

ACADEMIC SENATE
February 3, 2010, 3:30 P.M.
COLLINS CONFERENCE CENTER

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

PRESENT: John Gerhold (EB); Tom Moran (EB); Natalie Bursztyn (EB); Nick Strobel (EB); Rachel Vickrey; (EB); Karen Kettner (EB); Adel Shafik; Ann Tatum; Bill Moseley; Christian Zoller; Diana Jackson; John Menzies; Kathy Rosellini; Klint Rigby; Luis Guajardo; Nancy Guidry; Richard Marquez; Bill Kelly; Jeannie Parent; Kimberly Hurd; Marsha Eggman; Debbie Kennedy; Skip Hill; Terry Meier; Michael Korcok; Maria Perrone; Jason Stratton; Moya Arthur; Reggie Bolton

ABSENT: Diana Kelly (EB); Michael McNellis (EB); Susan McQuerrey (EB); Corny Rodriguez (EB); Kimberly Chin; Gayla Anderson; Kris Toler

GUESTS: Tom Greenwood, Peggy DeStefano, Rick Brantley

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:37 pm

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes with corrections to the attendance. M/S/C: Stratton/Moran

REPORTS

President's Report (Gerhold)

Dr. Chamberlain sent an email indicating that the mid-term report to the Accreditation Commission has been approved. The letter from ASJCC will be made available in the Library and John will also send out to the Senate. The next cycle will begin with our self-study in 2012.

The Ad-hoc budget group continues to meet and members have been pressing the president to disclose the college's plan that includes three scenarios with 5%, 10% and 15% reductions, and was sent forward to the Chancellor in January. Reductions could include program eliminations but the specifics have not been shared. Some reduction notices have been given to faculty and others should be received by the end of February. It is expected that the faculty obligation number (FON) will not be affected due to a shift of faculty positions. Faculty do have bumping rights and if an elimination takes place at one college then the same department at other colleges will be reduced to the full-time load only. The budget group will provide advice on how to develop a budget process for the college as one does not exist at this time. Budget process is a 10+1 area and it was under those auspices that the Senate approved the ad-hoc group. Senate should take the lead on this project.

Consultation Council met on January 26, 2010 and most of that meeting was spent discussing Board Policy revisions. Sections 4D2 and 4B were already voted on by the Senate and forwarded to Doris Givens, but were presented to DCC without the Senate recommendations included.

The Board of Trustees will have a work study session on curriculum this Friday, February 5. The presentation was composed without any faculty input. John has asked about the lack of faculty involvement. Chancellor Serrano and Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg have both asked that faculty attend the Board meeting and be prepared to answer questions.

Luminis implementation has been stalled due to a lack of in-house expertise. The money budgeted for the project leader has not yet been used, but if the project is not implemented by June 30, 2010, the district will lose the available financing.

The Decision Making Task Force (DMTF) has produced several documents outlining how Bakersfield College makes decisions. The group expects to have a final product to share with the campus community in the near future.

College Council meets Friday, February 5, 2010 and will include more program review presentations. It is not clear what happens with the recommendations, but the college president has been asked to provide yes or no responses to the department's plan requests.

Co-Chair Reports

Curriculum and ISIT reports are available in public folders.

Correspondence

Natalie Bursztyn reported that a Get Well card was sent to Jan Stuebbe.

CCA Report

Negotiators met with the Vice Chancellor of Human Resources on February 5 to find out what they could about faculty RIFs. The discussion did include things like retirement incentives, retraining and voluntary transfers with the intent to retain all faculty. Further discussions were also held with Dr. Chamberlain earlier on February 10. Kathy Rosellini expressed the need for faculty involvement and willingness to serve as Executive Board officers.

Student Representative

Assna Ali reported that the Ask Me tables that were set up the first week of school to give students directions and answer general questions were helpful to many students. SGA has started a food bank for students. Food bags will be given out periodically but monetary and non-perishable item donations are welcome anytime. Faculty and staff are asked to direct students in need to the SGA office to fill out the application to receive food. Bill Kelly offered to donate the oranges from the Agriculture Department that are not sold.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE SENATE

There were no requests to address the Senate.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA *(must be added with a 2/3 vote of members present)*

There were no additions to the agenda.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made to approve the committee recommendation as presented. M/S/C: Burstyn/Moran
Billie Jo Rice, Curriculum

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board Policy Revisions

John Gerhold asked for volunteers to lead a review of each section.

