

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
Grossmont College
Monday, March 30, 2015 in Griffin Gate, 11:05 – 12:20

Attendance:

Liz Barrow, Jennifer Carmean, Brian Carter, Zoe Close, Judd Curran, Nadra Farina-Hess, Claudia Flores, Janet Gelb, Tate Hurvitz, Brian Kehiler, Cheryl Kerns-Campbell, Michael Lambe, Helen Liesberg, Barbara Loveless, Lisa Maloy, Dave Muller, Jane Nolan, Terry Reilly, John Scholte, Denise Schulmeyer, Linda Snider, Scott Therkalsen, Christi Vicino, Peggy Wells, Evan Wirig, Susan Working, Memorie Yasuda, Tina Young. **Recorder:** Tyler Dranguet.

I. Call to Order

A. Public Comment – Katrina VanderWoude

Scholarships to the **Online Training Conference on June 18-19** will be available for about ten faculty in each divisions for interested individuals. The deadline for registering will be April 17. You should hear from your dean, or contact your dean if you are interested.

Scholarships for Quality Matters are also available for interested faculty members. This is the set of outstanding training modules that can allow you to become certified. Interested individuals who wish QM for professional development credit must complete them by April 26th.

A Blackboard support shell will soon be available for individuals teaching online courses. This is a support shell where faculty can share experiences, ask questions and have resources. Along with the College's summer faculty institute, the Bb container will help provide a strong support system for faculty members teaching online.

B. Approval of Agenda

M/S/U Wirig/Working

C. Approval of Minutes from March 16

Item tabled until next meeting.

II. President's Report – Sue Gonda

A. Faculty Staffing Process

The Faculty Staffing Committee will be looking at ways to improve the ranking process, particularly for Student Services faculty or disciplines where a subspecialty may be needed. It is the Faculty Staffing Committee's goal to improve the process so that these positions can be better represented in the process.

The definition of an emergency hire is also being discussed in Planning and Resources Council. Since one department's definition of an emergency hiring situation may vary from another's, it will be difficult to determine what constitutes an emergency hiring situation beyond Ed Code or accreditation requirements, but Faculty Staffing is tackling adjustments for a more balanced ranking system.

B. Website Task Force

Information from the old website will become inaccessible in June. Any links to the old website that individuals may be using should be transferred to the new site before June when the server is taken offline. Contact Chris Rodgers.

The calendar system on the website is also being worked on so that it can be more functional. There are other "bugs" to be worked out, and if you encounter any, please email Chris Rodgers.

III. Committees

A. Program Review Committee Report – Steve Davis

With the implementation of new practices, Program Review has used and compared consistent data that has assisted the Committee and departments with this work. Steve thanked all of the committee members and Chris Hill, Beth Smith and particularly Bonnie Ripley (Program Review data liaison) and Nate Scharff (who chaired in the fall) for their hard work during his time as Chair. Finishing up the 6-year cycle are:

Media Communications; Cross-Cultural Studies; Library; Astronomy, Physical Science & Physics; Chemistry; and Exercise Science & Wellness/Health Ed. Fall 2015 will mark the completion of the 6-year review cycle, and the committee will begin its evaluation of Program Review processes in Spring 2016.

B. Freshman Academy and One Theme, One Campus Report – Tate Hurvitz

Project Success, Freshman Academy, and One Theme, One Campus are all integrative learning environments that are collaborating on campus to create stronger learning engagement of students. These groups are currently determining which cohorts benefit the most from each learning initiative, information that is extremely helpful in the creation of a College's Pathways (or Academies) program.

The One Theme, One Campus initiative is an extension of the College's One Campus, One Book initiative, but it is more flexible so that more disciplines can easily participate. The mission of One Theme is to provide a college-wide experiential learning environment that allows students to integrate general and specialized knowledge and to apply this knowledge to new settings, civic responsibilities and complex academic and social problems.

There are two campus-wide assignments associated with the One Theme, Water: a movie and a competition where student groups present their solutions to water issues. This semester, for example, some students are presenting their solution to a social justice problem associated with water. The movie, "Flow," had two showings this semester and attracted over two hundred fifty participants. Last semester approximately one hundred students attended the Water Fair which displayed thirty projects. This semester's Water Fair will be held on April 20-21 from 10:00 to 1:00pm. Additional One Theme, One Campus events include a presentation by David Coleman on Thursday, April 2 and a presentation by Craig Milgrim and Philip Blanco on Thursday, April 9. More information can be found on the [One Theme, One Campus website](#).

Freshman Academy is currently providing a number of workshops for students—soft skills, math modules, study skills and much more. These workshops are displayed on a calendar accessible through the College Freshman Academy website and allow students to easily register for their desired events online. This calendar will be more visible to students and faculty off the Home Page soon.

IV. Action Items – Sue Gonda

A. Adjunct Rank and Emeritus Rank Forms

After additional contributions by both the Rank and Part-Time Faculty Committees, the Adjunct Academic Rank form has been updated.

Motion to approve the updated Academic Rank forms.

Motion passed with one opposed.

The Emeritus Rank application has also been updated to include:

- Reformatting throughout the document to make it easier to understand and follow. The Criteria is now incorporated into the document rather than added as an attachment.
- A statement about helping the Academic Rank Committee to understand the significance of achievements listed by the applicant has been added.
- Inconsistencies within the document regarding achieving criteria in the last five years versus eight years have been changed to eight years throughout the form.
- The application process has been updated.

Motion made to approve the Emeritus Rank policy.

M/S/U Wirig/Lambe

B. Motion to Approve Academic Rank Applicant List

M/S/U Wirig/Willard

V. Information Items – Sue Gonda

A. Senate Officer Election Timeline

Nominations for the Senate Officer Election close today at 5:00pm. Candidate statements will be due to John Oakes, Gareth Davies-Morris and Tyler Dranguet by April 10th. Nominees will also receive an instructional email from John Oakes soon.

B. Curriculum and Student Objections

Students sometimes object to course curriculum and faculty have asked for guidance. Curriculum is based on the official Outline of Record. The best mitigating strategy is adding a statement in the course syllabus. There are two examples stating that there may be controversial or sensitive topics discussed in the course and that “all course content is based on the official Outline of Record.” While no blanket statement would cover all courses at the College, instructors who teach controversial or sensitive topics are encouraged to add a statement to their syllabi if they are having occasional disruptions from students about course material. Students who refuse to do assignments will not receive credit unless an instructor chooses (or is able) to provide an alternative assignment.

It was suggested that sample statements be added to the Senate website. It was also suggested that a broad version of this statement be added to the College catalog or Student Code of Conduct. Even if a statement is added to the Code of Conduct or catalog, it should not be a substitute for syllabus statements if any faculty member has this problem. Faculty webpages are also an ideal place to post the statement for students.

Upcoming Events:

Senate Election Candidate Statements Due -- Friday, April 10

Senate Election Ballots Sent Out Via Email -- Monday, April 13

College Planning Forum—Friday, April 17

Senate Election Voting Deadline -- Friday, May 1

Meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 30, 2015 in Griffin Gate