the inclusion of the policy in course notes.

Schaffer said San Ramon wants to make sure that the course notes are standard and correct. Especially given that the second draft of the schedule has been submitted already. She would like to get clarification on if the scheduling office will be responsible for adding the wording. Robison said that will be worked out with Kim Schenk and the schedulers. Moe added that it is really important the information is also included in course syllabi.

Robison pointed out that this particular recommendation is just during our COVID restrictions and it will be revisited when situations change.

Council continued to discuss the various scenarios that would need to be addressed while adapting to these recommendations. They agreed there is a need to keep some flexibility in the guidelines and that it will be revisited when Covid restrictions change.

It was MSC to approve the Distance Education Team updates to recommendations for managing our course guidelines during Covid. The following members all voted aye: Moe, Smiley-Ratchford, Parkinson, Haslam, Schaffer, Canada, Gerken, Seefer, Kiely, Denning Gonzales, Koblik, Millington, Niyogi, and Gomez. No abstentions. No nays. Approved.

14. AS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Freytag thanked everyone that worked on our accreditation report and participated in Accreditation Team visits last week as well as the other meetings that the visiting team requested. We are very pleased with the preliminary report and comments we received from the visiting team.

Freytag said he will be attending the Area B meeting this coming Friday for the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges (ASCCC). He shared some information about the ASCCC processes procedures and resolutions.

Freytag said there are continuing conversations around the construction bond that we received for campus upgrades and reconfigurations. In spring we received feedback from two areas that are primarily affected, English and Social Sciences. They are interested in moving to the north location on campus which will be built on the current site of the art building. Freytag explained the bond dollars are dwindling and we will not have the funds to build the massive academic complex building that was imagined on the front end of the bond proposals.

Freytag said he is concerned with how this bond impacts Science Hill. Including the Science Center that includes astronomy faculty offices and classrooms; and also biology and health. The plan is for these areas to move into the HTC building. They are very concerned about keeping a central location for science classes.

Freytag said LMC Senate just passed a very thoughtful resolution on Racial Justice. He said he will forward it to Council when he receives it from the LMC Senate president.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:40p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ann Langelier-Patton
Academic Senate Administrative Secretary*