

Academic Senate Minutes February 22, 2021

#'s represent items numbered on the [Agenda](#)

1. Meeting called to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. Roll call

Executive Committee

Kathryn Maurer (President)
Eric Kuenhl (Vice President)
Robert Cormia (Sec/Treas)
Alexis Aguilar
Brian Murphy
Cara Miyasaki
David Marasco
David McCormick
Dixie Macias
Donna Frankel
Farima Fakoor
Jordan Fong
Kerri Ryer
Mary Thomas

Matthew Litrus
Milissa Carey (absent)
Mimi Overton
Rachelle Campbell
Rita O'Loughlin (absent)
Stephanie Chan
Tracee Cunningham
Voltaire Villanueva
Senate Liaisons
Carolyn Holcroft
John Fox
Josh Pelletier (absent)
Kristy Lisle
Kurt Hueg
Abhiraj Muhar

Guests

Warren Voyce
Isaac Escoto
Hilda Fernandez
Fatima Jinnah
Dokesha Meecham
Natalie Latteri
Amy Leonard
Teresa Ong
Debbie Lee
Laurie Scolari
Priya Vasu
Simon Pennington
Valerie Fong

3. The agenda was adopted by consensus. Minutes from the February 8th meeting will be corrected to show that Rachelle Campbell was not in attendance. The February 8th minutes, as amended, were adopted by consensus.

4. No public comment

5. Approval of the consent calendar: [Senate appointments](#). Kathryn highlighted some vacancies that we'll need to fill.

6. Kathryn requested an additional meeting March 1st to discuss governance, the constitution and issues from the collegiality in action visit, which are all interrelated. The request was approved by consensus.

7. Shared governance updates - Kathryn shared brief updates from each of the groups, below:

Advisory Council: [Faculty prioritization memo](#). Kathryn explained that last meeting she had only shared the approval of the two positions (Ethnic Studies & Humanities) which are funded by General Fund dollars. There is a third full-time faculty position approved of Counselor in the VRC, which will be funded with categorical dollars (restricted in what it can fund). The Council is also tasked with completing the assessment of the institutional reorganization that took place during the budget reduction a couple of years ago. Last year, right before the pandemic, Thuy [asked for feedback](#) on some of the changes, but the Council was unable to complete this work. In January, Thuy issued [an update](#) based on her own assessment of the asks, and clarified the remaining asks of the Advisory Council, which included an assessment of the Student & Faculty Support Center (a.k.a. "The Hub"). There was a comment that all of our data (observations) are from the past year which is far from the norm. This would be a "pandemic check in" and we may need an additional check in post pandemic.

C&C: C&C has issued [a memo](#) sent also to the Academic Senate asking for volunteers for a new study group they are forming on Service Leadership. This is just a draft charter, so the membership may change, but we can begin soliciting volunteers.

5th Council/Return to Campus: Warren Voyce (faculty tri-chair) gave an update on return to campus 5th council - they discussed the structure of the EOC, and Thuy led with some philosophical issues on return to campus. The council is collecting action items for discussion in the future. The group wants to take positive steps to getting back on campus. There was a comment about advocating for student athletes.

R&R – Cara Miyasaki (faculty tri-chair) explained there was further discussion about the carry over funds. The trichairs met, and the conversation seemed complex, so a survey was prepared. A survey question was developed to ask faculty if they are in favor of using \$200K in carryover funds for equity? There are many questions, uncertainty, and not a small amount of frustration. Kathryn offered to send out the survey with the senate minutes/follow-up email.

COOL: Kerri Ryer (faculty co-chair) announced an opportunity for faculty to attend the [Instructional Technology Council's Annual Conference](#) (up to 25 slots funded by the Office of Online Learning). The ITC conference this year will offer a variety of different tracks including accessibility, design, humanizing / diversity / inclusion, leadership, and others. Starting on Monday, the conference will provide presentations and workshops over the next five weeks.

