

FACULTY SENATES COORDINATING COUNCIL
of the Contra Costa Community College District

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FACULTY SENATES COORDINATING COUNCIL

MARCH 11, 2010

MEETING SUMMARY

APPROVED

TIME: 1:30-3:00

LOCATION: CCCConfer

PRESENT: Michael Norris, Laurie Lema, Keith Mikolavich, Richard Akers, Ann Patton

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

Item #	Topic/Activity		Responsible Person(s)	Time Line
1.	APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES	<p>It was MSC to approve the agenda of March 11, 2010 as amended to include a discussion of the Plenary Resolutions. All in favor. Approved.</p> <p>It was MSC to approve the minutes of February 11, 2010. All in favor. Approved.</p>		
2.	PUBLIC COMMENT	None.		
3.	ANNOUNCEMENTS	Lema reported she read an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education about the American Graduation Initiative and learned it is not as certain to be enacted as we were led to believe. She said may legislative representatives are concerned about funding.		
	Student Agreements/Contracts Regarding Class Expectations and Behavior	<p>Norris reported the Chancellor has asked FSCC to write a letter of support to the idea of student Behavior Contracts but he is not sure what is the purpose of the letter.</p> <p>Akers said he thinks the contract idea is reasonable.</p> <p>Lema shared that DVC English Instructor David Vela provides a form to students that they are asked to sign off that they support the expectations of the class. However, he had a student that said it is a contract and he can't be forced to sign to stay in the class. She said the chancellor brought up at consultation and used the word "contract" and the student seized on this term, but the student has since dropped the class.</p> <p>Council discussed the need for contracts to use certain equipment and facilities on campus but agree the Chancellor is overestimating the need. Council also agreed it is not faculty's place to write such a letter and suggested the managers could do it.</p> <p>Mikolavich did concede it could help students make sure they know what they are getting into when they sign up for a particular course but it would policing our own if faculty were to write a letter</p>		

		<p>recommending student behavior contracts.</p> <p>Akers said faculty should support faculty if they choose to have a signature of understanding but it should be separate from their syllabus. He added that many faculty often tell the students the syllabus is a contract so the signature should not be on that page. Norris said he will draft a response to the Chancellor's request that the faculty will pass on writing such a letter.</p>	Norris	
	Transfer Certificates	<p>Akers said he feels like we already have means in place to do this but he is not opposed to redesigning it.</p> <p>Norris clarified that the issue is going through legislation or Title 5 to make any changes.</p> <p>Lema noted that all three senates have agreed this should go through Title 5. Norris said he thinks transfer certificates are meaningless to the student. Akers responded that students that don't finish their transfer degree but complete their bachelors degree, would avoid having to do equivalencies when they go to work in their field.</p> <p>Council agreed they do not feel strongly one way or the other and that if we did not have local requirements there would be no need for transfer certificates.</p>		
	Study Abroad	<p>Council discussed how can more LMC and CCC student could participate in the study abroad program as they have large populations of low income students. Council agreed such things as scholarships, and closer locations could help.</p> <p>Council agreed the load should come out of the college of the participating instructor even though historically the load has been charged to DVC.</p> <p>Council discussed how the consortium fees will be paid under the new budget model as they had previously been paid at the district level.</p> <p>Norris suggested consortium fees should be off the top of the budget before allocation to colleges. Lema added that if this is indeed this a district program, then it should be paid by the district from district or all 3 colleges pay in. Akers agreed it should come off the top.</p> <p>Lema said if a college does not want to participate, they should not have to pay in.</p> <p>Lema said the recent announcement emphasized including a humanities instructor. She questioned who makes the decision about what curriculum is offered in each study abroad cohort.</p> <p>Norris said he will talk with Ilich about what and how he advocates for the program.</p> <p>Council agreed that since applicants cannot be selection committee members, then we only need one committee while we have had two.</p> <p>Lema said to ensure transparency there should be a consultation process for study abroad selection processes. She suggested maybe have the Study Abroad manager on the committee as non-voting. She suggested the Study Abroad manager meet with the committee before meeting with consortium.</p> <p>Norris reminded Council they still have not seen proposal for a process. He said he will check with Ken and Judy for what had previously been proposed but was never forwarded. We still don't have a procedure proposal</p>	Norris	

		<p>Council discussed and agreed there is a need for more support and coordination. Lema suggested a faculty member should get reassign time to be program coordinator. They would help with recruiting and supporting faculty and help the faculty recruit students. She said the study abroad office gives little support and as a result, the participating faculty have to start from scratch since there is no process or support.</p>		
	American Graduation Initiative	<p>Norris told Council he got no response from his managers that were at the district meeting on the American Gradation Initiative. Council agreed they are not clear as to what they are supposed to do at this time regarding this. Council agreed they thought we were supposed to Make efforts locally and bring the colleges together to find any commonalities. Lema added that a common theme could help get the grant but efforts would be adjusted for each college. She also said the legislation needs advocacy to pass.</p>		
	Budget	<p>Council discussed the budget situation and some of the possible implications to the colleges. Akers commented there should be other options before layoffs.</p> <p>Lema reminded Council the Chancellor has said the organization has to be downsized. Akers responded the appearance is that the state would like us to be smaller institutions. Mikolavich said DVC needs to cut \$5.2 million and needs to act quickly.</p> <p>Akers reported the CCC president has said they will have layoffs and they are holding an all-college budget forum.</p> <p>Lema said 90% of our budget is salary so where else can we cut, as we can't cut any more operational funds.</p> <p>Norris said he does not know yet what LMC will do to cut. He did say they still have extra students over their FTEF cap and are concerned they will cut sections that are being funded.</p> <p>Lema said she has heard no one talking about cutting full-time faculty, but whether retirees will be replaced is another story.</p> <p>Norris said LMC is hiring 6 or 7 full-time faculty between this semester and next.</p> <p>Mikolavich questioned how come LMC has money for this when the others colleges don't.</p> <p>Akers said CCC gave up this year's faculty hires.</p> <p>Norris said CCC cut 9.7% of their sections and DVC cut .4 so it does not look like DVC cut many sections. Lema explained DVC sort of staggered the cuts into the summer schedule so not all the cuts show yet. She reminded Council that a 1% cut at DVC is greater than 1% at the other two colleges.</p> <p>Council wondered about the \$14 million in unfunded liabilities for next year and how that would be covered.</p> <p>Council will continue this discussion as more information becomes available.</p>		
	PLENARY RESOLUTIONS	<p>Council discussed some of the proposed Resolutions for the Spring State Academic Senate Plenary session in April.</p> <p>Council agreed to oppose the resolution to expand Community Colleges to allow for the offering 4-year degrees as we cannot afford it and the Legislature is trying to get the same thing as from the CSU and UC cheaper from Community Colleges.</p> <p>Council agreed to oppose the resolution</p> <p>Council agreed to oppose the resolution to make BSI funds a flexible category. They agreed targeted funds need to be protected.</p>		

		<p>Council agreed to oppose the resolution to allow for the use of paraprofessionals as trained counselors. They agreed counselors are considered faculty and need to be fully credentialed.</p> <p>Council agreed to oppose resolution to do a Title 5 rewrite to raise the counseling ratio.</p> <p>Council discussed the resolution that does not allow for an equivalent to the Associate degree other than an Associate degree. They agreed it would take away local control. Lema said she has mixed feelings and would like to discuss it with her Senate.</p>		
7.	ADJOURNMENT	<p>Meeting Adjourned 3:00 Next meeting March 25, 2010.</p>		