

Minutes of Academic Senate Meeting - 9/28/2011 12:10 PM in 451B

Present:

Pieter de Haan, Hannah Chauvet, Siraj Omar, Jenny Lowood, Juana Alicia Araiza, Barbara Des Rochers, Katherine Kocel, Val Djukich, Chuck Wollenberg

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes was unanimous
3. Pieter announced the recruitment of our third representative from the BCC-AS to the DAS meeting. Her name is Mariella Thaning.
4. Smart classrooms and security - both those issues were discussed at the last DAS meetings and a motion passed by the College of Alameda was also presented.
5. Barbara and Jenny both teach in smart classrooms and the AV equipment and/or document capture unit do not always work. Both felt that at this point in their current level of implementation some of the smart classrooms impede rather than promote student learning.
6. We felt that there was not enough shared governance involved in the planning of the smart classrooms - "...where was the thinking..."
7. Val said that BCC got smart classrooms as part of the new building. Why is this issue coming up here?
8. Pieter and Katherine are both on the Facilities Committee and Pieter is co-chair - who does the faculty turn to about smart classroom problems - Barbara has sent letters to Krista about the mysterious, loud black boxes that suddenly appeared in the Biology Labs but as received no answers.
9. Pieter elucidated the Grade Roster question - grade rosters can be submitted both online and in paper form (the paper form is required because it is signed and stands as a legal document).
10. Pieter asked if someone can regularly attend the Leadership Council from 9:30-11:30 AM for Fall and Spring - Jenny volunteered and was unanimously appointed.
11. Some questions were brought forward that might be asked of Ron Gerhard, who is scheduled to attend the next Round Table meeting:
Why is the District portion of the budget increased when the budgets for each of the four colleges are decreased?
What role does OPEB and its 4-8 million dollars in debt service play in this?
Why does our budget NOT reflect the main priority of the district which is to teach students? It was suggested that social networking be used to join other colleges in the battle against the cuts. Chuck said that we need to take a stand against instructional cuts because it is likely that the district may cut 600 classes next semester.
12. Val stated that the PFT PAC has so far been ineffective in getting the Board of Trustees to change things; the PFT may not want to rock the boat because contract negotiations are coming up and of course we want to keep what we have.

13. An emergency meeting of the BCC-AS was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, Oct. 5, to discuss and frame questions for Ron Gerhard.
14. The FTES targets for spring 2012, the dwindling DSPS budget and the Assessment was tabled until the next meeting on 10/12/2011
15. Adjournment