Rio Hondo College Academic Senate
Minutes
February 16, 2010
Board Room
1:00 p.m.


Absent: John Frala, Theresa Freije, George Kimber, Shin Liu, Juana Mora, Matthew Pitassi, Mary Rivera, Carley Mitchell

Guest: Jennifer Tanaka

I. Call to Order
   • President Javanmard called the Senate meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

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

III. President’s Report
   • Approval of President’s Report to the Board: After senatorial discussion, a motion to approve the Senate President’s address to the Board of Trustees was made (Vann Priest/Alfred Forrest, MSPU).
   • Accreditation Celebration: The President’s Office will host a celebration in honor of our newly earned fully-accredited WASC status today in the Board Room from 3:00 to 5:00.
   • Foundation: Anne Turner, the Foundations new Associate Director wants to take ownership of cutting checks to financial aid. Senate needs to approve this.
IV. Committee Reports

- **Academic Rank**: The Academic Rank committee met and had made their recommendations. The Academic Senate moves to approve the recommendations (Gisela Spieler-Persad/Catherine Page, MSP, one abstention).
- **Bookstore**: No report.
- **Curriculum**: There is a push from Dean Gustafson to make the catalog the official record for the college. This would mean that curriculum changes would take effect only once a year. A compromise was reached that enables such changes twice a year by the inclusion of a catalog addendum to be published in November. All curriculum deadlines are posted on the webpage. Changes to be effective in the fall should be submitted by March 8th. Changes for the catalog addendum must be submitted by September 27th. Deadlines are posted on the webpage.
- **FLEX/Staff Development**: At the next Senate meeting a summary of the FLEX Day survey will be presented. Applications for the newly-formed leadership academy will be available next month.
- **IEC**: The Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC) completed the revision of the goals and objectives of the college. Nearly all have measurable objectives. They will be discussed at the March leadership retreat.
- **MIS**: Luminis focus groups will be held next week to debrief about the implementation if the Banner system. The Banner wait lists have problems—one of the requirements should be an e-mail address. The system only recognizes RioMail; we should be able to have other e-mail addresses. In addition, students were not forewarned about the need to have a RioMail account.
- **Program Review**: Report deferred to New Business.
- **SLOs**: SLOlution software will be implemented this semester. It was field tested by three departments and will be presented at division meetings. Paper SLO forms are now considered obsolete. General Education (GE) Basic skills outcomes have been developed. SLOs for the remaining areas are forthcoming.
- **Virtual College**: The Virtual College is working with DSPS towards 508 online compliance. JAWS and Acrobat Writer have been installed, and a blackboard 508 compliance template has been requested, which all new and existing faculty can request.
• Safety Committee: There will be a fire drill on March 22nd and 23rd at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM respectively. Contact Brian Brutlag for suggestions and/or questions.

V. New Business
• Foundation: Associate Director Anne Turner solicited for faculty financial support in the current campaign/drive designed to support the Mission of the college. She explained that the Foundation will be expanding its outreach and support to faculty through a mini grant process ($500 or less) for professional development starting in the fall. Online and paper application forms will be available in the fall. Asking for seat to approve mike to be one of the signers

MOTION
The Academic Senate moves to support the inclusion of the Academic President as a signed endorsement to the faculty campaign to support the Foundation. (Beverly Reilly/Gisela Spieler-Persad)

Move to table. (Adam Wetsman/Matt Koutroulis. 8 Yes Votes, 13 No votes, Motion not tabled)

MOTION (continued from above) MSP, 3 abstentions

• College Catalog: Compromise was reached concerning the catalog.

MOTION
Whereas academics are the purview Academic Senate, we support the Curriculum Committee’s endorsement that the catalog is the official record of the college. Further, acknowledging that this is an annual publication, a mid-year official addendum will be published to accommodate changes and revisions. (Julius Thomas/Alfred Forrest, MSPU)

CLEP: Questions concerning the number of units Rio accepts as a result of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Admissions and Records reports that we only accept 12 units. Further investigation and discussion on this issue is forthcoming.

• Mental Health Services: Alfred Forrest seeks to expand our mental health outreach efforts. Funding to accomplish this will be
provided by the Engelhard Foundation. In order to secure the funds, student questionnaires, specific to depression, need to be collected. Volunteers to complete the documents will be sought.

MOTION
The Academic Senate moves to support the proposed mental health program and expansion of support services. (Brian Brutlag/Matt Koutroulis, MSPU)

- **Program Review**: A summary of eleven themes resulting from Program Review was presented. They included the following: 508 compliance in online courses, over-enrollment in course sections, equal access to labs on campus for academic departments, computer upgrade and replacement schedules, the need for technical lab assistants in some specialized labs, development of an interdepartmental uniform work-in-progress form, sharing of counseling services, campus maintenance paid from program budgets, one instructor departments/programs, strategic emergency planning, and pre-requisite/advisory expectations.

- **Awards**: All are asked the consider candidates to the various awards (Hayward, Fellow of the College) early in the year. Beverly Reilly will be sending out more information on the awards.

IV. **Unfinished Business**
- BP/AP Change Form

V. **Announcements**
- No announcements.

VI. **Public Comment**
- No public comments.

VII. **Adjournment**
- The Academic Senate was adjourned at 2:27 PM.