

AS _____ 2011-2012

Rio Hondo College Academic Senate

Minutes

May 15, 2012

Board Room

1:00 P.M.

Present: Present: Alfred Forrest, Barbara Mikalson, Beverly Reilly, Brian Brutlag, Colin Young, Daniel Osman, David Lindy, Gail Modyman, Jim Matthis, Jon Whitford, Kathy Lopez, Kathy Pudelko, Lorraine Sfeir, Marie Eckstrom, J. Tanaka, Mike Javanmard, Ralph Velazquez, Robin Babou, Ron Reeder, Steve Moshier, Chris Acuna-Hansen, Fran Cummings, Gisela Spieler-Persad, Greg Miller, Jorge Huinquez, Mariano Zaro, Robert Bethel, Vann Priest, Adam Wetsman

Guests: None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Adam Wetsman at 1:05 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for May 1, 2012; approved with minor spelling correction

II. President's Report

- John Frala is giving a major presentation at a conference and was not present.
- Review of By-laws: There are difficulties with the succession of the Senate officers and there is a need for a special task force to improve this process in the by-laws. James Mathis and Marie Eckstrom volunteered to study this problem and report back in the fall.
- Promoting Academic and Student Services Programs: In an effort to make the academic and student services programs more visible to the Board and the community, the Senate will ask for volunteers. The purpose is to highlight academic programs in order to assist the Board in understanding how the faculty at Rio Hondo impacts the lives of students. Marie Eckstrom will compile a list of volunteers and available dates. Geisela Spieler volunteered to introduce the MESA program in June. Robert Bethel recommended that after each Plenary a report be given by the ASCCC Representative to the Board.
- Posting of Agenda: The Rio Hondo website is not very user friendly, so the Academic Senate Secretary has created an off-campus website to expedite posting of the Agendas and the Minutes. The site can be found at <http://riohondoacademicsenate.blogspot.com/>
- Mike Javanmard (Secretary) told the Senate of the advantages of the new site. We will have a backup of our agenda and minutes. On the right hand side of the screen you will see Labels. As we add postings we can use these labels to quickly search for agendas and minutes dealing with those topics. Mike Javanmard has tested this site on an iPod and the site automatically adjusts itself to fit the screen, so it can be viewed on mobile devices. There is an assumption that the iPad will work as well.

- Reaffirmation of Community: Vann Priest will chair a sub-committee to look at how the campus can move in a positive direction. John Whitford and David Lindy volunteered to help. A report will be brought back to Senate in the fall.
- President Wetsman informed the Senate that he and Marie Eckstrom fulfilled the wishes of the Senate and wrote a letter to the Board relating to hiring processes. This was emailed to all Board members. Discussion ensued. President Wetsman spoke of how “we are in a transition and should try to assist the Board to create a better college.” Some Senators agreed with the sentiments of President Wetsman and wanted to give him and our new Interim President Theresa Dreyfus a chance to succeed.
- Evaluating and revising AB 1725 provision in APs and BPs: AB 1725 is a State law however we at Rio Hondo do not have it spelled out in our college governance procedures. A committee needs to convene to write the necessary BP and AP for this important law. Dr. Alfred Forest volunteered to work with Dr. Wetsman on these policies.
- President Wetsman presented Marie Eckstrom a plaque recognizing her hard work as the outgoing Academic Senate President.

III. Unfinished Business

- None

IV. New Business

- PE Credit for Military (Fran Cummings)
 - To award students with honorable discharge DD214 paperwork two 1-unit PE activity courses. **Passed Unanimously**
- Accept CLEP Grid (Fran Cummings)
 - To adopt the list from the ASCCC and award GE area credit for Rio Hondo’s GE pattern for the CLEP exams listed. Discussion The curriculum Chair pointed out that this item was brought last year to the senate but was lost in translation. This only applies for GE credit **Passed Unanimously**
- Motion to Accept AP 7213 Faculty Hiring Policy (Marie Eckstrom)
 - A discussion ensued with the following objection:
 1. The AP does not state what happens when the President does not accept the recommendation of the committee.
 2. The counterargument was we have solved one major problem and we can work on other issues later.
 - a. A few senators shared their experiences of serving on a hiring committee and the level frustration they felt when forced to send forward a lesser qualified nominee because of some random number and their fear of being stuck with the President choosing the lesser qualified candidate. One Senator pointed out that according to the new AP the committee can forward less than 3 and include a justification letter as to why less than 3 people were forwarded.

A senator pointed out that many of the questions is coming out of mistrust. This senator encouraged the Senate to pass this AP and correct the other shortcomings with the future administration. **Passed with 4 Abstentions**

VII. Committee Reports

- Academic Rank: none
- Bookstore: none
- Curriculum: Fran Cummings, Curriculum Chair.
Any new curriculum or curriculum changes that faculty want to be included in the catalog addendum (and to be effective Spring 2013), need to be submitted to her for review by noon on Monday August 27.
- Professional Development/FLEX: No report.
IEC: No report
- ITC: No report
- MIS/Enterprise: Colin Young—He will ask again about the progress with the Dropping students online.
- Safety: No Report.
- Program Review: No report
- SLO: No report

VI: Announcements: .

Gisela Spieler announced that the grant for MESA was renewed.

VII: Public Comment: None

VIII: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by President Wetsman at 2:03 p.m.