

Rio Hondo College Academic Senate Minutes**April 7, 2015****Board Room****1:00 P.M.**

Present: Alan Archambault, Jose Arroyo, Robin Babou, Michelle Bean, Robert Bethel, Fran Cummings, Mike Dighera, Cameron English, Juan Fernandez, John Frala, Theresa Freije, Song Le Graham, Kathleen Hannah, Dianne Holcomb, Mike Javanmard, George Kimber, Steve Koelle, Sheila Lynch, Jim Matthis, Greg Miller, Carley Mitchell, Juana Mora, Steve Moshier, Katie O'Brien, Tyler Okamoto, Shelly Poetter, Vann Priest, Kathy Pudelko, Rudy Rios, Kevin Smith, Adam Wetsman, Jon Whitford, Colin Young, Mariano Zaro

Guests: Henry Gee, Beverly Reilly, Kenn Pierson, Barbara Salazar, Maria Martinez

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00.

II. Approval of Minutes

- March 17th minutes
- Minutes were accepted with minor revisions

III. President's Report

- **Distinguished Faculty Award: Beverly Reilly**
 - Pending board affirmation, Beverly Reilly is the Rio Hondo 2015 Distinguished Faculty Award recipient. After 16 years at RHC, she is retiring this year. She was part of the founding committees for River's Voice and Writes of Spring. She also served as Senate President and helped change RHC to the compressed calendar. Furthermore, she recently was involved in getting the Writers Center created. Congratulations Beverly!
- **College 1 Course – Kenn Pierson, Barbara Salazar, and Maria Martinez**
 - Specifics to the proposal for the Title V grant were discussed. Discussion and concerns were voiced regarding the creation of a "college 1" course. The course may have multiple instructors and would target specific groups of incoming freshman. Concerns were raised about faculty involvement in this process and about whether the course would be just another hoop we have for students to get through. Concerns about how such a course might go through curriculum given that the minimum qualifications for each discipline are different. The president solicited volunteers to work on the language for the course in the Title V proposal.
- **Student Equity – Juana Mora and Barbara Salazar**
 - Senators were informed about how the college is examining student equity. There is over \$850,000 from the state for college programs to address college subgroups that are not performing at the same level as their peers. So far, RHC has created the Writers Resource Center, expanded tutoring services, and is putting together a

“Men of Color” conference. Also, the Student Equity Committee is now a sub-committee of the Academic Senate.

- **Recruitment of International Students by Kaplan – Henry Gee**
 - RHC is contemplating signing an MOU with Kaplan to recruit international students. Kaplan has “English Learning Academies” and would teach the students at their Whittier and Westwood locations. The plan is that these academies would get the students up to speed. They would then complete their AA at RHC and then transfer to complete their BA/BS degree at a US University.
- **ASCCC Plenary - John Frala**
 - Topics that will be covered at the upcoming plenary meeting were handed out. Please send feedback or concerns to the ASCCC representative.

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

- **Reading Graduation Requirement**
 - There has been confusion in the counseling area for whether READ 134 (Study Skills) fits. Although it is numbered above READ 101, it does not meet the graduation requirement. Thus, the Reading department is removing the word “or higher” from the graduation requirement.
 - MOTION (A Wetsman, 2nd by S Koelle): The Academic Senate accepts the changes to the reading graduation requirement.
 - Motion Passed Unanimously
- **International Baccalaureate – Song Le Graham**
 - After a brief discussion, discussion and action were postponed until the next meeting.

VI. Committee Reports

SLO: There is an SLO workshop next Thursday at 2:30. Flex credit is available for those who attend. Faculty with questions on SLOs should send them to the SLO coordinator.

DE: Colin Young or Sheila Lynch will be the next chair of the DE Committee. Senators should remind their colleagues that to teach online for the Spring, 2016 that they need to get the modules completed by September 30. Also, applications to receive a stipend from staff development for completing the modules are due by April 15.

VII. Announcements

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16.