

ACADEMIC SENATE COUNCIL MEETING

January 24, 2019

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), Carolyn Seefer (Business), Heidi Gentry-Kolen (Math/Computer Science), René Sporer (SRC), Lisa Smiley-Ratchford (Social Sciences), Theresa Flores-Lowery (Kinesiology), Craig Gerken (Physical Sciences) Jane Fisher (Applied and Fine Arts), Joann Denning (CE), Daniel Kiely (Library), Yvonne Canada (Counseling), Kimberley Taugher (Biology/ Health Sciences), Anthony Gonzales (English), Kris Koblik (Professional Development)

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Mary Gutierrez. David Hagerty, Ardalan Moazeni, Rose Desmond

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF JANUARY 24, 2019 AND MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2018.

It was MSC to approve the agenda of January 24, 2019. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Moe, Seefer, Smiley-Ratchford, Sporer, Gerken, Fisher, Flores-Lowery, Denning, Kiely, Canada, Taugher, Koblik, Gonzales, and Gentry-Kolen voted aye. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.

It was MSC to approve the minutes of December 11, 2018. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Moe, Seefer, Smiley-Ratchford, Sporer, Gerken, Fisher, Flores-Lowery, Denning, Kiely, Canada, Taugher, Koblik, Gonzales, and Gentry-Kolen voted aye. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. COUNCIL COMMENT

Taugher said the on-site day care opens at 8am but there are many students and faculty that need the childcare that have classes that start earlier.

Flores-Lowery said she realizes the valet parking information is on the DVC web page but it would be helpful if a mass email went out to students informing them of the service.

Sporer said she would like to see a platform set up for groups to share their collaborative work online.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

McBrien announced the Academic Senate Faculty Lecture has been scheduled for Tuesday April 9 during the day and Wednesday April 10 in the evening. Shelly Pierson is this year's lecturer; the first time a kinesiology faculty member has been selected. More detail will go out soon.

McBrien reminded Council the DW Academic Senate Plenary is scheduled on April 29 from 3-5 at the District Office. The main agenda topic will be around academic freedom. More details will be coming out soon.

McBrien reminded Council there will be elections this spring for the Senate president and the senate vice-president. She will discuss this further in her report later on this agenda.

McBrien told Council the Spring Dinner Theater is on Friday March 15 for the production of Peter and the Starcatcher. More details will be out soon.

McBrien said the State Academic Senate has many events scheduled for the spring semester. She said the senate cannot cover the costs of most of them but there are professional development funds available. She highlighted some workshops that LMC instructor Silvester Henderson helped to develop on faculty diversity. Henderson is currently serving as the At-Large Representative on the State Academic Senate. The workshop will be offered 3 times at different locations on different dates.

Flores-Lowery said the women's basketball team is currently undefeated at 19-0. They are number 2 in the Big 8 and number 1 in the state.

Fisher announced a new art show Arrangement for a Silent Orchestra from February 4 through February 28, 2019. It is a painting and video project by Julie Connick using the violin as a metaphor. There will be a closing reception in the gallery from 11:30-12:30 on February 28 featuring a solo violin performance by the artist.

5. APPOINTMENTS

Accreditation writing teams

Joann Denning
Chuck Shackett

It was MSC to approve the faculty appointments listed above. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Moe, Seefer, Smiley-Ratchford, Sporer, Gerken, Fisher, Flores-Lowery, Denning, Kiely, Canada, Taugher, Koblik, Gonzales, and Gentry-Kolen voted aye. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.

6. INCLUSIVE ACCESS

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McBrien reminded Council that the Chancellor said if there is a strong push to move forward with this, there will be district-wide meetings between all stakeholders including faculty.

McBrien asked Council if they had received any feedback on this idea.

Sporer said she has not hear anything from SRC but she will bring it up at the Flex meeting.

Gonzales said English is neutral on this topic.

Rose Desmond from DSS wants to make sure what is available is ADA compliant.

Seefer said Business is supportive if it can help students with textbook costs.

Taughner said Biology feels the same as business but they still have concerns with the opt-out vs opt in aspect.

