

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Grossmont College

Monday, March 7, 2016, Griffin Gate, 11:00 – 12:20

Attendance: Randy Abshier, Joan Ahrens, Shina Alagia, Liz Barrow, Patrice Braswell-Burris, Nemie Capacia, Patricia Cardozo, Jennifer Carmean, Brian Carter, Joel Castellaw, Keith Chan, Zoe Close, Sebastien Cormier, Judd Curran, Gareth Davies-Morris, Angela Feres, Angie Gish, Sue Gonda, Dan Greenheck, Stacie Hankinson, Brian Keliher, Beth Kelley, Helen Liesberg, Pearl Lopez, Barbara Loveless, Lisa Maloy, Scott McGann, David Milroy, David Muller, Domenica Oliveri, Shirley Pereira, Clifton Quinn, Gregg Robinson, Priscilla Rogers, Robin Sepulveda, Denise Schulmeyer, Jamie Shatwell, Scott Therkalsen, Christi Vicino, Peggy Wells, Cary Willard, Evan Wirig, **Guests:** Agustin Albarran, Javier Ayala. **Recorder:** Sasha Carter.

I. **Call to Order**

A. Public Comment

1. Sue Gonda

Happy women's history month. A taskforce is working with Community Service Learning (CSL) to put together a month of service events in April. Please invite your students.

Friday, April 15 there will be an introduction talk about a campus beautification project. It is possible that this will count toward professional development work and the goal of the event is to support and maintain bio-function.

Friday, April 22 there will be a volunteer opportunity within the campus beautification project with shifts from 1:00 to 4:00 in several areas around campus.

Friday, April 29 there is an opportunity to volunteer at Father Joe's homeless dinner event. For more information, contact Sue Gonda or Cathy Miller.

2. Cliff Quinn

In September of last year, the issue of WebAdvisor lacking course descriptions was mentioned but there was no follow up. Would like an official update on progress.

This was addressed in that this is a slow and ongoing process. Discussion of whether Grossmont College, Cuyamaca College, and/or the District will be the ones to actually formulate the course descriptions have held up progress. This topic was discussed at the last DCEC meeting and it was agreed that samples will be prepared to determine if the proposed descriptions are and not more specific to one college or another. Both GC and CC descriptions are too long for WebAdvisor and a third version of a course description is what is being discussed.

A link to the catalogue within WebAdvisor was discussed but it would be preferred if the link did not take the user out of the WebAdvisor page.

The Title V grant will allow new courses to be added and students will need easy access to these course descriptions.

It was also mentioned that during Week of Welcome, there are many students looking for classrooms that end up being Cuyamaca College classes. The possibility was mentioned of eliminating the Grossmont College or Cuyamaca College options within WebAdvisor. It was mentioned that this problem also occurs a lot with online courses, which doesn't affect the course as much as it affects financial aid.

B. Approval of Agenda

M/S Approved

C. Approval of Minutes from February 29

M/S Approved

II. **President's Report**

A. Strategic Planning Forum

The forum has occurred since the previous meeting. The feedback was that the forum was productive and during that time, implementation strategies were addressed. There were three focus areas discussed during the meeting: outreach, engagement, and retention. There is a brochure available to review that includes a brief overview of progress, a bit about ATD, our major initiatives, and focus areas of the college.

The attendance for the event was about 75 people.

Moving forward, there will be another round of student focus groups after we have now identified specific areas of concern to address with students.

B. Open House (update)

The results of the open house were mixed. The format and level of faculty and staff participation at the event was positive and worked. Feedback from parents and staff was overwhelmingly positive.

However, the community attendance at the event was poor. The college is in the process of hiring an outreach coordinator and this experience demonstrated the need for the position. The event was well put-together but lacked outreach coordination to apply the necessary level of sustained, coordinated effort to bring the public onto the campus in large numbers.

There is now a fear for next year of losing the number of faculty and staff that were involved this year as a result of low attendance. People who were involved in the coordination of the event are already discussing how to improve for the next year.

At this point, it was mentioned that word of mouth is something that is important to factor in, specifically the parents that attended this year who will likely talk to other parents about next year's event. At the time of the event, Petco Park was hosting a science/math fair, which may have contributed to the low attendance.

