Minutes
Ohlone College Faculty Senate
September 1, 2010
3:30 - 4:30
Room 7101

Members Present: Diane Berkland, Jeff Dean, Luc Desmedt, Claire Ellis, Chieko Honma, Alan Kirshner, Jim McManus, Bob Mitchell, Jeff O'Connell, Alyce Reynolds, Jeff Roberts, Nicole Sandoval, Kim Stiles, Terry Taskey, Wayne Yuen

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Jim Wright, Lesley Bueler, Deb Parziale,

Introductions: Senators and guests introduced themselves.

Announcements:

a. Memorial For Curtis Bressler will be Saturday, September 4, 2010 at 10 am. Bridges Community Church in Fremont. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to "Chinese Children Adoption International." Curtis and Nancy Bressler have two daughters adopted from China. Donation from Senate discussed. Moved by Taskey that a donation, seconded by Ellis.

b. Victoria Loukiaoff has been diagnosed with cancer. She is taking the semester off.

c. Proposed to Kirshner moves, Mitchell seconded to send donation (100 dollars) and flowers for Victoria. Unanimously agreed.

d. Academic Calendar - Kimberly Robbie noticed a few errors on the version of the 2010-2011 academic calendar that Faculty Senate approved in November 2008. None of these errors affect start and end dates for the term, finals week, holidays within the term; in essence, none of the changes impact the faculty at all.

Changes made:
- Friday, December 23 a District holiday (in accordance with District policy);
- Moved Admissions Day from Thursday, December 29 to Wednesday, December 28 (in accordance with past practice);
- Added January 2 as New Year’s Day (in accordance with Chancellor’s Office mandated holidays).

e. Midterm Report - Due in March. Will go through Senate this semester and Dr. Wright will bring it to the Senate.

f. October 6 meeting at Newark campus room 1222. Usual time? Perhaps a bit later if senators need time to get there?

Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2010 (A)

Motion to approve: McManus, Dean seconds. Berkland, Taskey, Krishner and Yuen abstain. Others voted yes. Passes.

Transition from WebCT to Blackboard (I): Buehler

Information about transition. Not necessary to move immediately from WebCT to Blackboard. Training sessions will be offered in fall and spring semester. Online tutorials will also be available. Question about scheduling for those faculty not available on Fridays. But other options will be available. Cost will be comparable between WebCT to Blackboard.

Plan to rebuild faculty (I): Wright

Dr. Wright spoke to the Senate about a strategy to replenish the ranks of full-time faculty. Link to the document: http://dev2.ohlone.edu/people2/joconnell/senate/docs/rebuilding.pdf

Much of this builds on the Educational Master Plan, recently completed. Background on fluctuation in numbers over the years. Dr. Wright wishes to form a task force that will keep track of this plan and work towards its implementation.

Full-time obligation has varied based on number of students. Reminder of 75/25 ratio. We are looking at about 50/50 this year. College is not fined over this, but it is a standard we want to work towards.
College is constrained by budgetary restrictions.

Preferable to look at this in the context of a ten-year plan. Involves both replacement of retirees first and then also building.

Task force would serve advisory role to College President on hiring priorities.

Data in the report can give a sense of where enrollment in particular disciplines can guide hiring. Study of data will be an important factor in providing context for later decisions about priorities.

Overarching consideration of having an ongoing task force would be to keep this issue alive over the long-term, since it is easy to “forget” what we have had and where the vacancies were created. Also, there are issues where specific positions perhaps might not be replaced with exactly equivalent positions based on current needs.

Debate over particular positions will take place, but it is important to start the conversation and keep it going.

For the next meeting, Dr. Wright would like to form a group that will work on this issue, including faculty and administration. Dr. Wright indicates that Dr. Browning supports this concept to advise her about this ongoing issue.

Question regarding cautiousness of including state data, since there may be areas where the state “norm” might not be what we would strive for. State data should be used as one aspect, not the complete basis for any decisions. Some areas are fairly standardized, for example, the proportion of FTEs in English and math. Those numbers are relatively consistent. Perhaps also a case study type of comparison to colleges of equivalent size would be helpful. Multiple measures are important as this issue is explored. Creation and extinction of departments is also a factor to consider.

Again, goals of having a task force is to keep issue prominent and give solid advice to the president on this topic.

Plan is to approve this at the next meeting and agree to form the task force. Proposal for task force of deans plus four or five faculty members.

Information will be posted by O’Connell on the senate’s blog, so electronic discussion between meetings can take place. Recommendation to look at previously-produced environmental scan of the college.

Other

Kirshner: Joint forum for board candidates proposed in conjunction with UFO.

Taskey: Student awards ceremony involvement. Barbara Duggal will be taking this from Rob Smedfjeld for the current year.

Parziale: Professional development money still available. Please contact Deb Parziale for more information on this topic.

O’Connell: Question about faculty of the month. Subcommittee met briefly outside of senate meetings. Yuen deputized to head up this committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Next meeting: September 15, 2010 at 3:30 in room 7101.