



321 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

ACADEMIC SENATE COUNCIL MEETING

November 24, 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), Daniel Kiely (Library), Bridgitte Schaffer (SRC), Yvonne Canada (Counseling), Craig Gerken (Physical Sciences), Carolyn Seefer (Business), Joann Denning (CE), Rick Millington (Kinesiology), Susan Parkinson (Biology/ Health Sciences), Anthony Gonzales (English), Kris Koblik (Professional Development), Sangha Niyogi (Social Sciences), Leo Bersamina (Applied and Fine Arts), Alan Haslam (Representative-at-large), Concha Gomez (Math/Computer Science), Liz Mayorga (Part-time Faculty), Maya Yamato (Part-time Faculty)

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Kim Schenk, Bryan Reece, Susan Lamb

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 24, 2020.

It was MSC to approve the agenda of November 24, 2020. The following members all voted aye: Moe, Smiley-Ratchford, Kiely, Schaffer, Canada, Gerken, Seefer, Denning, Gonzales, Koblik, Bersamina, Haslam, Millington, Parkinson, Gomez, Mayorga and Yamato. No abstentions. No nays. Approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COUNCIL COMMENT

Yamato received some feedback from adjunct faculty regarding in-person instruction. One adjunct prefers staying online because he is high risk and he said he feels very uncomfortable in class without universal vaccination, but he would have to take the work. He said he would be upset that he and his students are being subjected to unnecessary risk to life and health.

Yamato said she heard from another adjunct who suggested an Academic Senate and ASDVC work group to research and discuss the amount of assignments our faculty should assign. Students with a full load of lecture classes are technically supposed to be assigned up to 45 hours of homework a week plus 15 hours in the classroom. So that's 60 hours a week, and does not include reading. He asked if there are there questions on faculty evaluation forms related to homework assignments. Is the average 45 hours. Do they include holidays and spring break? Are there weeks with heavier assignment loads that come at the same like midterms and finals. Is an estimated amount of time given to each assignment plan by faculty? He is concerned if our students can do a good job on assignments with this many hours of pressure. If they have a job or care for children. Any thoughts about the pandemic

changing the hours of homework assigned. So he wanted me to bring that up.

Gonzales said given the new interest areas and available physical spaces, his colleague is concerned when we return to campus, that we're locked into coming back into campus exactly the way it was before we left. He said we should reimagine a lot of the spaces. For example, the planetarium has two classrooms that could possibly become a science center for physical and biological sciences; the Learning Center for English could possibly become a student success center like the ASC, and other spaces on campus that can be repurposed to better serve students, especially if we offer more hybrid courses that free up classroom spaces.

In addition as we return to campus is there a plan or flexibility in scheduling in case of fires and smoke or other emergencies where we would need to quickly go to 100% online.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Koblik announced upcoming Friday flex days that focus on distance education. There will be four sessions that are focused on gearing up for next semester. They will include sessions about how to make preparation a little simpler and also a showcase of a lot of our Peer Online Mentorship Program. There is an English cohort going through the sessions right now, and there will be a math cohort in spring.

Lamb said there was a meeting of the Bay 8 Athletic Conference the previous week. She said DVC is in a different conference than our two sister colleges. There has not been a decision at this point regarding spring semester athletics and the programs that had been moved to spring from fall with the idea there would be a season that began at the very beginning of the semester and then also a season that would begin a little later in the spring. There has been a lot of discussion about dividing sports into high, moderate and low risk. She said about half the conference is back and practicing but some colleges are not allowing any athlete participation. For some of our athletes, this is the only way that they can transfer and finish a degree. It is important to keep our student athletes engaged so we are working on how we can do that. This also impacts our coaches and there are aspects the UF needs to be involved in their loads.

Lamb said the analysts' reports came out that are very optimistic about Proposition 98. However, she wants to be cautious and it appears there might be enough money to pay for the deferments we had last year.

5. APPOINTMENTS

None

6. VPI REPORT

No report.

7. CCCCDC CHANCELLOR VISIT

Council members introduced themselves to the CCCCDC Chancellor Bryan Reece.