8. Guided pathways. Isaac Escoto thanked the Senate for the opportunity to meet again, and started with a discussion/2nd read of the resolution. With no discussion, Mary Thomas moved that we approve the resolution affirming support for guided pathways at Foothill College, and David Marasco seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the [resolution](#) was marked as approved. Isaac shared the SOAA, an annual self-assessment that colleges are asked to complete, organized by the pillars of the guided pathways. The SOAA is due on March 1st. All the GP Teams gave updates. There were discussions about program mapping. There was a comment that maybe the mapping effort should slow down a bit - push out the first big mapping day until April. Fatima showed a template for creating a path for students (with chemistry as an example).

9. OER - Open Educational Resources. Carolyn Holcroft led a [presentation](#) on the rationale for why we're looking at increasing utilization of OER right now, including: Costs of education, OERS are in the strategic vision and equity plan, Growing numbers of colleges are using higher quality OERs, Advisory council wants a check in on OER and textbook costs. Faculty filled out a survey regarding their feelings towards OER. On the first question, 36% of faculty feel that educational materials (books) are too costly, and 64% think the educational materials are priced about right. Some faculty are using open source materials, others have made their own material. Some faculty are using free readers, OpenStax (open source non-profit and LMS), and some use a subscription content site. Most faculty are somewhat aware of OERS, a good fraction, perhaps a third, are very aware. If faculty want to move towards adoption of open source material, there are professional development and other support for that effort.

The survey also asked about barriers faculty are facing who want to reduce textbook costs: Some programs require a particular textbook for accreditation. Some faculty fear a poor evaluation (probationary or student?), or losing respect among colleagues. Many faculty stated that OER for their discipline is limited, some faculty said the OER didn't cover the material as well. Free is inferior, good is expensive. Comments about how OER fits into specialized courses, and some classes that value having OERs.

Question for Academic Senate - where do we put our energies? Professional Development is obvious, or we could think about a resolution in support of OER, or a position paper, or...??

Carolyn commented that there is an intersection between equity and OER, that is actually pretty significant.

10. Technology prioritization rubric. Kerri Ryer presented very briefly a [rubric](#) designed to support the prioritization of the purchase and institutional support of education technology tools (e.g. Pronto, Voicethread, Proctorio, etc.). This rubric was approved by COOL, and is now coming to Academic Senate for broader support. A question was asked about how this tool would be used, e.g. is it used to reach a “yes/no” about purchase/support (is a specific “grade” needed to move forward), or is it to be used to rank tools in an effort to make decisions about which tools get funded “first?” Kerri wasn’t sure and said she would get back to us at the next meeting/2nd read. We’ll bring back at the March 15th for further discussion/approval.

11. Student & Faculty Support Center Assessment. AVPI Kurt Hueg presented work being done by the deans group to assess the SFSC. Kurt talked about identifying the pain points in the current “Hub” system, and gathering input / feedback from faculty as well as classified staff who work in scheduling. There is also great concern about division offices which have been left unstaffed, with little (no) support. Faculty need access to those physical resources. Many faculty haven’t gone to the hub, and don’t know what to do there, or how to channel a student into the hub, or when the hub is open (etc.) There has been a request from faculty to keep the division offices alive, as these are also centers of engagement, and faculty identity. A question was asked if how PT faculty and student input is being collected. Teresa Ong mentioned a survey going out to students who have used the hub, but this does not take into account those who are not aware of the hub. The assessment and deans proposal will next go to Advisory Council.

12. Financial Literacy & Faculty Diversity Ad Hoc Workgroups: We committed to forming two additional workgroups before the end of the quarter to address the student letter demands. The groups should form now, and then conduct assessments of what is already currently happening these areas, meet with the students to learn more about what they are asking for, and come up with recommended action steps for the senate to take (targeting having a “plan” by the end of spring quarter). Kathryn mentioned she needs others to step into the leadership of these two workgroups, as she cannot do it all. Clarification was made that the workgroup leads and members do not need to be members of the Executive Committee, so senators should announce broadly.

13. Cormia announced cybersecurity training, Abi made an announcement about student events with low student participation, and asked faculty for help promoting the events.

14. Meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m. The next meeting is March 1 from 2-4 p.m.