

Berkeley City College - Academic Senate Meeting - 8-31-2011 12:10 pm in 451B

Present:

Pieter de Haan, Chuck Wollenberg, Jenny Lowood, Siraj Omar, Hannah Chauvet, Barbara Des Rochers, Juana Alicia Araiza, Vladeta Djukich, Cleavon Smith

Guest: Krista Johns, VP of Instruction

- 1.) Call to order
- 2.) High School Connection explained by Krista Johns
- 3.) Class Sizes
- 4.) Security
- 5.) Assessment
- 6.) Leadership Council
- 7.) Other
- 8.) Adjournment

2.) Problem: There have been connections made with High Schools by the Administration without consulting the Departments. We get calls from High School Principals asking can you send someone to teach this class.

The Social Sciences Department had an absolute failure in trying to teach History classes at the High Schools. Sometimes the classes were taught without the Department's knowledge. The Social Sciences department voted to teach College Level classes here at BCC instead of trying to teach College level classes at a HS.

The Science Department was called by the Principal of a local HS and told that an Ecology Course had been taught in 2009. The department did not know about this.

Physics 10 was taught at Emery High School and there were several problems:

“The High School students were completely ill-prepared for a college level physics course, both in background and in learning skills/motivation. Note taking skills are almost entirely absent. More than half these students failed for the course and the fail will stay with them on their records. This course was compromised significantly, in terms of expectations and curriculum, that whether one could even consider it AP worthy let alone College level worthy.”

The English Department taught English 1A class in the HS. The HS insisted their students were ready, but they were not. It was a complete disaster for the instructor who bonded with these well-behaved students who just didn't have the skills required. The department decided not to teach 1A at the High Schools anymore, however they will teach English 201, the precursor to 1A, and we will give a test to students so that if they do well on the test they might get credit for 1A.

The CIS Department decided against participating because of the classroom safety issues.

Multi Media Department had a short-lived experience teaching at an Aspire High School. There were 2 classes, one with 37 students and one with 35 and a total of 5 computers. The decision to quit was based not just on how difficult it was, but on how horrible it was for the students ... the students were being turned off to Multimedia.

Krista Johns, BCC Vice President of Instruction, has been invited to explain the status of our connections with High Schools.

According to VP Johns, Community colleges are encouraged to let High School Students be enrolled concurrently in Community College and High School courses, which is supported by the State Chancellor's Office, the Gates and Oprah Winfrey Foundations. This means that students will earn an AA degree at the same time they finish High School.

BCC offered a contract-education arrangement to the High Schools, not to make a lot of money, just to make sure that the expenses are actually covered, time and benefits for the instructors, and processing costs. Last year we added two costs, office hours and \$500 to go to the department for additional costs.

In the past, some contract-education classes had been scheduled without going through the accepted protocol for scheduling classes with the Departments first before going to Instruction.

To prevent this from happening again, a simple one page form was instituted that required the Department to sign off FIRST on all contract-education courses being offered at High Schools. This is the process that has been followed and it seems to work pretty well.

Participation of High Schools in contract-education may drop off as a result of the higher fees now instituted. Although the HS pays the cost of instruction, that instructor is teaching a BCC class and it counts toward their load. This allows for flexibility in pedagogy, although our standards are not compromised.

In the Department Chair group, we are trying to develop a series of classes that would be appropriate for delivery to High Schools and also for delivery Online. We need to look at what kind of material new college students would be able to handle. Sometimes it is hit or miss - we want to try it and if it doesn't work, then we don't offer it at that school or at any High School. That decision process must occur at the departmental level.

After Krista's statement, a discussion started.

In summary: Based on experience, several Departments decided that College level courses have no place in the HS. Instead if students are interested, they can take the course at BCC instead. Krista made it clear that a class taught at the High Schools does not count in the department's allotment but it does count as load for the instructor.

The questions we should ask ourselves, do we have the pedagogical background to teach at High Schools.

We as Academic Senate want a definitive statement from the administration about discipline and liability, if we send our people there. If the class carries the name BCC, then it is our administration we fall under. Our faculty works under a relationship spelled out in the Catalog, in Board policies and in agreements with the PFT. Before we consider teaching in High Schools, the faculty needs to be protected from physical danger, certainly other types of stress, as well as the liability that might be incurred by them.

DAS (District Academic Senate)

We do not have enough representatives at the District Academic Senate because Stephanie Sanders-Badt cannot attend these meetings.

We will table the Security and Assessment issues for next time

Meeting adjourned