Chancellor Reece said he served for two years as a senate representative when he was a faculty member, as well as two terms as academic senate vice-president and, another two terms as academic senate president. He said he saw on today's agenda Council wants to discuss the strategic plan. He said that is something he is really focused on. He feels fortunate he came to an institution that had already

been doing a lot of thinking around the strategic vision for the district and went through quite a shared decision making process and landed on five major areas to focus on. The first one is about student learning. The second one has to do with narrowing the equity gap. The other three are about providing resources to help those to happen. He knows the first two areas are about 10+1 issues and he really wants to hear from the senates and the college presidents about the plans goals and closing the equity gap. These can only happen with really dynamic instruction in our classrooms, whether on campus or online. He wants to know what the district can do to support these efforts and provide services and support. He said it looks like we have a healthy budget coming up. However, we still need more resources to affect the kind of change that we're all hoping for. He said he will be working with the college foundations and his cabinet to pull in more regional and state resources to provide the kinds of resources to be successful in the classes and programs. He wants to hear from faculty the type of resources that faculty feel are needed to accomplish this. He said the student populations at California Community Colleges tend to come from historically underserved communities and the state funding for community colleges in comparison to CSUs and UCs is disproportionate to students needs at these various state institutions. He said he is eager to look for resources from regional, state and even national sources. He said a lot of funds are being provided to these other institutions including private colleges that was intended to go to social justice work yet the money is going to institutions that are aren't doing the serious work needed.

Niyogi said we have seen the Chancellor's call for action and she is asking if he has a timeline for these goals to come to fruition and what kind of support we can expect from the district. Reece said the colleges in the district have already been making progress through many efforts and he wants to continue this trend. For example, a multi-year analysis of success, graduation and completion rates has been seeing a steady rise at all three colleges

Reece said as we move forward, he wants to focus on getting more students into our colleges because that really impacts the region. He added that a student that goes to college has the opportunity to having a transformational experience. We need to concentrate not just on getting them in, but through completion. He said we need to keep working on that student success among all student populations is equitable.

Council discussed ideas with the Chancellor for coming back to the campuses, the benefits for students when we come back, and a fall schedule for both scenarios. Also about the timelines for vaccines to be available and considering requirements for students and employees.

Reece talked about the hiring of administrators at both the district and college levels. For the CFO position, he is looking at an acting one for now. Gene Huff has been performing the CFO position as well as his position as VP of HR. He is expediting the hiring process. It should be going to the board in December and we should have one hired by July. He encourages everyone to be involved in the recruitment process.

Reece responded to concerns about our budget when the hold harmless exception expires and how we can offset any cuts. He said we need a strategy to improve enrollment to hopefully get us to where we need to be to mitigate any cuts.

8. FEEDBACK/APPROVAL OF INTEREST AREA SUCCESS TEAM DESIGN PROPOSAL

Kim Schenk reviewed a PowerPoint that was previously presented to Council about the IASSTD proposal. She shared the slide with recommended programs and services that fall under the areas of career exploration, community building, tutoring, dedicated counseling and library services, targeted

communication and messaging, targeted interventions for students for academic and other needs, and coordination with DVC outreach and recruitment. Several examples are listed under each area.

Gomez said her department has heard about these ideas and have been doing some brainstorming around ideas for career exploration, community building, and interventions. She said they would like to work on community building and career exploration for math majors. When they looked at the tutoring aspect and started to realize this really affects their vision for the math lab. Her understanding is there would be tutors in the different interest areas and it seems counter to their vision. They have been trying to build community in the math lab by bringing together people from different majors. She has been holding her office hours in the math lab but does not know where that would happen if math was in several interest areas. She said her department is concerned that instructors will be confused about which area to send students, how are we going to staff them when they already have a hard time finding tutors for just one area. She said they have spent the last year and half redesigning the math lab to better serve students and now it feels like it is being taken away. She said the math department would like to keep their tutoring in one location.

Schenk said nothing has been decided and at this time they are asking departments to have discussions about what kinds of programs and services they do think would be of help to students in their interest area. Freytag added that this a framework to move forward on designing the interest area success centers.

Gonzales said he understands what Gomez is saying. He said each interest area in each discipline really is going to have to put their own sort of stamp on it. But when you have an area that has already laid a lot of groundwork and they want to know that the programs for tutoring that were put in place can be easily transferred to the new design.

Freytag said approval of this plan doesn't mean that it is forever. We are part of these conversations and are doing this ourselves.

It was MSC to approve the interest area student success center design team proposal as a general recommendation with more details to follow. The following members all voted aye: Moe, Smiley-Ratchford, Kiely, Schaffer, Canada, Gerken, Seefer, Denning, Gonzales, Koblik, Bersamina, Haslam, Millington, Parkinson, Gomez, Mayorga and Yamato. No abstentions. No nays. Approved.

