

**MINUTES
OF THE
ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING**

**HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM
March 4, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Art Flemming, Annaruth Garcia, Marjeritta Phillips, Jerome Evans, Leonard Clark, Shemiram Lazar, Eugene Benson, Michael Odanaka, Chris Halligan, Manzoor Ahmad, Tom Norton, Estina Pratt, Saul Panski , Darwin Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pamella West, Jose Villalobos, Shirley Thomas, Fred Lamm.

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Cox, Barbara Perez, Keith Curry, Fred Sturner

VISITORS PRESENT: Terrance Stewart, Silvia Arroyo

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm, by Estina Pratt

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved. Clark/ Halligan (moved/ seconded).

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the meeting of 12/3/10, which were sent to the members online sometime ago, were ratified. Smith/ Phillips (moved/ seconded).

IV. REPORTS

Administrative Report (Barbara Perez)

Vice President Perez indicated that she had had discussed with Saul Panski and Toni Wasserberger the subject of program review and she understood that the task was difficult in those areas where only one faculty member is teaching the discipline and might be out ill. She said consideration was being given to grouping disciplines, which were not programs and had a limited number of faculty members, into a larger grouping for program review purposes. Physics and Astronomy were cited as two such examples. It might also be possible to group several disciplines with limited offerings together under a "General Education.," with the understanding that as they grow they might become independent for program review purposes.

President's Report

Vice President Pratt indicated that two members of the faculty had submitted formal notification of intent to retire at the end of the academic year: Dr. Hung Wu and Carroll Fisher. She indicated that the Senate would be asked later in the semester to approve a formal resolution commending them for their contributions to the institution. The Federation, she added, would likely also sponsor some sort of faculty get-together to celebrate their retirement and extend the faculty's best wishes to them.

Pratt reminded the members that Divisions and other faculty areas would be asked, in accordance with the Senate Constitution, to select Senators for the 2010-2011 academic year by the end of April, as the new Senate is to be seated at the last meeting in May. She also indicated that an election would need to be held for the two at-large Senate seats currently held by Tom Norton and Jerome Evans, and for the two adjunct faculty Senate seats. At-large Senators, she reminded the group, serve a three year term and our current incumbents are nearing the end of that term.

Faculty Rep to the Board Report

No report.

Consultative Council

No report.

V, DISCUSSION ITEMS

Professor Panski (arriving from a meeting at ECC) turned the podium over to Dr. Cox, Chief Executive Officer, who provided an update on a number of topics:

Public Relations/ Marketing

Dr. Cox discussed the work of marketing consultants who have used focus groups to assess the views of Compton students, non-Compton students, African-American residents of the District, and Hispanic residents of the District, about the Compton. Their findings had been presented to a group of administrators and faculty, who had suggested priorities for improving perceptions of the institution. This includes reinforcing positive impressions and perceptions, as well as addressing negative ones. The Board of Trustees had also just undergone a study session to review these and consider strategies to implement. Perceptions of the partnership, concerns about safety, and knowledge about the campus in various parts of the District were all part of the consultant's findings. Dr. Cox added that part of the problem was the negative perception of Compton in some areas, which attaches itself to the institution.

FCMAT

The CEO indicated that the most recent FCMAT scores were very positive in most areas. While the scores for academic and student affairs were not at the 6.0 required level, they were close, and no area, was rated below 4. He indicated that Vice President Perez would be working to bring the scores up in academic affairs and student affairs, and that everyone would need to do their part to make this happen. He further indicated that it was likely that FCMAT would soon revise its evaluative approach to the institution and will focus more on how we are doing not to meet

minimal standards but as a potential candidate for accreditation, i.e. how well we are complying with the accreditation standards and requirements. This will be a major turning point for us and it will be up to us to decide whether we want to do what is necessary to become a college again, or if we would perpetually remain a Center.

Dr. Cox added that local control would soon be coming back to the District in areas under the purview of the Board under the MOU with El Camino, and stressed to the group that a full Board of Trustees was now seated and functioning. He added that while the Special Trustee is increasingly delegating authority to the Board, it does not mean that we will cease to have a Trustee in place at Compton for some time to come.

Partnership/ Memorandum of Understanding

Dr. Cox indicated that El Camino was developing a timeline for the accreditation of a college at Compton and that a revised Memorandum of Understanding between the two partners was under development.

BRIC-Tap Proposal

The CEO briefly discussed a proposal to help the institution develop a culture of evidence through research and the generation of data. Entitled the “Bridging Research and Information Across Cultures—Technical Assistance Program “ (BRIC-TAP), a number of institutions will receive technical assistance to strengthen their capabilities in key areas. It is our hope that should we become a grantee, we will be able to generate and use data to improve student success and enhance student learning. This grant would become effective in Fall 2010.

Professor Panski added that the Senate Executive Board had endorsed the proposal, which was developed during Winter break and submitted to the funding agency prior to the meeting being held.

Faculty Hiring

Dr. Cox and Vice President Perez discussed the hiring prioritization for 2010-2011, based on the recommendations of the Hiring Prioritization Committee (HPC). Vice President Perez explained why it had been decided to add a Financial Aid Counselor to the hiring list.

New positions would not be added to the list at this time, even to replace retirees. We will instead utilize adjunct faculty for the time being and consider permanent replacements for 2011-2012.

VP Perez also added that we have now reinstated a full-time faculty position in Automotive Technology and that the two Nursing positions being recruited are carry-overs from last year.

New positions, then, will be in Anatomy/Physiology, Kinesiology/PE/Coaching, and Financial Aid Counseling.

Concluding Comments

Dr. Cox stressed that the future of our institution depends on us and part of what we all need to do is ensure that our enrollment continues to increase and that our committees fully function. We must also take whatever steps are necessary to increase the likelihood of student achievement and success and, as leaders, model exemplary behavior and practices.

Discussion

A wide-ranging discussion was then held, with the following among those who made points.

Professor Odanaka commented upon the correlation between access to textbooks and student success. He also reminded those in attendance of a past, prevailing attitude that a student had “the right to fail,” which continues to result in student placement in classes for which they were significantly under-prepared.

Professor Manzoor expressed his unhappiness at how few students had the book in his classes and wanted to know where the problem lay.

Professor Halligan stressed that we must change the prevailing culture and hold students accountable for obtaining textbooks and doing their course work in the prescribed manner.

Professor Smith suggested that we should not always emphasize the negative but point out the things that are good and positive about Compton. He suggested affirmative banners be placed on campus, stressing positive attitudes to achieve student success.

Dean Curry indicated that he would ask the Director of Financial Aid to provide the body with an update on the timeline for the receipt of student financial aid, this in response to comments from faculty who indicated that students were using the non-receipt of aid as a rationale for not purchasing textbooks.

Panski indicated that program reviews due this year were in Dance, ESL, Speech (Communication Studies), Astronomy, and Physics.

Professor Flemming stated that we have made no provision for the expansion of academic programs, especially those which are pre-professional in nature, or for the gradual replacement of our aging and aged instructional faculty.

Professor Maruyama discussed the adopted Core Competencies approved at ECC and our need to measure those competencies. Panski indicated that Professor Subramanian would be addressing that topic at the 3/18/10 Council meeting.

VI. **ACTION ITEMS**

None

VII **ADJOURNMENT.**

Adjournment came at 2:28 pm with Benson, Jerome (moved, seconded)