

**DVC**  
DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE  
321 Golf Club Road  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

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**ACADEMIC SENATE COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2016  
APPROVED**

*In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and SB 751, minutes of the DVC Faculty 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), Katrina Keating (Rep-at-large), Cheryl Carter (Counseling), Carolyn Seefer (Business), Theresa Flores-Lowery (Kinesiology), James Magee (Math/Computer Science), Buzz Holt (Social Sciences), Marva DeLoach (Library), Barbara Hewitt (Biology/Health Sciences), Heidi Goen-Salter (English), James Magee (Math/Computer Science), René Sporer (SRC), Valerie Colber (Part-time Faculty), Muhammed Gheith (Part-time Faculty)

**ABSENT:** Peter Churchill (Corresponding Secretary), Joe Krivicich (Physical Sciences), Patrick Moe (Applied and Fine Arts)

**GUESTS:** Andy Barlow, Rachel Westlake, Scott MacDougall, Donna Wapner

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF APRIL 5, 2016 AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.**

**It was MSC to approve the agenda of April 5, 2016 as amended. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Keating, Magee, Holt, Flores-Lowry, Carter, Seefer, DeLoach, Hewitt, Goen-Salter, Sporer, Colber, and Gheith. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.**

**It was MSC to approve the minutes of February 9, 2016. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Keating, Magee, Holt, Flores-Lowry, Carter, Seefer, DeLoach, Hewitt, Goen-Salter, Sporer, Colber, and Gheith. No nays. No abstentions. Approved.**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. COUNCIL COMMENT**

Freytag said he attended the State Senate Area B meeting at the College of Marin. He said it was a very nice building built with sustainability in mind. He said there are sustainability efforts all over campus including waterless toilets. He said also they have emergency procedure handbooks in every classroom as well as embedded emergency related hardware in each classroom. Freytag said as we move forward with our construction projects we need to keep these kinds of things in mind.

Colber said she had been at the state assembly earlier in the day to advocate for hiring more full-time instructors, and increased funding for several other educational needs. Colber commented that most of the people that testified for students.

Keating said she had been on the campus of SF State the previous weekend and noticed they have receptacles for cigarette butts. They are then collected by students and recycled.

**4. APPOINTMENTS**

None.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carter announced there is a Majors Expo scheduled on May 4, from 10am-1pm on campus. The Expo will include 15 minute snapshot presentations of the majors we offer among other displays and presentations. The Expo is open to all but geared toward undecided students.

Flores-Lowrey announced the following DVC athletics latest competitions and results. The baseball team is scheduled to play Delta College at home. The Softball team plays at Modesto at 3 today. The Vikings are 26 and 6.

McBrien told Council there is a presentation scheduled by the founder of TEN on April 18 from 2-3:30. It is open to everyone.

## 6. VPI

Westlake said developing the latest job descriptions and interview questions have brought out a lot of great conversations about equity. McBrien added that we will be hearing more about Professional Development activities that address equity issues. She explained the Faculty Development will be reconfigured to help the committee focus on activities related to equity. She has had conversations about reassign time for a Professional Development Coordinator with Peter Garcia and he will come to a future meeting to address this issue.

Westlake reminded Council we have to make a decision on our goals for Institutional Effectiveness Indicators by the end of the semester. The goals are in the areas of course completion and one of the basic skills areas.

Keating said she would like to hear from the Research and Planning Committee on this. She also commented that in the basic skills areas it seems to target a couple disciplines but basic skills students in those disciplines are at the same time everyone's students.

Sporer said we should build on the momentum of what is already in place towards those goals. We need to look at what programs are focusing on to help make this decision.

Westlake clarified the definition of unprepared students as their first course in math or English was below college level and then we look at the percentage of those students that complete a certificate, degree, or transfer.

Hewitt said we need to know what the difference between unprepared and remedial. Westlake said the definition of a remedial student if they started below college level in math or English; we look at the percentage of those students that complete the remedial courses and move on to college level.

McBrien said Council will come back to this decision after the RPEC meets and gives feedback.

Westlake said we can choose to make this a tool and we need to get that message out to those who should be part of the conversation and look at how we should move forward. She explained the idea behind this was to give colleges support and processes to stay off accreditation sanctions but no one is asking us to report this out.

Goen-Salter said in FCS they have been putting together a Developmental Ed strategic plan. She said they decided not to have a timeline or name a leader to give individuals to take the opportunity to take the lead on a proposal.

