
Rio Hondo College Academic Senate**Minutes****February 15, 2011****Board Room****1:00 p.m.**

Present: Frank Accardo, Robin Babou, Ada Brown. Brian Brutlag, Tom Callinan, Fran Cummings, Marie Eckstrom, Alfred Forrest, Lydia Gonzalez, Jorge Huinquez, Mike Javanmard, Matt Koutroulis, Shin Liu, James Matthis, Juana Mora, Catherine Page, Ted Preston, Vann Priest, Kathy Pudelko, Ron Reeder, Beverly Reilly Lorraine Sfeir, Gisela Spieler-Persad, Julius Thomas, Ralph Velazquez, John Whitford

Absent: Lupe Alvarado, Katherin Brandt, Joaquin Duran, John Frala, Alonso Garcia, Mike Hinze, George Kimber, David Lindy, Kathy Lopez, Carley Mitchell, Daniel Osman, Matthew Pitassi, Mary Rivera, Henry Saucedo, Adam Wetsman

Guests: Katie O'Brien, Jim Chandler, Robert Holcomb, Paul Parnell, Kenn Pierson, Colin Young

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes were approved as submitted.

III. President's Report

- Update on the Student Success Task Force: The California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force held its second meeting in Sacramento on February 9th. The group is tasked with creating a strategic blueprint to improve student assessments, remedial instruction, and access to financial aid. Manual Baca been appointed to that Task Force and will address the Senate at the March 1st meeting. Recommendations from the task force will be presented to the Board of Governors early next year. From there, the Board will share its proposal with the Legislature by March 2012.
- SB 1440. We have received the model transfer curriculums (psychology, communications studies, and sociology). The next step is to identify which community college courses can be aligned with

the model(s) to create the new associate degree(s) for transfer to offer students by fall 2011. Colleges that develop associate degrees for transfer may begin to submit them for review to the Chancellor's Office later this month.

- The Budget It is very important that we all get the message out that Californians should be given the opportunity to vote on the tax extension. It is important that state leaders and California voters know that higher education is an investment, not a cost.
- Association of Community College Trustees 2011 Community College National Legislative Summit has been occurring in Washington, D.C. this Monday through Wednesday. President Martinez, Gary Mendez, and Ileana Garcia are in attendance. Included in the conference are updates on how the community college system is managing severe budget cuts while striving to meet President Obama's graduation goals. The conference will also identify specific ways the federal government can help foster student success through financial aid programs.
- The Bookstore Issue: The faculty was informed two weeks ago through e-mail that the Bookstore had been recommending and offering for sale Quick Study Guides for many disciplines. The problematic nature of these guides lay not in their content but in their placement, adjacent to the required texts ordered by instructors. The guides were also "recommended" on the bookstore website below the required texts for a course. Since instructors did not order nor recommend these materials, the Bookstore was asked to remove the guides from the textbooks stacks and re-place them elsewhere in the store.
- Update on Faculty Hiring Policy Committee: The committee of four faculty will update/revise the current policy. A mutually convenient time to convene meetings is under consideration.

IV. Unfinished Business

- Learning Assistance Center (LAC) request: The Learning Assistance Coordinator and the Dean of Communications and Languages addressed the Senate about a request to include a statement on instructors' syllabi, informing students of the tutoring services available to them through the LAC. After deliberations the Senate moved to request all instructors' to include a statement to this effect.

MOTION: The Academic Senate recommends that faculty include a statement in their syllabi informing students of resources provided by the Learning Assistance Center for tutoring. The following statement is recommended: *If you need to improve your study skills, communications skills, or test taking skills for this course, you are advised to seek a tutor's assistance in the Learning Assistance Center (LAC) located in LR 114.*

V. New Business

- CoRequisite Drops: There are inconsistencies across disciplines regarding the co-requisite drops. If a student drops a co-requisite, the co-requisite course (usually two) should be dropped, and this is not always the case. We have requested that this be programmed through Banner. In the interim, faculty are asked to consider the nature of the co-requisite: that is, whether the co-requisite is vital to the success the "other" course.
- Academic Issues related to Summer and Intersession 2012: The Vice President of Academic Affairs addressed the Senate concerning the possible elimination of Intersession 2012, revision of the Summer Session 2012 to eight weeks, and returning to the spring semester 2012 one week earlier. Reasons for the proposed changes include: cost savings and time for regular maintenance of the campus.

VI. Committee Reports

- Academic Rank: Academic rank for this year will be awarded at the March Board of Trustees meeting.
- Bookstore: Addressed in the President's Report.
- Curriculum: No report.
- FLEX/Staff Development: Robert Holcomb addressed the Senate to explain the requirements of the Title V grant we have received. He will be managing the grant and will report to the Senate once a month. The Title V subcommittee will meet twice monthly.
- IEC: Beverly Reilly volunteered for this committee as it needed one more member.
- MIS: As of March 1st everyone must use to portal.
- Safety: Speed bumps and stop signs will be installed on the campus during the President's Day holiday.
- Program Review: Executive Summaries of this year's review will be sent to Senators with the next Agenda.

- SLOs: No report.
- Virtual College: The newly-formed Instructional Technology Committee will meet for the first time today at 2:30.

VII. Announcements

- There were no announcements.

VIII. Public Comment

- There were no public announcements.

IX. Adjournment

- The Senate adjourned at 2:15 p.m.