

AS President Report to Senate
April 19, 2023
N. Persons

Information and background in support of AS Urgent Discussion Item regarding consultation with AFA regarding Faculty Self-evaluation

Greetings Senators. On our April 19 agenda you will see an urgent discussion item about establishing an ad hoc liaison group to meet with the All Faculty Association (AFA) executive council to provide Senate input regarding faculty self-evaluations.

The specific purpose of this urgent discussion item is to establish an ad hoc committee to meet in closed session with AFA to provide academic senate input to the position AFA will take when they go into negotiations regarding the option for self-evaluation of faculty. Our parliamentary authority, **Robert's Rules** of Order, Newly Revised (RONR), advises that when moving to establish an ad hoc committee, the body should specify the following:

- How many members the ad hoc group should have
- Determine how members will be selected
- Identify the timeline of the group's existence.

These are the questions senators should address at the April 19th meeting.

Before you consider this item, I would like to provide some background so that you understand the context for this agenda item and the proposed process:

The Academic Senate Exec Committee (ASEC) was approached by the chief negotiator for AFA, K. Frindell Teuscher, who asked the Senate to consider the issue of self-evaluation. K. acknowledges in her request that, by law, our union is required to consult with the Senate on negotiated matters pertaining to evaluations. The union is desirous of obtaining Senate input but is also understandably concerned about disclosing too much information to the District prior to entering confidential negotiations regarding this matter. ASEC is motivated to collaborate effectively with our faculty union partners on this issue.

The AFA wishes to gather input from faculty via a survey, and after some back and forth reviewing Brown Act requirements, I recommended to K. that AFA send the survey to *all* faculty. In addition, the ASEC and I sought a way for the Senate to provide input confidentially to AFA regarding the message the Senate wants to send to them regarding evaluations.

Because the Academic Senate as a body must conform to the Brown Open Meetings Act, we cannot as a full body meet in closed session with the union for this purpose. After consultation with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) and in discussion with ASEC, we propose the following process for proceeding with this collaboration with our union colleagues:

- AFA moves quickly to send a confidential survey regarding faculty disposition on self-evaluation to all faculty (read: not just senators).
- On April 19th, the Senate will designate an ad hoc liaison group to meet in closed session with the AFA executive council per the conditions noted above. Liaison group members will be identified as quickly as possible following the decision made by the Senate at the meeting on the 19th, as they will need to be available on April 26th from 3:00 – 4:00 pm to meet in closed session with the AFA executive council.
- The Academic Senate will hold a Special Meeting at 3:15 on Tuesday, April 25th, at which time the concept of Faculty Self-evaluation will be the sole topic of discussion. It is permissible for the Senate to have its own discussion on the topic, and in this way the liaison group will have a clear direction on the message that should be shared with AFA.
- **We have scheduled this meeting so that chief negotiator K. is able to be present, to help ensure the Senate discussion stays within the purview of the Academic Senate 10+1 and does not stray into the union’s collective bargaining territory.**
- ***It is important to note that to provide direction to the ad hoc group, we need a quorum of Senators at the Special Meeting.***
- AFA’s survey results will be shared with the liaison (ad hoc) group following the Senate’s Special Meeting and prior to meeting with the AFA executive council.
- The ad hoc group will meet with the AFA executive council on April 26th from 3:00-4:00, in closed session, to share input and provide Senate direction.
- The ad hoc liaison group will report back to the Senate at its May 3rd meeting, after clarifying with AFA what details of that session should or should not be discussed.

- Following their report to the Academic Senate on May 3rd, the ad hoc liaison group will have no further purpose and will be dissolved (per the actions of the Senate in establishing the ad hoc group on April 19th).