It was suggested to not have back to back planning meetings and then a Saturday Open House; faculty and staff are less likely to be involved. It was also suggested to have events like this at high school campuses so that students do not have to come to our campus, making it easier for them and improving attendance. Another

suggestion was to increase the college's presence at community events; there are UC students looking for community colleges to take summer courses.

III. Committees

IV. Action Items

A. Canvas

(displayed: LMS selection plan – attachment A) There was overwhelming vote/support of Canvas from students. There are multiple ways for students to receive notifications through Canvas, and it has a fully functional app. There is a high degree of willingness to work with the state and there was conversation started in October that included groups that were created between people from Grossmont College, Cuyamaca College, and district over a series of 6 months.

There have been demos, surveys, Flex Week presentations, temporary accounts available, and presentations at AS meetings. The formal recommendation will come from LMS working only after the two Academic Senates have voted. The Grossmont DE committee recommends a change to Canvas and Cuyamaca College Senate voted to adopt canvas. Many other schools (local colleges) statewide have made the commitment to change to Canvas.

It was mentioned that SDCC contract is not up, and they received a discount to continue with Blackboard, so there is still the potential option to stay with Blackboard with 50% off price.

It was mentioned that both Blackboard and Canvas will be running concurrently for 18 months during the transition to Canvas – if that is the decision that is made.

The level of student and faculty support from Canvas over Blackboard is incomparable. Canvas has a hotline number available for student and faculty support 24/7.

It was mentioned that Canvas is free until 2018, at which time the contract will be renewed and the cost after that is projected to be minimal, but that we have not guarantees on that count. Prices could go up substantially.

There are several students and faculty that go to different campuses in a semester, and Canvas' one login makes the transition easier. It was pointed out that SDSU will not be making a switch to Canvas and that students that transfer there from Grossmont will have to return to learning Blackboard. This was resolved that once an individual learns Canvas, the transition to any other LMS is an easy one.

It was mentioned that the transfer of work from Blackboard to Canvas is not simple and the question of ease of transition of archived classes was mentioned.

It was mentioned that if the decision is not to switch to Canvas, Blackboard Ultra would be in place. Feedback about Blackboard Ultra was that it is underdeveloped.

Janet Gelb, Chris Rodgers and DE coordinators are the workforce to make the transition seamless if the vote is to switch to canvas. A SDICCA group is working

together to identify problems address them accordingly. Some in SDICCA have already made the move in that direction and others are on their way.

It was reiterated that the decision was made about the products themselves, based on which has the most to offer students and faculty – not based on cost.

It was mentioned that students will need the most up-to-date computers to use Canvas, which does not allow those students who are disenfranchised to have the same opportunity. It was clarified that this is not true and that Canvas will work on other computers. There was an email to the ESBS part-time Senate Representative that indicated a preference for Blackboard and there were difficulties found at other campuses using Canvas. It was clarified that Canvas has been found by DSPS accessibility specialists to be more accessible than Blackboard.

It was mentioned that some may not like to learn a new product such as Canvas, however, if Blackboard is kept, there will eventually be a new platform (Ultra) to learn anyway.

There are committees that will plan ahead to avoid transition problems to address them and prevent them. LMS design is being taken into account.

At this time, there is a call for a vote for an LMS.

M/S E. Wirig/J. Gelb/motion passed to vote

Vote: adopt Canvas as new LMS

- Favor: 32
- Opposed: 9
- Abstained: 4

Vote passed.

V. Information Items

A. Doing What Matter – Strong Workforce (Javier Ayala)

(displayed – workforce development powerpoint – attachment B) Of ten colleges in SDICCA region, Grossmont is the first senate body to take on this conversation. Workforce development involves not only CTE, but every department. What workforce body addresses: conditions to enter workforce has changed (California is big on this) and address skills gap for workforce (unique to East County).

The “deputy sector navigators” will be here on April 11th to answer questions/address concerns about how faculty can address skills gaps. There are career readiness components in all programs, not just CTE.

The statewide taskforce recommendations to address these issues include how students are being introduced to their pathway to get them there earlier, where students come in and where they go (marketing), return on investment (job trends, placement trends), and programs that don’t take two years to complete, making the

process more seamless. This group works with the Academic Senate to ensure faculty values are working/being addressed.

A question was raised about the ability to use money to add buildings and was resolved that this issue is currently in discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.

Next Meeting: April 4 at 11:00am.