

Rio Hondo College Academic Senate**Minutes****September 18, 2012****Board Room****1:00 P.M.**

Present: Jon Whitford, Shin Liu, John Frala, David Lindy, Vann Priest, Fran Cummings, Shelly Spencer, Greg Miller, Robert Bethel, Juan Fernandez, Mariano Zaro, Beverly Reilly, Marie Eckstrom, Lorraine Sfeir, Ralph Vasquez, Jim Matthis, Gail Modyman, Kathy Lopez, Katherin Brandt, Kathy Pudelko, , Mike Javanmard, Brian Brutlag, , Adam Wetsman, Dianne Holcomb, Dianna Reyes, Jorge Huinquez, Ron Reeder, Steve Moshier, Chirs Acuna-Hansen, Robin Babou, Carley Mitchell, George Kimber, Colin Young, Shirley Issac, Kimberly Mosley, Stephen Koelle,

Guests: Matt Koutroulis, Katie O'Brien, Belen Torres-Gil, Mike Munoz

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Adam Wetsman at 1:03 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for September 4, 2012; approved with minor spelling correction

II. President's Report

- Mike Munoz, Associate Dean of Student Services encouraged faculty to support the programs for Latino Heritage Month presented by the Office of Student Life and Leadership. He also announced that the Office of Student Life and Leadership is looking for faculty and staff to serve on an advisory board that will support the planning and implementation of Cultural Heritage Months (Latino History Month, Black History Month, Women's History Month, National Coming Out Day, Asian Pacific Islander Month, Native American Month) and other Student Success initiatives. Advisory board members will have the opportunity to make recommendations on guest lectures/panel discussion topics, performers, film screenings, and identify other key faculty/courses where the programs may align with the curriculum. The advisory board hopes to meet on a quarterly basis.
- Accreditation
 - The Administration has asked the Academic Senate to identify four faculty co-chairs for the four standards. After receiving volunteers, the Executive Committee will forward recommendations to the District for approval.
- Presidential hiring update
 - Adam Wetsman met with Teresa Dreyfuss, Sandra Rivera, Robert Holcomb, Gary Mendez and Norma Garcia on Friday, September 14th to discuss the presidential hiring process and the composition of the hiring committee. There will be a special Board meeting on September 24th where the search firm will be chosen. Representatives from the constituency groups will have an opportunity to speak with the finalists before they give a presentation to the Board.

- There was a lengthy discussion about the makeup of the search committee at the September 14th meeting. Adam Wetsman and Sandra Rivera stated that changing the composition of the committee from the past practice dating back decades would jeopardize accreditation. They noted that part of the reason for being put on warning from ACCJC last time was that the Board altered the hiring process. Wetsman and Rivera proposed that the committee should remain the same this time and that we should evaluate how the process went immediately afterwards, when the process is fresh in everyone's minds.
- Code of Ethics
 - The Administration proposed to convert the Code of Ethics currently in the Governance Manual into an Administrative Procedure. Senators pointed out that this is problematic since it may set standards for behavior that can chill academic freedom. Also, the Code of Ethics is not procedural, as administrative procedures should be..
- Reassigned time
 - President Wetsman reported that he is working with Kenn Pierson to come up with a process for various Coordinator positions and reassigned time positions.
- Cost Saving Task force is looking for an additional \$1.4 million to cut from the budget. One of the proposals was that student parking fees be increased. At the task force meeting, President Dreyfuss stated that we have a \$270,000 shortfall each year because of parking. Our fees are \$22.50 per semester, well below the \$52 average at surrounding colleges.
- Dr. Wetsman reported that there is another meeting for committee studying Drop for Non-payment lead by Henry Gee.
- The Board of Governors has urged colleges to develop more TMC. They hope to have 80% of degrees being awarded to have a TMC equivalent degree by Fall 2013 and a goal of 100% by Fall of 2014.
 - The curriculum chair informed the Senate that we need 4 more TMC degrees to meet this goal at Rio Hondo College.

III. Unfinished Business

- None

IV. New Business

- Flex Day Motion Presented by the Academic Senate Exec

Whereas Assembly Bill 1725 defines the relationship between community college districts and faculty groups in California, and whereas Title V, Section 53200 specifies that the Academic Senate has purview over specified areas of college governance, and whereas one of the areas which Academic Senate has purview over is “policies for faculty professional development activities”, and whereas action taken by the Rio Hondo College Faculty Association are not binding on the Academic senate, and whereas the Academic Senate has always designed all Flex Days through its Staff Development Committee, and

whereas the Academic Senate has and will continue to work collegially with the District with the Flex Day agenda, Therefore, be it resolved, that the Academic Senate will continue to design all Flex Days at Rio Hondo College.

There was some discussion as to if a motion is needed.

The parliamentarian was consulted if there was a need for a motion from the floor. The parliamentarian reported that there was no need for a motion.

Passed Unanimously

- AB 1725 Discussion
 - President Wetsman noted that the Senate will be working to codify AB 1725 into Board Policies and Administrative Procedures.
 - There is a need to delineate which “Academic and professional matters” the District reaches a decision by “Relies Primarily” or “Mutual Agreement”
 - Some schools outline the 10 Academic and Professional matters in a Board Policy and identify on which the governing board will Rely Primarily on and on which policies the governing board will mutually agree with the Academic Senate.
 - Definition of Relies Primarily (from ASCCC)
 - In instances where the governing board elects to rely primarily upon the advice and judgment of the academic senate, the recommendations of the senate will be accepted and only in exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons will the recommendation not be accepted. If a recommendation is not accepted, the governing board or designee, upon request of the academic senate, shall promptly communicate its reasons in writing to the academic senate.
 - Definition of Mutual Agreement (from ASCCC)
 - In instances where the governing board elects to provide for mutual agreement with the academic senate, and agreement has not been reached, existing policy shall remain in effect unless continuing with such policy exposes the district to legal liability or causes substantial fiscal hardship. In cases where there is no existing policy, or in cases where the exposure to legal liability or substantial fiscal hardship requires existing policy to be changed, the governing board may act, after a good faith effort to reach agreement, only for compelling legal, fiscal, or organizational reasons.
 - Discussion was as follow: It was pointed out that the previous college President Dr. Ted Martinez had operated under the definition of Mutual Agreement. For example, the faculty hiring policy could not be altered without the agreement of the Academic Senate.

A past Academic Senate president reported that Dr. Paul Parnell the VPI stated in front of Dr. Martinez that Rio Hondo College is a mutually agreed school.

Some Senators expressed a desire to have (1) curriculum, (2) degree and certificate requirements to be identified as rely primarily on.

Further work will be done by the Executive Committee and this will be brought back to Senate.

VII. Committee Reports

- SLO: the SLO coordinator Matt K. reported how the SLO committee will try to review existing SLO's for quality control. This is a big task and he encouraged everyone to help the members of the SLO committee.
- Academic Rank: Due November 13
- Bookstore: Marie Eckstrom is looking at (discussing) the timeline for faculty book order.
- Curriculum: None
- Professional Development/FLEX:
- IEC: Has a desire to look at the governance manual. Also they are working on the Educational Master Plan. Last time we had a plan developed, the college hired an outside consultant. This time, because of the excellent work done by faculty and others, we will be updating the plan ourselves.
- ITC: No report
- MIS/Enterprise: No Report
- Safety: No Report.
- Program Review: No report

VI: Announcements: none

VII: Public Comment: None

VIII: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by President Wetsman at 2:13 p.m.