

Academic Senate President's Report

January 25, 2017

AFA/Senate Dialogue

- To facilitate collaboration better between the Academic Senate and the All Faculty Association, meeting times for the Senate Executive Committee and the AFA Cabinet have been adjusted so that the AFA president and the Senate president can attend each other's meetings.
- Because there has been such a flurry of activity, and many meetings and events on overlapping themes and so little time to prepare, we have changed the All Faculty Forum meeting date to March 10.

Responses to the Presidential Election

- The Academic Senate passed a resolution calling on the District to make SRJC a Sanctuary. The resolution was passed December 7, 2016; the Academic Senate President read it before the Board of Trustees on December 13, 2016.
- In response to resolutions from the Academic Senate, Classified Senate, SEIU, the Student Senate, as well as missives from the Chancellors of all three segments of our system—UC, CSU and CCC—not to mention newly proposed legislation, the Board of Trustees has composed their own resolution which embraces the same idea but uses the phrase “Safe Haven” rather than “Sanctuary.” It will mostly like appear on the February Board Agenda. Watch for it. I think it is quite good.
- **Town Hall.** At the request of Dr. Chong, a group was convened to plan two Town Hall meetings on the model of the one we had on gun violence in response to the Umpqua Community College massacre. The Town Halls will address broadly issues raised by the stated policies of the Trump Administration that affect our students and education more broadly. The first one will be **February 8, 3:00-5:00 pm**. I will be the moderator for the event. There will be a panel of speakers and lots of time for questions, comments and discussion. The speakers are
 - Maria Salcido, Student Government
 - Sean Martin, Faculty
 - Rafael Vasquez, Classified Staff
 - Mariana Martinez, Board of Trustees
 - Lorenzo Duenas, District Police
 - Karen Furukawa-Schlereth, VP Human Resources
 - Richard Coshnear, Immigration Attorney, VIDAS

The Bookstore

- Two companies responded to the RFP to take over the bookstore: Barnes & Noble and Follett

- Open Forums were held for each on Tuesday, January 17. Barnes and Nobel presented their pitch and answered questions from 10:00-12:00; Follett made their case in the afternoon, 1:00-3:00.
- There were, I believe, three faculty members in the room for each: Myself and the two faculty members on the Auxiliary Committee, Margaret Grayson from DRD, and Karen Walker from English.
- I gave requested feedback about the presentations, but I also protested that the timing of the forums was disastrous for faculty: on the first day of classes and during prime time. It really should be the case that more faculty eyes and ears and voices should assess and inform this situation. Although the Follett representatives agreed to be videotaped, and the presentation was made available in that form, Barnes & Noble, following, I understand, corporate policy, would not be videotaped, so only their Power Point slides were available for those not able to attend. Having been there, I contended that Power Point slides are a completely inadequate source for an informed judgement. The responses to questions and dynamic interaction with the presenters was infinitely more valuable. In a conversation with Dr. Chong, he agreed and proposed we bring the two applicants back at a more opportune time for faculty. As of this writing I don't know the result of this suggestion. I'll let you know when I know.

The Promise

- I am participating in the writing of a grant that is ostensibly for a Promise, but is as much or more for a Guided Pathways proposal. Both are involved. This is another example of an important event impacting our institution (possibly \$750,000), that was perfectly timed by the Chancellor's Office to effectively preclude faculty involvement (the RFA was sent out December 2, revised December 16, and due February 3). I am at least able to provide a faculty perspective to the process. The proposal will be done soon, and I will give more detail when it is finished. There will also be a workshop on it on PDA Day.

PDA

If you are still looking for things to do on PDA Day, note that we have follow-up workshops, continuations of ones in August, on teaching passion as enrollment attraction and on the book *Scarcity*; There will also be a discussion on the book *Redesigning America's Community Colleges* which is currently enormously influential in forming educational policy.

Eric Thompson