3A1, Fiscal	Tom Moran
3C1, Meals and In-State Travel Allowance for Students	Reggie Bolton
4A6 and 7, Admission to Impacted Programs	Debby Kennedy
4B1I, Academic Calendar	Executive Board
4C4C, Academic Regulations	Luis Guajardo
4C4D, Course Repetition	Richard Marquez
10C, Confidential & Management Compensation	Natalie Bursztyn
11B4, Designation of Emeritus Status	Jeannie Parent
11F, Whistleblower Protection	Christian Zoller

Time Block Resolution

Tom Greenwood distributed the current time block schedule. Discussion centered on the reasons why the Math Department needs flexibility. Tom explained that the flexibility would give faculty an opportunity for better office hours, allow more flexibility for students who cannot make 8:00 a.m. but could make 8:15 a.m. due to public school schedules and allow for a more widely distributed flow of students across the day. Final exams would still fall within the current schedule and there did not appear to be any unintended consequences of allowing this flexibility. Student representative, Assna Ali, commented that the later start time in the morning would be beneficial to many students.

A motion was made to accept the time block proposal. M/S/C: Kelly/Bursztyn. The motion carried unanimously. The information will be forwarded to Dr. Chamberlain and Tom Greenwood was asked to move forward with the creation of the ad-hoc committee to investigate time block usage at other community colleges.

The final resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, there has been a lack of flexibility with the scheduling of four and five-unit classes (For example, a class has to start exactly at 8:00 a.m. and cannot start at 8:10 a.m.).

Whereas, students and faculty do not have as many day options. There is one less day block for each of the four and five-unit classes. Some students and faculty have difficulties with 8:00 a.m. classes when children have to be dropped off and cannot arrive on time to campus. Thus, eliminating an additional day block for that population.

Whereas, there is a great deal of passing time for the four and five-unit classes. For a four-unit class, the passing time is 20 minutes and for a five-unit class, it is 25 minutes which is not enough time to have a faculty office hour due to limited time and possibly not meeting the students' needs if there are multiple students wanting to visit in that short period.

Whereas, office hours get pushed later into the afternoons especially for faculty that teach consecutive classes; therefore, fewer students visit because they usually have work or other obligations in the afternoons.

Be it resolved, the Academic Senate of Bakersfield College requests that four and five-unit classes work within the current blocks, but with the option of not starting at the common start time and that the time block would end no later than 10 minutes before the starting time of the next block and therefore not conflict with other classes on campus (Example: a five-unit class that has a common start time of 8:00 a.m., could start as late as 8:15 am and finish at 9:25 a.m., giving 10 minutes of passing time for the 9:35 a.m. block); and

Be it resolved, the Academic Senate of Bakersfield College seek a long-term solution and create an ad-hoc committee to investigate time blocks at other colleges that are similar in size and demographics. The committee would work with administration to find a schedule that best meets the needs of both students and faculty.

NEW BUSINESS

Academic Senate Election Timelines

It is unclear whether the Curriculum co-chair will continue to have reassigned time as Dr. Chamberlain has mentioned reducing the total reassigned time allotment to the Senate. It is reasonable to have a clear picture of what the responsibility will entail; John Gerhold will ask the president for more concrete information. A motion was made to accept the election timelines as presented. M/S/C: Rosellini/Moran

State Curriculum Impacts

State Chancellor, Jack Scott, distributed a letter regarding avocational, recreational, and personal development courses as they relate to the mission of the California Community Colleges. The mission focus right now is on Transfer, Basic Skills and Career and Technical Education (CTE). There seems to a softening of AAs in majors in favor of General Education courses and any transferable course that is not part of an approved program. It could be that the perception is that fewer options costs less.

The Academic Senate should be concerned about decisions related to curriculum being removed from the hands of faculty. The Vice-Chancellor providing training to the Board of Trustees about the curriculum needs and process without faculty input is a problem. The Chancellor is aware of the lack of faculty involvement and did not take any corrective action other than to suggest faculty should work with the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Faculty, particularly those in departments that would be considered avocational, are encouraged to attend the Board meeting to protect the faculty role in the curriculum process.

District Budget Priorities

Discussion focused on the intent to hire additional administrative positions. Given that some departments have seen sections reduced as much as 49%, such as Agriculture, it is questionable if now is the right time to allocate resources to additional administrative positions. The money allocated to hire the Associate Chancellor of Communication and Governmental Relations could allow for many of the eliminated sections to be restored. Senators questioned the ethics of turning away students while hiring additional administrators.

It was decided to craft a resolution with the concerns expressed by the Senate that would include a recommendation to suspend the hiring of additional administrative positions. A motion was made to approve this general framework of the resolution and that the final resolution would be presented at the Board of Trustees meeting. M/S/C: Moran/Bursztyn. Bill Kelly, Peggy DeStefano, Bill Moseley, Tom Moran and John Gerhold will finalized the resolution and distributed to the Senate when complete.

SENATE GOAL REPORTS

There were no updates provided on the Senate Goals.

GOOD AND WELFARE AND CONCERNS

ADJOURNMENT at 5:00