Rio Hondo College Academic Senate
Minutes
May 5, 2009
Board Room
1:00 p.m.

Present: Lupe Alvarado; Robin Babou; Katherin Brandt; Ada Brown; Brian Brutlag; Alyson Cartagena; Marie Eckstrom; Jennifer Fernandez; John Frala; Theresa Freije; Alonso Garcia; Rebecca Green; Dale Harvey; Mike Javanmard; Barbara Keith; Matt Koutroulis; Kelly Lynch; James Matthis; Juana Mora; Jennette Noriega; Daniel Osman; Catherine Page; Vann Priest; Beverly Reilly; Mary Rivera; Lisette Rhi; Barbara Salazar; Jody Senk; Shelly Spencer; Gisela Spieler-Persad; Julius Thomas; Jon Whitford
Absent: Frank Accardo; Robert Bethel; Tom Callinan; Alfred Forrest; Angelica Garcia; Gary Halvorson; Jorge Huinquez; Melissa Rifino-Juarez; Doreen Kaller; George Kinber; David Lindy; Mark Littrell; Shin Liu; Lydio Okelberry; Matthew Pitassi; Gil Puga; Carley Mitchell; Henry Saucedo; Lorraine Sfeir; Bianca Urquidi; Jim Zaharek

I. Call to Order
   • The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes
   • The minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Committee Reports
   • Curriculum: Many thanks to all who worked to help 734 curriculum items pass through curriculum this year. Jennette Noriega will be here through summer to help with curriculum items in preparation for fall submission. The Philosophy Degree has not yet been sent to the Chancellor’s Office; it is still in Student Learning and Support awaiting signatures. The curriculum website will be updated very soon.
   • Academic Rank: The Academic Senate had been asked to consider an honorary Academic Rank for Daisaku Ikeda of the
Soka Gakkai International. Gisela Spieler showed a section of the Ghandi, King, Ikeda video to introduce the work of Mr. Ikeda (see http://www.morehouse.edu/about/chapel/peace_exhibit/index.htm). We will pursue this issue further in future meetings, since honorary academic rank has never been awarded at Rio Hondo College.

- **FLEX/Staff Development**: The deadline for FLEX submissions is Monday, May 11th. Staff Development is looking for FLEX workshops; please submit your proposal to the FLEX Office by May 25th. There will be an after graduation get together; details are forthcoming in an e-mail.
- **IEC**: No report.
- **Program Review**: The peer review program process will resume in the fall. All academic and non-academic programs will be included in the 6 year cycle.
- **SLOs**: The next meeting of the SLO committee will be next Thursday at 1 p.m. A question about who would oversee a program-level SLO was posed; the response was the appropriate Dean.
- **Virtual College**: No report.
- **WASC**: Updates on the progress toward addressing the six WASC recommendations is regularly posted on the P-Drive and the website by the Accreditation Response. Detailed reports are on the P-Drive and an Executive Summary is on the website. The will be a Campus Forum next Wednesday, May 13th from 12:30 to 1:30 in the Wray Theater to address accreditation response progress. A Blackboard discussion board and summer meeting are planned.

### IV. President’s Report

- **E-mailed President’s Report**: Prior to the Senate meeting, the President’s Report was sent via e-mail. It is attached.
- **AB 540 and AP Exams**: Transfer Coordinator Diane Martinez will come to next Senate meeting to talk about AB 540 students and Advanced Placement courses.
- **Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000**: President’s Council heard a presentation of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The Robert T.
Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act requires that we write a plan to deal with our campus’ mitigating situations in the event of a disaster. For example we have 187 acres of brush and two large water towers. There will be a FLEX activity on Flex Day addressing this issue. We must create a plan to present to the Board in October in order to be eligible for grants. Apparently we have not properly addressed the requirements of the Act and must quickly comply.

- **Leadership Training**: President Martinez encourages faculty to become involved in the leadership of the college.
- **Campus Security**: There have been several security concerns reported by the Whittier police; in particular, there have been numerous reports of vandalism and car assaults. We are encouraged to call 911 if we see anything amiss. The college is considering video surveillance cameras for Parking Lots A, 2, and 3.
- **Parking Permits**: New parking permits will be available within the next two weeks. Part-time employees will receive them on FLEX Day.
- **Graduation Attendance**: There is a concern over a dearth of faculty academic regalia requests for graduation. The bookstore will still accept requests for regalia.
- **Student Recognition Event**: There has always been a campus-wide event at the end of the year to honor outstanding students and scholarship recipients. That event has been cancelled for this year. The remaining individual events (EOPS, Transfer, DSP&S, TRIO, and Honors, for example) have been combined per the request of President Martinez. There is a concern. The venue (Quiet Canon) capacity for this upcoming event is 400 whereas the projected attendance may exceed 700. The Senate and Planning Fiscal Council were not consulted.
- **Senate Election**: The votes were counted and the 2009-10 Executive Board for the Academic Senate are
  
  President, Mike Javanmard  
  First Vice President, Rebecca Green  
  Second Vice President, Julius Thomas  
  Parliamentarian, Matt Koutroulis  
  ASCCC Representative, John Frala  
  Secretary, Marie Eckstrom
V. Old Business
   • Ethics Policy: A preliminary draft of an Ethics Policy was distributed. There were commendations on the inclusion of all the existing policies under which we are included. This is an informational item at this point. Eventually it should become a Board Policy.
   • Staffing Committee: The staffing committee will meet again this Thursday, May 7th.
   • Summer Senate Meeting: There will probably be a summer Senate meeting. The meeting may be on Tuesday, Juny7, 2009.

VI. New Business
   • No new business was presented.

VII. Announcements
   • There will be a forum on the legalization of marijuana next Thursday, May 14th in the Wray Theater from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
   • The bookstore now accepts online book orders. It has been reported that the process is somewhat clumsy and needs smoothing out.

VIII. Public Comment
   • No public comment.

IX. Adjournment
   • The Senate adjourned at 2:03 p.m.