
Rio Hondo College Academic Senate**Minutes****October 20, 2009****Board Room****1:00 p.m.**

Present: Katherin Brandt; Ada Brown; Brian Brutlag; Alyson Cartagena; Fran Cummings; Joaquin Duran; Marie Eckstrom; Theresa Freije;; Alonso Garcia; Rebecca Green; Dale Harvey; Jorge Huinquez; Mike Javanmard; George Kimber; David Lindy; Kathy Lopez; James Matthis; Juana Mora; Lydia Okelberry; Daniel Osman; Catherine Page; Matthew Pitassi; Vann Priest; Beverly Reilly; Mary Rivera; Carley Mitchell; Barbara Salazar; Henry Saucedo; Jody Senk; Shelly Spenser; Gisela Spieler-Persad;; Julius Thomas; Adam Wetsman

Absent: Frank Accardo; Robin Babou; John Frala; Alfred Forrest; Lily Isaac; Matt Koutroulis; Shin Liu; John Whitford

Guests: Katie O'Brien; Michelle Pilati

I. Call to Order

- President Javanmard called the meeting of the Academic Senate to order at 1:03 PM.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes were approved as submitted.

III. President's Report

- Board Meeting Report: President Javanmard reports that Trustee Mendez would like to see a non-credit counseling course offered to students at our local feeder middle schools on the options and opportunities of attending college.
- Assessment Center: Many students are getting lost in the new Learning Resource Center (LRC). There are now a few small signs directing students to the Assessment Center; professional signage is forthcoming. Correct signage to the Assessment Center is necessary, as in the new MIS system, those who have not been assessed will not be able to enroll in classes with prerequisites. This is an issue that is being considered by Academic Affairs.

- Banner System: The Academic Senate had an agreement about wait lists—that each division would vote on how it should be conducted. On October 19th an administrator posed a question about having a uniform wait list policy. The policy will remain as we decided upon.
- The 50% Law: The ASCCC Executive Committee has its standing committees prepare resolutions for discussion at Area meetings (and locally) in advance of Senate Plenary. These are not adopted positions; they are resolutions for consideration. Due to the various attacks on the 50% Law, there are three resolutions for discussion, all written by the same author and not all consistent. One proposes getting rid of the 50% law and the other two propose modifying it in different ways. The proposition that it should be done away with is, by no means, the position of ASCCC, but it was suggested to ensure a healthy and open dialogue on the topic and to indicate our willingness to consider all options.

MOTION: The Academic Senate is against abolishing the 50% law. (Juana Mora, Joaquin Duran)

Motion Tabled.

- AB 440: Another resolution to note is AB 440, a bill that never made it out of committee. While it initially began as a bill permitting CCCs to award degrees when a student had completed the "minimum required for transfer," the bill was modified over time, and, in the end, was permissive and stated that CCCs could offer a degree in a major/area of emphasis that was designated as "for transfer" (History for transfer, for example), provided the student completed 60 transferable units, a general education transfer pattern, and a major/area of emphasis (as locally defined). If colleges opted to award such degrees, they would have to waive any locally imposed additional requirements. Although permissive, the precedent of putting a degree into law is of concern. The resolution that will be considered at the ASCCC Fall Plenary seeks to put comparable language into Title 5. Why? The push for this is strong and placing the language into Title 5 would accomplish what the bill intended without placing a

degree into law. It should be noted that the language is permissive; it does not force colleges to make any changes.

IV. Committee Reports

- Academic Rank: No report.
- Bookstore: Report to be delivered under New Business.
- Curriculum: All new course curriculum forms need to be submitted for signature to the Articulation Officer, Dorali Picardo-Diaz. The curriculum chair will ensure the signature for course revisions only.
Please note that credit by Advanced Placement (AP) exam is not automatic. Each department should submit the proper forms (to be found on the Curriculum website) to the Curriculum Committee.
- FLEX/Staff Development: Chaffey College Basic Skills Dean Laura Hope will be the keynote speaker for the 2010 Flex Day. After the general assembly in the Wray Theater, there will be one extended time breakout session. Participants may choose to attend the breakout or attend to pressing division work. In the latter case, please send an agenda to the FLEX office in advance. Department meetings will follow the lunch break.
Under the auspices of the FLEX/Staff Development, a subcommittee is working on the leadership academy.
- IEC: The Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC) is working on the goals and objectives from the last Leadership Retreat.
- MIS: There is currently no information on Banner training for faculty.
- Program Review: All collegial program reviews will be conducted in November.
- SLOs: No report.
- Virtual College: No report.

V. Old Business

- Counseling Concern: A specific concern about the efficaciousness of counseling practices was brought to the Senate. Three E-mails sent by the Dean of counseling to his staff urged working “harder and faster” in an effort to reduce student wait time. Counselors have taken umbrage at this remark, noting

that they are professional in their practices; they feel that this statement is inappropriate and disrespectful. The Academic Senate is asked to mediate in this concern.

VI. New Business

- Academic Senate /RHCFA Relationship: As is practice at Rio, the President of the Senate is an *ex officio* member of the Rio Hondo College Faculty Association (RHCFA) Executive Board, as the President of the union similarly serves the Senate. At a recent CCA conference, the idea of forging a statement describing the relationship between the two organizations was discussed. Such a statement may offer guiding principles to future leaders in these organizations. A committee, consisting of James Matthis, Michelle Pilati, and Joaquin Duran was formed to formalize this concept
- Bookstore Issue: Students must leave their backpacks in the cubbies at the entrance to the store, yet the bookstore takes no responsibility for their safety. A backpack was stolen, resulting in significant financial loss for a student. The bookstore committee will discuss this problem with the bookstore.
- EEO Monitors: On February 29, 2008 Human Resources requested volunteers to be trained as EEO Monitors. Eighteen faculty members volunteered for the training. To date, the training has not occurred. The Senate will pursue this valuable opportunity to serve the college.

VII. Announcements

- *River's Voice* announces its upcoming 11th edition and is currently accepting submissions in poetry, memoir, short story, one-act drama, and visual art. Faculty are asked to encourage students to submit their entries. Copies of the journals are available to show students; please contact Beverly Reilly for copies.

VIII. Public Comment

- A comment about the need for a safe and impartial venue into which one may bring concerns specific to the hiring process was posed.

IX. Adjournment

- The President of the Academic Senate adjourned the meeting at
2:15 pm

Javanmard/Eckstrom