



ACADEMIC SENATE

The primary voice of the faculty in academic and professional matters at Santa Rosa Junior College.

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 15, 2017

TIME: 3:15 p.m.

LOCATION: Petaluma Campus
Mahoney 721

VIDEO CONF: None

PRESENT: L. Aspinall, S. Avasthi, P. Bell, J. Carlin-Goldberg, T. Ehret, R. Fautley, T. Jacobson, T. Johnson, D. Kirklin, M. Ludder, C. McClure, N. Mulkovich, L. Nahas, N. Persons, S. Rosen, E. Thompson, N. Wheeler

ABSENT: A. Bogomolny, S. Diaz, A. Forrester, A. Graziani, A. Hsieh, G. Navarro, C. Norton, F. Pugh, R. Romagnoli, M. Starkey, L. Williams

GUESTS: F. Chong, J. Saldaña-Talley, V. Hamilton, S. Sydney, G. George, M. Hughes Markovics

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President E. Thompson.

OPEN FORUM:

1. S. Rosen thanked all of the Senators who made the trip to Petaluma but expressed disappointment in the overall lack of attendance. It was noted that many Senators teach until 3:00 or right at 5:00 and so are unable to attend but that it would be nice to see more Senators make the effort. It was suggested that video conferencing be offered in the future for those Senators who legitimately cannot make the trip to Petaluma.

MINUTES: March 1, 2017 – R. Fautley requested clarification of the District Online Report regarding 100% online degrees and whether that also applied to certificates. P. Usina was contacted for more information.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

REPORTS:

1. President's Report – E. Thompson

- **Faculty in Shared Governance** – Since the Faculty Forum, additional faculty positions have been added to the Student Information Systems (SIS) Request for Proposal (RFP) Steering Committee and to the Student Success and Equity Committee, which recently merged with the Basic Skills Committee. Filomena Avila was appointed to the SIS RFP Steering Committee. Additional faculty volunteers will be needed for the Class Size MOU, and to work on the Disciplines/Course Outline of Record (COR) and Equivalency issues. Contact E. Thompson or J. Melvin if you are interested.
- **Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Regional Minimum Qualifications and Equivalency Workshop** – Equivalency issues affect areas including Career Technology Education (CTE), hiring faculty, and appointing faculty to classes. Often the state equivalency requirements are not in tune with industry, making the application of those requirements difficult. Additionally, SRJC may be out of compliance based on false ideas regarding equivalency in some disciplines. The senate will take on the task of determining if there are any faculty currently teaching who do not meet minimum qualifications and what needs to be done to rectify that.
- **ASCCC Area B Meeting** – This meeting will be held on Friday, March 24 at Chabot College. N. Persons, E. Thompson, R. Fautley, and J. Carlin-Goldberg are attending. E. Thompson is serving as the area representative on the Resolutions Committee.
- **ASCCC Spring Plenary** – This meeting will be held on April 20-22. The senate plans on using funding from Petaluma, CTE, and SSSP, in addition to senate funds to send up to five SRJC



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representatives. The resolution packet for this meeting has been posted to the Academic Senate website and resolutions of interest were included in the president's report.

- **New Faculty Mentorship and Soupfest** – Soupfest at Safari West is a required activity for all new faculty mentors. Please be sure to RSVP to Nancy Persons.

2. Petaluma Faculty Forum (PFF) –V. Hamilton

- **The Friends of Petaluma Trust** awards funds in the amount of \$250 for up to four Petaluma faculty members to use for professional development. This year the amount of funding has doubled, enabling them to fund additional faculty or increase the amount of funding per person. It was noted that these funds are available to all faculty, including adjuncts. Applications will be accepted through Friday, March 17.
- **PFF Steering Committee Elections** will take place in April. V. Hamilton's term as chair is up and they are accepting nominations. The new chair's term would be from 2017-2019. The PFF has discussed having a chair-elect in addition to a past-chair, in order to facilitate recruitment, but that would not be put into effect until the next election cycle.
- **PFF Structural Adjustments** – Due to challenges with attendance at the first meeting the PFF has decided to drop it and use their retreat as their kickoff meeting. This is still in compliance with the bylaws which mandate 4 meetings per year.
- **Recent meeting discussions** include: District update from F. Chong, Academic Senate update from E. Thompson, Canvas creativity and improvements, posture activities with Andrea Thomas, Academic Senate goals, and supporting our students.
- **Transfer Track Courses** currently make up approximately 8% of the courses on the Petaluma campus and offerings have been increasing every semester. E. Thompson will ask C. Williams to present more information regarding transfer track courses to the senate.

ACTION: None

CONSENT: None

DISCUSSION:

1. Faculty Forum Debriefing – Senate Exec. The forum was attended by approximately 70 people on the Santa Rosa campus and 8-10 on the Petaluma campus. Themes that emerged included: the illusion of inclusion, related to faculty feeling that although inclusion is advertised faculty input is not actually utilized; faculty hiring, related to faculty having more involvement in and ownership of the hiring process; the corporate model, related to higher education being legislated and administrated like a for-profit corporate enterprise as opposed to a public good; and faculty voice and power, related to faculty standing together as a united body and increasing faculty participation in shared governance. Specific suggestions included: a resolution of no confidence in the Measure H process and possibly others; a PDA Day slot for more faculty forums; and publications such as AFA Dialogue and Close to Home in the Press Democrat. Other specific things mentioned included: the complexity of department chairs being in a position of authority over colleagues, lab/lecture equity, and the pressure to expand online courses versus the vilification of online. It was noted that opinions were not always aligned among the faculty in attendance. Concerns and suggestions voiced by the senate included: the desire for more faculty forums; the idea of the District putting time aside for faculty to



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meet; having more organization around faculty issues; having direct conversations with administration to collaborate on solutions; and finding ways to include more faculty in these meetings so that faculty that teach during the meeting times are not excluded from participation. F. Chong thanked all the faculty who participated and expressed his commitment to the administration working collaboratively and openly with the faculty and to reaching a solution regarding Measure H and the SIS RFP.

- 2. Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Plan** – Senate Exec. The current draft of the EEO Plan was provided to the senators for an informal discussion with EEO committee members G. George and S. Sydney. Concerns and suggestions voiced by the senate included: the distinction between full-time hiring versus classified and adjunct hiring; utilizing supervising administrators as monitors for all hiring; clarification on the statement that the monitor will participate in all aspects of the hiring process; difficulty filling 3 student positions on the Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee (EEOAC); designating an adjunct for the EEOAC; offering diversity training more broadly and not just to members of hiring committees; the vagueness of some of the statements; support for the inclusion of the collection of data related to hiring and exit interviews; the disconnect between how diversity is defined and the information that is being collected; the lack of reliability of voluntary information; and the consequences of overriding preferred qualifications in the name of diversity. This topic will be brought back at the next senate meeting for a more formal vetting with K. Furukawa-Schlereth.
- 3. Changes to the Constitution** – Senate Exec. Based on a straw vote the senate agreed that the proposed changes to the term of the past-president should be opt-out for the second year. Arguments for opt-in included: broadening participation by shortening the time commitment. Arguments for opt-out included: no one choosing to opt-in; and the importance of having a past-president as long as possible due to the steep learning curve. Suggestions proposed by the senate included: having the past-president make the decision in consultation with the executive committee. The proposed language will be brought back at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.