
Rio Hondo College Academic Senate
Minutes
February 17, 2009
Board Room
1:00 p.m.

Present: Frank Accardo, Lupe Alvarado, Brian Brutlag, Alyson Cartagena, Marie Eckstrom, Jennifer Fernandez, John Frala, Theresa Freije, Rebecca Green, Jorge Huinquez, Mile Javanmard, Doreen Kaller, Barbara Keith, Juana Mora, Catherine Page, Gil Puga, Beverly Reilly, Lisette Rhi, Barbara Salazar, Kendra Seiler, Jody Senk, Lorraine Sfeir, Shelly Spencer, Gisela Spieler-Persad, Melissa Rifino-Juarez, Julius Thomas, Bianca Urquidi, John Whitford

Absent: Robin Babou, Robert Bethel, Ada Brown, Alfred Forrest, Gary Halverson, Dale Harvey, Matt Koutroulis, David Lindy, Mark Littrell, Jennette Noriega, Vann Priest, Henry Saucedo, Jim Zaharek

Guests: M. Mitchell (CSU Fullerton student)

I. Call to Order

- President Reilly called the Senate meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes were approved as written.

III. President's Report

- Accreditation Report: The official WASC Accreditation report is posted on the Rio Hondo website. Specific response teams are addressing the WASC recommendations.
- Accreditation Workshop: Representatives from the faculty attended this valuable meeting in January. Administration and the Board of Trustees were not represented.
- Senate Bylaws: The Senate discussed modifying the Senate bylaws to have one vice president, a president-elect, and a part-time senator. A motion was proposed.

MOTION

The Academic Senate is charged to form a task force to review and craft specific language to change the Senate bylaws to include one vice president, a president-elect, and a part-time seat. (Mike Javanmard, Rebecca Green, MSPU)

The task force will include Gil Puga, Melissa Rufino-Juarez, and Rebecca Green.

- Financial Responsibility and Prudence: The Senate discussed the necessity for the college to be fiscally responsible and prudent, especially in view of the current world economic crisis. Faculty need to be more cognizant of the college's expenditures in order to continue to be economically sound. A Senate motion was proposed.

MOTION

In view of potential fiscal constraints, the Senate should secure District reviews and rationals for consultant services other than community services. (Gil Puga, Catherine Page, MSPU)

- Board Policies: The Board Policies continue to be brought to Planning Fiscal Council (PFC). Three policies were pulled pending further clarification; they centered on reporting child abuse, copyright issues, and intellectual property rights.
- SLO Language and Faculty Evaluation: Jennifer Fernandez reported that at a CCA conference she attended in January, she attended a workshop presented by NEA. In that session it was emphasized that SLOs are products of student efforts.
- Foundation Report: Andy Howard will deliver a report and answer questions about the Foundation at the Senate meeting on March 3, 2009.

IV. Old Business

- Ethics Policy: Yolanda Emerson (Human Resources) has been asked for examples of other colleges' ethics policies.

V. New Business

- Senate Bylaws: See Motion above.
- Part-time Senator Position: See Motion above.
- WASC Report: See Motion above.

VI. Committee Reports

- Academic Rank: The names for advancement in Academic Rank will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees at their next meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. The Academic Rank committee plans to review the application and policy to ensure clarity.
- Bookstore: No report.
- Curriculum: No report.
- Flex: There will not be an all faculty retreat this year. There will be one in the next academic year. A question about awarding Flex credit for necessary work for the college was proposed. This is a slippery and ongoing issue that needs to be addressed.
- MIS: No report.
- SLOs: No report.
- Virtual College: No report

VII. Announcements

- The Nursing Department questions the College's practice of giving a student a waiver to enroll in a course without having completed the prerequisite pending the outcome of a grievance or challenge.
- If faculty have suggestions for resolutions for the statewide academic senate, please forward them to Melissa Rufino-Juarez.

VIII. Public Comment

- No public comments.

IX. Adjournment

- The Senate meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.