9. LIBRARY TRANSITION TO ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Emily Moss, Florence Espiritu, Amelie Brown, Amanda Choi, and Daniel Kiely provided information to Council on how they transitioned to online workshops. Primarily instruction in the library revolves around on face to face teaching and what they call one shot workshops, meaning that a class comes once when they're working on a research assignment to get acclimated to the resources available in the library and the skills that they will need to complete their research assignments. When the college went remote in March, they needed to quickly shift their instruction to online. This included synchronous instruction with live demonstrations via zoom of content that they cover in face to face workshops. They also started flipping their classroom approach by sharing online resources with faculty in advance of the workshops. This approach required us to very quickly start building online materials that we didn't previously have and they recognized that there had long been a need for providing information literacy instruction for distance learning students like they do for on campus students. Because they were not teaching face to face, it gave them the opportunity to focus their attention on creating those materials for online. Over the summer they partnered with workforce development and built standalone Information Literacy Modules in Canvas. They also continued to

provide synchronous instruction and Zoom demonstrations. The modules can be dropped into a Canvas course that will take them to that module home page. They start with some information about library resources and the outcomes for the workshops. After students complete the module, they go to a discussion thread where they can ask questions live. The librarians can also join the live course. They will send out the link where faculty can request a workshop and time on the schedule.

10. SUMMER AND FALL '21 COURSE SCHEDULING

Freytag asked Council if they have any further feedback about scheduling our summer and fall courses.

Gomez said she heard from faculty in her division about the online format and academic dishonesty. A lot of faculty are frustrated with the lack of resources and support around assessment and for a lot of them they are feeling kind of disappointed with their students. Part of the reason faculty want to come back to on campus instructions is because of issues with academic dishonesty.

Gomez said everyone is overloaded and many don't have time to go to these workshops or schedule a one-on-one. Also with assessment, math does not use Canvas. She said they have discovered other resources that work for them but they have to pay for it out of their department budget. It would be nice if there were some college funds and support available for these things.

Bersamina said the art department really pushed back to going online but he has noticed that those classes have filled up more quickly. Realizing that, some online courses need to be worked into their schedule even after we return to campus. He added that with their new building they will be using it in new ways but they wonder how they can share the building with another discipline. Freytag said this shows that we need flexibility and a whole lot of variation in the schedule modalities.

Yamato wants to make sure there's conversation about how faculty are going to be assigned to these hybrid versus online sections. That is something part time faculty are very concerned about.

Seefer said she has heard from faculty that they have put in a lot of time and effort to moving their classes online. Because of that, they really want the opportunity to keep teaching in that environment.

Freytag said he sees there is a lot of worry about coming back to campus safely and no one is going to be forced to do something that they're not comfortable doing. And we also need to think about classified and our students as we transition back.

11. ASCCC AWARDS

Freytag said he received a suggestion about someone we could nominate for the Hayward Award. The nomination is due the second week in December and if we want to nominate this person, we need a few people to help put the nomination together.

Parkinson said she is interested in helping with the nomination but would like to know more about the process. Freytag said he can forward information about the process on the ASCCC website. He will also get a couple more people to work on it.

12. ADJUSTING COLLEGE MANAGEMENT TO ALIGN WITH INTEREST AREAS

Freytag said Susan Lamb would like some feedback on the two options she has proposed for adjusting college management to align with interest areas.

Gonzales said the library has stated they would like to remain in instruction and English supports that. Freytag said that is aligned with option 1. He said he has not heard anything in support of option 2. If we want to propose a third option, it will be an action item on the December 8 agenda so we would need to do that very quickly. Lamb is willing to consider a third option over winter break. Responses have been received from economics, foreign languages, and dental hygiene. And journalism wants to stay in Social Sciences. He and Gutierrez have been reviewing the requests as they come in and he will compile those requests for Council to consider.

13. SENATE COUNCIL WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATION ON COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Freytag reminded Council a workgroup was put together to work on committee representation in response to the realignment. They have met a couple of times but they ended up with more questions. They came to understand and recommend that we don't have to make any changes to our representation at this point and will revisit in the fall of 2022 as we see what's working and what is not.

14. ACADEMIC SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Freytag said the December agendas are packed so we need to consider an additional meeting on December 18.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38.