

Area B and Resolutions of No Confidence

Jennifer Carlin-Goldberg and I attended the Area B meeting on Friday, October 12. ASCCC president John Stankas was in attendance. After John's president's report and the usual business of reviewing the resolutions process and reading through the resolutions packet, there was a discussion about a statewide resolution of no confidence in the chancellor. San Diego had sent one around the day before this meeting which we discussed. I also brought our resolution and talked about the one we adopted regarding our administration last April and its affects. The body was divided about the idea, with strong opinions on both sides. Some expressed feeling "blind sided" in spite of the fact, as John Stankas pointed out, this discussion has been going on for a full year among academic senates throughout the state. John himself (this is my read), feels the chancellor needs to receive communication from the body that his collegial consultation with faculty and respect for academic senate purview has been woefully inadequate, though it has improved somewhat lately. John's concern is that whatever form that communication takes, it should 1) clearly express the displeasure faculty feel, 2) should acknowledge improvements, 3) should emphasize the prospect of, and encourage continued improvements rather than render a final definitive judgment.

It was clear that Area B is divided and not ready to bring a resolution of its own, and as of this writing, I do not yet know whether Area D has decided to bring San Diego's resolution.

Bylaws Changes

There are several problems with our current Bylaws, and some touch our Constitution as well. We will be bringing them piece by piece. Today we will discuss two: Adjustments in the order of our meetings and a provision for allowing adjuncts to serve as executive officers.

There are two distinct issues regarding adjunct faculty participation. One is, whether to allow adjunct faculty to be nominated and elected to the offices of Vice President and Secretary. This is a question for this body to decide. If the answer is yes, we have proposed amendments to the Bylaws that are meant to solve some of the problems already identified with adjuncts so serving, problems mostly having to do with adjunct faculty's relative vulnerability.

Note that the exclusion of adjunct faculty on the Senate Executive Committee is a tradition, a past practice (with a lot of good reasons for it, especially the issue of succession, as well as the aforementioned vulnerability), but it is not prohibited by any statement in Bylaws, Constitution, Contract or Policy. We do not need to change Bylaws in order to accept and vote on adjunct candidates.

A second issue is, either instead of, or in addition to allowing adjunct faculty to serve in those offices, on the table for discussion will be the creation of an additional adjunct faculty seat on the Senate Executive Committee.

We have a sub-committee to amend the Bylaws and constitution: Nora Wheeler, Jennifer Carlin-Goldberg and Nancy Persons. We also have a related sub-committee to study and recommend changes in representation areas of the senate. This is a good time to look at especially how adjunct faculty are represented. It is also high time to solve a contradiction in the Constitution which states that the senate is composed of 26 senators from at least 14 representative areas. We actually have 13 areas, 11 based on clustering disciplines and departments, and 2 comprising all adjuncts. So we need to either reduce the 14 to 13, or increase the 26 to 28 in order for the math to work. In the process, we need to rethink the organization. Question: should there be more connection between adjunct senators' own discipline and the faculty they represent? Question: Should KAD and Health sciences go together? Etc.

We have a sub-committee to bring recommendations to us to discuss and vote on. So far we have Jesse Kosten and Paulette Bell. We need at least one more to serve in this and it should be a full time faculty from the liberal arts and sciences.

Elections

Whatever we decide in the next couple of meetings about adjunct positions on the Exec, we now have an MOU, and available Reassigned Time (RAT) commencing in the Spring Semester. Adjunct faculty serving is new territory for this senate. But full-time faculty have established practice but in a new age of transparency.

Please consider nominating yourself or someone else to serve on the Senate Executive Committee (hereafter, EXEC). If the officers are full time, there will be reassigned time. The amount of reassigned time and the workload involved is negotiable.

Normally, the EXEC members meet once to prepare for each senate meeting. So, for example, September to December there are normally (excluding special meetings) 7 senate meetings. The EXEC would usually meet 7 additional times. Approximately the same goes for the spring semester. The EXEC meets to form the agenda and to advise the president on senate decisions. When the EXEC is in place, the work of leadership assigned to the Academic Senate President is collective, and the EXEC plays an important role in that work.

In addition, there are seats on newly formed bodies such as PCC and FLC (President's Consultation Council and Faculty Leadership Council, respectively). The Senate Vice president would likely serve on one of those bodies which means up to two more meetings per month.

The EXEC meets at the end of the year for one or two marathon meetings to assign all faculty to committees. That is a deliberative, collaborative work of the EXEC.

EXEC members also may be assigned to chair certain committees. In some colleges in the system, for example, the Senate Vice President is the Curriculum Co-Chair by position and gets 40% RAT. We don't do that here, but we could.

When asking for negotiated, established, contractual reassigned time, I asked for a lump sum: 80%. The reason is to give the EXEC the flexibility to work with faculty schedules and make the RAT fit the workload. So,

Why Sign On?

The EXEC: Join the team! Be part of the leadership of this college and make a difference. Make your voice heard and your influence felt! Be part of the inner workings of decision making, on the front row of the institution. It is the best way to ensure that your discipline and your professional perspective participates and contributes to what goes on.

Work Load?

Count on probably five or six additional meetings per month, and more committee homework for, depending on what exactly you have time for and what you are assigned, anywhere from 10-40% Reassigned Time.

Think on't.

Thank you,

Eric