Fisher said she will bring it up at AFA's Flex meeting.

Koblik said she thinks it seems like a good option.

Smiley-Ratchford said she will talk with her area at their Flex meeting.

Gentry-Kolen said she has not heard anything from her area.

Moe said he has not heard anything from his area.

Freytag said he would like to see the conversation continue. He said he used an online textbook with an access code and supplemental materials that was over \$100 and that was before the bookstore markup. He priced the book through this program and it was \$65 out the door. He said he would like to have meetings with reps from all textbook publishers that would be participating.

David Hagerty said he would like to ensure the textbooks are compatible with various software platforms that we use.

There was also a question posed about the timelines of when the materials would be available in coordination with our academic calendar.

7. VPI REPORT

Gutierrez offered congratulations to our women's basketball team for their outstanding season.

Gutierrez said we have a .5% increase in our FTES. She said this may be in part because of the way we set up our calendar including summer and intersessions. She said also we schedule classes to the maximum number of hours we can and that creates some flexibility. She said our efficiency is up and our classes are currently 70% full.

Council briefly discussed how our current schedule looks in comparison to what it would be as AB 705 is implemented. There is some soft enrollment in some areas that will probably lessen as we move away from developmental education classes.

8. FINAL EXAM WEEK

McBrien said evaluating the 16-week semester calendar may be a little problematic taking into account the closure due to the wildfires last semester.

Sent out survey results

She told Council we need to decide how we are going to handle the final week of the semester schedule for Fall 2019-Spring 2020 by the February 12 Senate meeting to have the information ready for inclusion in the catalog.

Gutierrez said we need to find ways to help students deal with impact of the new schedule and finals.

McBrien said a task force had looked at that last year. She previously sent out their conclusions and will resend them. She said it can be difficult to identify the students that are impacted by these changes.

Freytag said some areas feel they need every second of class time to get through their curriculum and it is difficult to not present new materials until right up until the final.

Taugher asked how the assessment facilities handle an increase in the need for proctoring make-up tests. Hagerty said they have reserved additional class space. But the problem can be with logistics when they have classes that are not adjacent to each other and proctors needed in all of them.

Sporer said because of the class time blocks, she ended up with more than enough time for a final. She said she also will move exams if she finds a lot of her students having to take more than two finals on one day. She did say she understands this causes an increase in the number of proctors needed.

Gonzales said English is split on this. Some want 16 weeks plus a finals week, while others are good with how it is.

Gerken said he got limited feedback but his feeling is that nobody liked it. He said he planned on using an exam that had been written for a two-hour final but it was not possible. So he split it into two 1.5-hour class periods but then he lost teaching time.

Seefer said she has not heard much from her area. She said for herself she mostly teaches online so it was not really a problem. She said for her face-to-face class that takes their final online, she extended the time period when the exam could be completed.

Guest Moazeni said during finals his classes are presenting team projects so it was not an issue. Taugher said in classes with labs, they used to give the lab exam the last week of classes and the class exam the week of finals. They now had to give both in the same week and as a result they lost some class content. They do not have any good solutions at this time and they feel strongly about having as much class contact time as possible. She said they were presenting new material right up until the final and that is far from ideal.

Flores-Lowery said the majority of her division likes a structured finals week but there are some classes that can be flexible.

Fisher said her area would prefer 16 weeks of class time plus one week for finals.

Koblik said hers went fine. But, most would not give a final the first couple days of class during the last week and then expect them to come back for the last scheduled class time after that so most finals would be crammed into same last day of scheduled class time. It would be nice if we could balance out the finals during that week but it does not seem realistic.

Smiley-Ratchford said it was hard to gauge the impact of the new calendar because of the impact from the shutdown due to the fires threw it off. But overall she thinks it went well.

Denning said in CTE they don't give a lot of written but they do like to have more class time.

Kiely said there were no issues in the Library as their classes are not full semester length.

Canada said they usually see stressed out students during finals but there did seem to be an increase this time. She said it is not clear whether the shutdown also had an impact on those students. She said students with high unit majors definitely felt increased stress.

