
**Rio Hondo College Academic Senate
Minutes
March 3, 2009
Board Room
1:00 p.m.**

Present: Frank Accardo, Lupe Alvarado, Robin Babou, Ada Brown, Brian Brutlag, Alyson Cartagena, Marie Eckstrom, Jennifer Fernandez, John Frala, Theresa Freije, Rebecca Green, Dale Harvey, Jorge Huinquez, Mike Javanmard, Melissa Rifino-Juraez, Matt Koutroulis, Dave Lindy, Mark Littrell, Catherine Page, Vann Priest, Gil Puga, Beverly Reilly, Lisette Rhi, Barbara Salazar, Kendra Seiler, Jody Senk, Lorraine Sfeir, Shelly Spencer, Gisela Spieler-Persad, Julius Thomas, John Whitford, Jim Zaharek

Absent: Robert Bethel, Alfred Forrest, Gary Halverson, Doreen Kaller, Barbara Keith, Jennette Noriega, Henry Saucedo, Bianca Urquidi

Guests: Andy Howard, Shin Liu, Kelly Lynch, Martha Mitchell (CSU Fullerton student), Belen Torres-Gil

I. Call to Order

- President Reilly called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- The minutes were approved as written.

III. President's Report

- Fiscal Issues: President Reilly reports that the Senate is monitoring funds currently being expended on attorneys and consultants. The Senate will continue to be vigilant in this regard but must make WASC compliance a priority at this time.
- WASC: The Accreditation Response teams are currently addressing the recommendations issued by WASC. There are six community colleges in our immediate areas currently on warning. Orange Coast College has just written their response, and it is available for us to review.

- Ethics Policy: Yolanda Emerson (Human Resources) presented an ethics policy at President's Council today. It is to be a Board Policy. Discussion ensued which stressed that most ethics concerns are already addressed in existing Board Policies and Administrative Procedures. The Senate strongly suggested that our "ethics policy" reference all the points through a cross-referenced glossary.

MOTION

The Academic Senate moves to form a task force to identify and cross-reference existing Board Policies and Administrative Procedures with the WASC Standard Three recommendations for a code of ethics. (MSUP)

The Task Force will consist of Gil Puga, Jennifer Fernandez' appointee, and Katie O'Brien, who may join the WASC Recommendation Three response team.

- Organizational Structure: President Reilly announced that today we received the newly-published organizational structure document. This information will appear on the Public Drive (P-Drive).

IV. Old Business

- Bylaws: The Senate continues to consider a change in the bylaws, specifically, changing the first vice-president to president-elect. Discussion ensues. A poll of the assembly indicated a desire to proceed with serious consideration of the change.
- Part-Time Senator Position: The Senate continues to consider a part-time senator position. A general enquiry was issued to part-time faculty, to which only five responded with interest. Senators are asked to bring this question to their divisions for input. Inclusion of a part-time senator position would necessitate an amendment to the bylaws.

V. New Business

- Awards: The Senate has received a nomination for the Fellow of the College award from the Emeriti, Isabel Gonthier. Jennifer Fernandez spoke on her behalf.

MOTION

The Academic Senate moved to recommend Isabel Gonthier for Fellow of the College award. (Green, Thomas, two abstentions, MSP)

There is also a distinguished service award, traditionally presented to someone from outside the district, whereas the Fellow of the College award honors an individual who gave outstanding service to the school

- Foundation: Andy Howard, representing The Foundation, addressed the Senate, explaining its history, current function, and vision. This is the Foundation's second year of fiscal self sufficiency and it is hoped that the Foundation will increasingly contribute to the fiscal profile of the college.

VI. Committee Reports

- Academic Rank: No report.
- Bookstore: The bookstore explained that their scantron distributor has moved to Pennsylvania and will, in future, anticipate the scantron requests.
- Curriculum: No report.
- Flex: No report.
- MIS: The committee is currently concerned with control issues.
- SLOs: No report.
- Virtual College (e-Learning): No report.

VII. Announcements

- The Nursing Department announced that they will host a career fair on Thursday, March 5, 2009 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- A member of the Business Department expressed concern over staffing in that department, specifically the loss of the equivalent of two instructor position through reassigned time and impending retirements.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjournment

- The Senate adjourned at 2:22 p.m.