McBrien said she agrees because we need to take a college-wide collective of activities and programs so we can see what things could be for more than one area or program. There are many things being done but they are in pockets and other areas may not know about something that they could use from other areas.

Freytag commented that we should focus on the numbers of additional successes and realize the percentages for improvement are not big numbers. Magee added that these suggestions are incremental and so it does not seem so daunting.

## 7. SUMMER STUDY ABROAD

Wapner distributed some information the proposal for a Summer Study Abroad Program and provided an update on what they have been working on.

Seefer asked if it has to be abroad. Wapner said no that it could be anywhere that has aspects that tie into curriculum. Wapner said they would like to start in the fall and have a pilot in summer 2017. She said this could give students an opportunity that cannot do the semester length program. She reminded Council that we had a similar program previously but it was discontinued several years ago.

McBrien asked how this is different that the semester programs we do. Westlake explained we are part of a consortium of college that does the semester programs. This program would just be for us so we would find our own vendors.

Wapner said to help make it affordable to students they will be provided information on grants and financial aid. She said also our foundation for education work is creating a fund that could be tapped into.

MacDougal commented that short term programs are inherently cheaper and we could tailor the program to accommodate a certain budget.

McBrien said Wapner will be at the April 12 meeting and would like Council to bring feedback.

**Seefer moved that we vote to support this proposal at the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Marva seconded the motion.**

## 8. PLUS/MINUS GRADING

Goen-Salter said the English division supports the idea of plus minus grading although a couple people had a question about a C- being a passing grade. Title 5 says you can't give a C-.

Keating said the data is very concerning on the impact on students. She said at one college where she taught they had intermediate grades of A, AB, B, BC.

Hewitt said her division was generally supportive but would like to see more faculty documentation on the effects.

Holt commented that getting rid of C- is a problem for things like athletes' eligibility, and instructional data. He said his department does not support it.

Carter said with a C- they would need to take the course again.

Seefer said Business does not support it. One of the arguments is that hardly anybody is doing it, and it would be confusing for students especially if they transfer to a college that does not have it.

Magee said min the Math division 7 responded and 5 were for it, 2 were against it. The argument against it was that it would require a lot of time for negotiation with the students about their grades.

Colber said the majority of part-time instructors are not in favor.

Freytag told Council to make sure to send the data they received to their divisions.

Sporer commented that she has taught at a school that has it and it created a contentious atmosphere. She also reminded Council that in the San Ramon area, students have other colleges they could attend if they don't like the policy.

Flores-Lowry said Kinesiology is not in favor and wanted to know why we are discussing this. McBrien explained it came up at FSCC and were asked to respond for their colleges since all three colleges would have to agree.

Goen-Salter said it could motivate students. She has students that are a high B and those that are a low B but she has no way of distinguishing that.

Freytag commented that it would impact GPAs. McBrien added that students can't take courses more than three times and this could be a barrier for them to succeed in a course.

**It was MSC to not support a change to plus-minus grading. The following members all voted aye: Freytag, Keating, Magee, Holt, Flores-Lowry, Carter, Seefer, DeLoach, Colber, and Gheith. No nays. No Goen-Salter abstained. Approved.**

## 9. SURVEY

**This item was discussed under the College Council Report.**

## 10. COLLEGE COUNCIL REPORT

Freytag reported at the next College Council meeting they will be finalizing plans for next forum on equity. He encouraged Council to attend and encourage others to attend as well. It is scheduled on April 29 at 2pm in BFL CCC. He said the agenda will provide time to have open-ended questions. There will also be presentations on some of the activities that are currently going on.

DeLoach asked if it is possible to have scheduled open discussions in addition to the forum.

Freytag said the goal is to have ongoing conversations, increase awareness, and look at what is currently happening and what activities we could implement.

Barlow added that this is about moving equity to a central focus as it has been on the sidelines.

McBrien commented that we need to come to an agreement on our definition of equity.

## **11. AB 798**

McBrien shared a version of AB 798, the College Textbook Affordability that has been slightly revised but has not received final approval yet. She explained the part of the survey's focus is to cast a broad net to see what faculty and disciplines are doing to help with textbook affordability look at things that could be implemented college-wide. Freytag asked if the Library was ok with the survey asking about "classes". DeLoach said she will check with them one more time.

Holt suggested in the survey to use the word "strategies" instead of "activities". Magee suggested it be worded as "classes/programs".

McBrien said we would like the survey results to be in by April 26 so we have a little time to make minor changes.

## **12. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This item postponed due to time constraints

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Langelier-Patton  
Administrative Secretary*