Gentry-Kolen said like Seefer she teaches mostly online so she did not really have any issues. She will talk to her area about their feedback at their Flex meeting.

Moe said in Communications their finals are presentations so it did not seem to have a big impact.

Freytag said his experience was the same as Taugher, but he would like to have a full 16-week semester without a shutdown to more accurately look at the impact. He said even if we did go to a 16-week class schedule plus one week for finals, it would not be until at least 2021 so we need to look at other solutions now. He said somewhat surprisingly his students did quite well on their finals but they were a little grumpy about the short timeline between the final presentation of materials and the exam. He said they seemed more stressed about the shutdown time than the

shorter semester.

Sefer said that she didn't hear any complaints from students this past semester, but she's heard frequent complaints from students in the past who had problems during previous final exam weeks. For some students the modified schedule during finals week causes conflicts with work schedules, day care arrangements, and other personal obligations.

Moe said he was working with First Year Experience students so they did not know any differently. He said we are maybe projecting some of our own stress onto our students.

Freytag commented that it needs to be made very clear to faculty that with this current schedule, they are required to be in class during the entire scheduled time including the last week.

McBrien said we will continue collecting feedback but to keep in mind we have to come to a decision very soon. She said there is a list of options for discussion and there may be other ones that come up for consideration.

Gutierrez commented that we keep a list of classes that need substitutes if the regular instructor is out and also ones that should not be cancelled more than once and we now need to pay even close attention to those.

9. AS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

McBrien said we are working on so many initiatives at this time and the All College Day will cover efforts to bring the work on these together and create some synergy.

McBrien said there has been a lot of behind the scenes work going on around the issue of academic freedom. The UF has been looking at contract language; the chancellor has been very supportive of ongoing conversations about this and is making efforts to bring the two new board members into those conversations; it will be addressed in the district strategic plan; and it is on the Consultation Council agenda for district consultations. She said the conversations need to be expanded to include the other two colleges since so far we have been the one most focused on this.

McBrien said the Senate will be having an election this year for president and vice-president. This is her last year in office and Freytag has declared he will throw his hat in the ring. And Moe has declared to throw his in for vice-president. That will create a vacancy for the corresponding secretary position and since it is in the middle of a term, one will be appointed for the remainder of the term through 2019-2020. We had changed the Senate bylaws that the vp will chair a college committee if possible, and the College Council membership now lists the AS VP as one of the co-chairs.

McBrien said we also need a representative at large since no one ran in the last election so there will be one appointed for the remainder of that term through 2019-2020. And we are currently without a part-time representative. She will work to appoint one this semester to serve through 2019-2020. And there will be an election for a second part-time rep in fall 2019 for the fall 2019 through spring 2021 term. The last one left half way through their term and a replacement has not been appointed.

10. GOALS SPRING 2019

McBrien asked Council if there are any things they would like Senate to work on this year.

Sporer said SRC is going to be undergoing a lot of construction and there will be logistical issues during the transitions that they would like the Pleasant Hill campus to be aware of. She said also she would like the senate to work on ways to implement the transition to AB 705 as easy as possible.

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Gonzales said he would like to see support for professional development to help with the transition to AB 705.

McBrien said Governor Newsom's budget has some good news for community colleges. There will be more funding including an increase in COLA, and he is slowing down the transition to the new budget model to allow for more time to evaluate the impacts. She said because of some of this, divisions and departments need to stay in close touch with their schedule representatives as more information about these things come out and how they could impact scheduling.

Gerken said he would like to see more discussions about the impacts of the 16-week calendar.

Seefer said the UF contract does not specifically cover unit maxes in the summer or intersession. She would like to see discussions about this because in some cases, faculty may be taking on a lot of units during those times that could impact quality of instruction.

McBrien said on upcoming agendas we will be talking about the funding formula, Measure E progress, and more discussion about finals scheduling. Also she will bring a proposed revision to the district-wide parking policy to make enforcement 24/7.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ann Langelier-Patton
Administrative Secretary*

