

12/09/2009 Academic Senate Meeting

Present:

Kathryn Kocel, Val Djukich, Joseph Bielanski, Jenny Lowod, Barbara des Rochers, Chuck Wollenberg, Marty de Souto, Siraj Omar, Cleavon Smith, Pieter de Haan, Hannah Chauvet, Stephanie Sanders-Badt.

Agenda:

- 1.) Cleavon reports on Basic Skills Initiative
- 2.) Hannah reports on GAF meeting
- 3.) Noise in Atrium
- 4.) PFT Petition
- 5.) Student Resolution Letter from John Drinnon
- 6.) 2020 Vision
- 7.) Instructional Aide Discussion

1.) Basic Skills Initiative (BSI):

Memo details were we started; meetings that we have had over over the past couple of weeks; where we are now; our deadline is December. We want to give services to 200 students in the high risk classes that we have identified (Math 250, 253 and English 269). In the advisory program, instructors will help students throughout the semester keep up with the classes that have the highest attrition rate and will help with early enrollment. We're working with the ASBCC on a catalog of students services on as well as off campus and to be more direct with referrals to help students navigate the bureaucracy.

Cleavon will reduce his load so that he remains as coordinator of basic skills but the control over BSI has been decentralized into a committee.

Q - Who is on the BSI committee?

A- Chris Lebo-Planas from English, Paula Coil Transfer Center Director, Ayela Lemma from EOPS, Gabe Water from ESL, Dimitri Zhiv and Deborah Hubert a student who started in BSI and is now in transfer classes, and Cleavon.

Q - How was this committee created?

A - 25 people were attending meetings and the above were proposed and voted on by the 25.

Q - How does the committee fit in with Title III initiative?

A - There is some overlap but some of the actions are different; we are collaborating on the Summer Bridge Program.

Q - How much release time are you getting?

A - Cleavon is getting 50 % release time.

Q - Is anyone else getting release time for the BSI?

A - The other members of the committee are getting 6 hours per month release time.

Q - How is it funded? and How are the funds used?

A - It's funded by state, a total of \$90,000 is spent on the activities of the committee; Spring orientation; focus groups; filming of focus groups; PACE instructional aides in Math and English.

Q - Will you have an accounting of the money?

A - Yes there will be a full accounting.

2.) Group of Advising Faculty (GAF) Meeting Report:

- a.) Report on budget - Vice-Chancellor Smith reported that the portfolio was not as depleted as was originally thought because of retirements; difficult times predicted for next 4-5 years; fees may go up to \$50/unit with fees being lower for students who take 10 or more units down to 30-35/units. There was debate about whether the Student Catalogue was a binding contract between the Colleges and the Students.
- b.) Report on Accreditation Update by Debbie Budd - some issues needed to be attended to; one was the security of the Passport System; none of the issues were addressed in detail
- c.) Report on Measure A - Vice Chancellor Ikharo mentioned that the district was considering training their own Police force; 32 officers would cost about \$2.7 million/ year.
- d.) Chancellor mentioned that LA district was starting to organize a 4 year program with 3 years taught at Community Colleges and the last year at universities like Phoenix or National. He mentioned that this might be an option.
- e.) Other means of revenue were mentioned; a bond measure and a parcel tax were proposed for the next ballot.

Q - What is GAF?

A - A group that meets with Chancellor from PFT and from DAS once monthly. Mostly discussion - not much action.

Q - How does GAF figure into the PBIM/SST governance?

3.) Noise in Atrium

Discussion: Instructors teaching in the classrooms on the ground floor are often disturbed by students in the Atrium making noise, talking and yelling. The 5th floor lounge is being used by students as a place to study and there is no other place for students to congregate and have social discourse.

Library is too small for use as a study area; perhaps tables could be set up in the Atrium so that that it could be used as a study area; then 5th floor could indeed be used as a real lounge; perhaps we could put up signs asking for people to be quiet and respectful while classes are going on. We have one big building and the Atrium seems a natural place for students to hang out.

The space committee is looking into this and will address it. Perhaps we can put up some signs during the rest of the term particularly during finals week.

Action: Pieter will talk to May Chen about "Quiet" signs for Finals Week.

4.) PFT Petition

Discussion: DAS didn't like the resolution to freeze hiring of ALL consultants; they felt that consultant grant writers might be desirable. So DAS didn't endorse the resolution. The discussion will be continued next Tuesday at the next DAS meeting.

5.) Resolution from Reid E. Milburn State Student Senate President in Sacramento (e-mail from Jon Drinnon) - incorporating Civic Engagement in Curriculum.

Discussion: we already have some activity occurring that is consistent with this idea; we are investigating different organizations such as Cal Serve and talking to UC Berkeley to find volunteering opportunities that also will afford students significant learning

activities. It was suggested that civic engagement should also include that students have the opportunity to learn their rights and responsibilities in any interactions with various legal and judicial authorities.

Chuck moved that we support this resolution. Jenny seconded this.

Q - What was the intent of this resolution?

A - This resolution is a recommendation to think about incorporating this kind of civic engagement if you aren't doing it already. Service learning can raise student interest in writing classes; if this resolution would set up a process to facilitate it, it would be welcome; civic engagement may not be appropriate for all classes; we should go to the curriculum committee and set up guidelines for this. Setting up a database of curriculum links to help with this would be great.

Vote: BCC-AS voted unanimously to approve resolution.

6.) Union is looking at:

Lecture classes of 40 or over will have a TA

Lab classes of 30 or over will have a TA

Discussion: The situation is much more complex than mere numbers of students.

Flexibility may be required; we are very concerned about the rigidity of these set numbers because the kind of class activities(English Seminar versus Chemistry Lab) should dictate the number of TA's rather than the absolute number of students.

7.) 2020 Vision - you can see the document at berkeleyalliance.org. The Berkeley Alliance is composed of the City, the High School, the parents of HS students, our president Betty Inclan. This came from attempt to reduce the achievement gap between ethnic groups in Berkeley; often college towns have a high poverty level. Berkeley High scored second lowest of all HSs in Alameda County. Let's discuss this next year.