Ohlone College Faculty Senate
Minutes
November 17, 2010
3:30 PM
Room 7101

Members present: Jeff Dean, Jeff Roberts, Kim Stiles, Terry Taskey, Cheiko Honma, Jim McManus, Wayne Yuen, Nicole Sandoval, Jeff O’Connell, Diane Berkland, Bob Mitchell, Alan Kirshner, Alyce Reynolds, Jason Trinidad (student representative).

Members absent: Luc Desmedt, Claire Ellis

Others present: Lesley Buehler, Leta Stagnaro, Deb Parziale, Jim Wright

(1) Announcements
   a. O’Connell attended the statewide plenary session.
   b. HR would like to do an orientation program for new adjunct faculty. Several years ago, the faculty took responsibility for running the fulltime faculty orientation.
   c. Cards have been sent to Paul Mueller (his father passed away) and Susan Cunningham (her mother passed away).
   d. Meeting for December 15 is cancelled. It will be finals week.

(2) Approval of Minutes from November 3, 2010 (A)
   Motion Taskey, second Roberts, three abstentions. Approved.

(3) 2012 - 2013 Academic Calendar: (A) Robbie
   a. Graduation is on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. O’Connell spoke with ASOC and they want graduation to be on Friday night.
   b. Faculty Senate approved Friday night graduations at the November 19, 2008 meeting.
   c. Discussion continued from last time regarding the Friday graduation being on Memorial Day weekend. Jeff has contacted ASOC regarding this. Kirshner mentioned a previous discussion on this topic. Faculty at that time seemed split about having graduation on Friday night. O’Connell mentions that the event is for students and they should have priority in any decision. Jason Trinidad from ASOC mentioned that the ASOC discussed this and they wanted graduation on Friday, acknowledging that this would be on Memorial Day weekend. O’Connell mentioned that there was no real objection to this mentioned to him.
   Kirshner moves to accept the calendar. Yuen seconds. Passed unanimously.

(4) Substantive Change Proposal Report for Ohlone to offer online degrees: (A) Buehler
   a. Honma reports that she was sent some typographical corrections from Bob Bradshaw. She forwarded those to Lesley.
   Taskey moves to approve the report. Yuen seconds. Passed unanimously.

(5) Committee on Committees: (I) O’Connell/Berkland
   a. Committee charters and membership have not been updated in over 2 years. O’Connell and Berkland sent e-mails last week to all committee chairs asking for updates on membership.
   b. Once O’Connell hears back from the chairs, he will send the list out to the faculty for updating. There are various committees and working groups and other commitments that qualify as committee assignments. It initially appears that we have far more open spots on committees than there are faculty. Kirshner notes that the last time this was done, there were “a fair number” of faculty members who were not on committees. He suggests that we need to urge the administration to enforce the requirement that faculty participate on committees. McManus notes that perhaps this is an opportunity to limit the number
of committees. Parziale notes that the creation of groups like College Council created more spaces for faculty to fulfill their committee obligations. O’Connell notes that hopefully we can use this as an opportunity to educate the faculty about their obligations. O’Connell will continue to gather information from all committee chairs and then distribute that information to the faculty at large.

(6) Mid-Term Report (I) Wright

Jim spoke to the Senate about the most recent draft of the self-study for our WASC accreditation. Both the College and the team from WASC, which visited listed priorities for Ohlone to consider. He distributed a handout containing the WASC Commission recommendations, which are being addressed. A report was submitted subsequent to our warning, which was favorably received. We were no longer on warning status after that. Jim would like to point out that he is encouraging everyone to review the current draft of the mid-term report, which has been sent out. He welcomes feedback sent directly to him. He would like the Senate to approve the document at its next meeting. The next site visit from WASC is in 2014.

(7) Other

a. O’Connell notes that SB 1440 is a law which gives community college students earning degrees with 60 transferrable credits admission to UCs and CSUs. Our next meeting will focus on this issue, since it will be vital for Ohlone to create these compliant degrees. The number of degrees offered will depend on the individual colleges. There will be quite a few complex issues that will arise. These will include building degrees based in general education, but containing a certain number of courses and units in particular subject areas. O’Connell will send to senators information about SB 1440 before the next senate meeting. There was a question about revising our current specific AA degrees, such as the one in English. There is still quite a bit of confusion about the implications for this law and if it will require us to revise current degree programs in specific disciplines. Wright suggests that there might be several “models” that colleges can look to in order to build these course sequences. The program will hopefully streamline the process for students, who are increasingly taking their lower division courses at different colleges in different districts with different course sequences and requirements. Berkland and O’Connell will present information on this topic at the next meeting. Wright notes that while there may be delays in implementing this law, it will ultimately be good for community college students in California.

b. Vicki Curtis has concerns that the current instructor evaluation forms are not appropriate for ESL students. She would like for Senate to review this. Kirshner notes that, related to CEER, Shairon from H.R. has suggested a committee to deal with this issue, since it relates to evaluation of faculty.

c. Berkland notes that there appears to be a significant backlog of a year to two years for students getting their degrees certified. We appear to only have one evaluator of degrees. Staffing is certainly an issue. The question is raised as to whether this should be raised at College Council. This has probably created difficulties for students at their transfer institutions in terms of GE certification. Getting some statistical information on this would help. O’Connell will place this item on the agenda next semester. Kirshner notes that this should probably be raised at College Council, as noted previously.

d. Parziale notes that the issue of what to do on the Friday of Flex week is being looked at. She is soliciting ideas as to what should be done during our time on that Friday, in terms of having one longer activity or having breakout sessions. Any feedback sent directly to her would be welcomed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.