Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

October 30th, 2020 (convened at 3:00 pm) in Zoom.

Attendees: Jude Baldwin, David Blink, Natalie Bradley, Liz Carlyle, Neil Carpentier-Alting, Dave Clarke, Hallie Coppi, Andrea Craddock, Marcy Demetro, Katie Elwood, Maria Fernandez, Jenny Heath, Ed Kephart, Michelle Knudsen, Tyler Knudsen, Shirley Louie, Ron Slabbinck, Patrice Thatcher-Stephens, Kirk Thomsen, Mike Tischler, Jayne Turk, Alison Varty, Carly Zeller and part-time faculty representatives Sherry Ackerman and Sarah Kirby. Mark Klever, Kim Peacemaker, Chris Wehman, and Cheryl Coppin also attended the meeting.

A. Public Comments
   1. No public comments were given.

B. Action/Discussion Items
   1. Credit for Prior Learning AP 4235—Much of the language reflects the language from the Chancellor’s Office. President Ron Slabbinck asked for our thoughts and concerns and whether May 1st is a good deadline to submit courses that will be eligible for Credit for Prior Learning (CPL).
      • Maria Fernandez expressed concerns around how CPL will affect faculty workload. In the Administrative Procedure, it states that “Administrators will identify faculty….” There may be a significant amount of work for faculty in some cases, such as assessing a portfolio of work. According to our AP, there is no compensation or ability to refuse. Ron Slabbinck noted that the fee charged to the student may go to the faculty who does the evaluation but this is still unclear.
      • Ron Slabbinck stated that the Portfolio Assessment Process is also complex. In other colleges, FT faculty have been assigned to create a process for all departments to use. Maria Fernandez shared the AP from Shasta College that was more specific and revised recently (Oct 2020) by their Academic Senate. Their process is department-specific and designates who will do the work. She also noted that COS Faculty Association and the District do not have a Collective Bargaining Agreement in place so issues around workload might be problematic unless there are more details in place.
Curriculum Chair Katie Elwood noted that while the language is vague to meet the Chancellor’s Office deadline of Dec 31st, details will be developed in the Spring. In the recent CPL workshops, Kate Mahar and Sunny Greene (Guided Pathways leads for our area) said faculty would only be responsible for their specific classes and counselors and that the transcript evaluator would do the rest of the work. Dave Clarke noted that the policy is okay, but that the procedure needs to be fleshed out. He questioned the language “satisfactory” and asked how we can detail the mechanisms. He also expressed concerns on how we are assessing credit if prior learning is partial and on the deadlines for completing the process.

Ron Slabbinck suggested bringing the AP back to the workgroup to clarify and delineate who is responsible for which tasks and compensation for faculty. Mike Tischler noted that the Board Policy has no mention of Academic Senate, which would be important.

Senate voted to not approve either AP and BP 4235 with one abstention. Mark Klever, Dean of CTE, said he would bring back the concerns to the workgroup. There were questions over whether the Senate’s vote was official or not. Ron Slabbinck noted that we have clarified a direction for the workgroup even if the vote was not official.

C. Adjournment: 3:50 pm