Members present: Jim McManus, Jeff Dean, Bob Mitchell, Terry Taskey, Chieko Honma, Jeff O’Connell, Nicole Sandoval, Jeff Roberts, Luc Desmedt, Carrie Dameron, Shelly Lawrence

Members Absent: Diane Berkland, Wayne Yuen

Others present: Gari Browning, Leta Stagnaro, Mike Bowman, Francis Phiri (ASOC),

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 p.m.

Announcements
There were no announcements today.

Approval of minutes from November 20, 2013 revised Carrie absent/present
The minutes were approved as read with a revision to indicate that Carrie Dameron was absent from the last meeting. The minutes incorrectly stated she was present.

Associate Degrees for Transfer (I) Bowman
Mike Bowman passed out a color-coded chart entitled “Ohlone AA-T/AS-T Progress Tracking.” This chart showed the progress the college has made in preparing and obtaining approval for the transfer associate degree, as required by the Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act approved in 2010 and also known as SB 1440. There are two types of degrees: AA-T (Associate in Arts-Transfer) and AS-T (Associate in Science-Transfer).

Although all of the transfer associate degrees are supposed to be ready by July, 2014, Bowman said that we might not be able to meet that deadline. Currently, only five major degrees have been approved by CCCCO (California Community College Chancellor’s Office). A total of 14 degrees have been approved by the Curriculum Committee; eight have been submitted to the Chancellor’s Office. Eight degrees are still in progress and pending approval by the Curriculum Committee.
Bowman outlined some of the problems in getting final approval from the Chancellor’s Office. Different evaluators review the submissions, so even if the college meets the requirements of one evaluator, another might add another requirement. This lengthens the time frame for final approval. Sometimes the requirements have changed during the process of getting approval. There have been no degrees that have had ‘smooth sailing.’

In response to a question from Jeff Roberts, Bowman stated that Ohlone has been lagging behind in getting the degrees approved. We are being very careful to make sure all of the paperwork is completed for a proposed transfer degree before it is submitted. This has been a problem in the past.

Bowman indicated that the faculty have been very cooperative in working on the degrees and that currently fourteen degree proposals are in various stages of approval.

The discussion ended with Leta Stagnaro thanking Mike for all of the work he has done to keep this major project on course.

**Q &A with Dr. Browning (I)**

The next part of the meeting consisted of a question-and-answer period with Dr. Browning. The first question came from Carrie Dameron who asked about the possibility of a bachelor degree being offered by community colleges. Dr. Browning stated that the idea has been discussed on many occasions, but there does not appear to be support in the California legislature. Browning stated that for colleges in rural areas and colleges offering career and technical programs, a bachelor’s degree would seem to make sense. She stated it is an idea that needs continued discussion. Jeff Dean noted that the mission of the community college seems to be moving away from education for all to a more narrowed degree granting focus. Browning agreed and stated that many jobs now require some sort of four year degree.

Shelly Lawrence asked about the return of vocational programs that were eliminated. Browning stated that the Ohlone environmental scan shows that local industries want vocational and technical courses to be offered and the college will respond to these concerns. In addition, we are being called upon to continue to focus on basic skills programs.
Another question concerned increasing the student enrollment at Ohlone. Browning said we are making efforts to increase enrollment. As the economy improves, more classes will be offered and recruitment of students will increase. The new Student Success Act and its requirement that the orientation program be completed before enrollment has had an impact. It’s harder for students to enroll in classes because they have to complete the orientation before enrolling. The college is moving to offer more orientation programs.

Dr. Browning stated that the work on accreditation is going well. There are some changes to be made, but they are small. The report should be online soon and board approval should be soon also. Leta Stagnaro stated that at this point sources of evidence were being added and linked to finally complete the document. Overall, she stated, there were few areas where we did not meet standards; in addition, we have responded to past requirements from the accreditation agency and the Board has been proactive in meeting its obligations.

Finally, there were some questions regarding hiring. Dr. Browning confirmed that interviews will be starting on Dec. 8 for the position of Dean of International Studies. In addition, there will be hiring for five new faculty positions for the coming year, and thereafter the college will try to add four new positions each year so that we can reach former instructional staffing levels by 2020.

**Other**
Jeff O’Connell wished everyone a happy holiday and stated that in the new year we will return to the subject of faculty committee assignments and policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.