LAS POSITAS COLLEGE ACADEMIC/FACULTY SENATE

Joint Meeting with Curriculum Committee (Regular Meeting)
Room 2490, Building 2400
February 11, 2009, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Fredda Cassidy, Elena Cole, Bob D'Elena, Sudharsan Dwaraknath (ASLPC), Brian Hagopian, Teri Henson, Craig Kutil, Christina Lee, Jane McCoy, Stuart McElderry, Barbara Morrissey, Karin Spirn, Mark Tarte, Sarah Thompson, Barbara Zingg

Absent: Greg Daubenmire (ill), Linda Jarrell

Guests: Curriculum Committee: Christine Acacio, Andrea Alvarado, Jeremiah Bodnar, Rajeev Chopra, Neal Ely, Lisa Everett, Adeliza Flores, LaVaughn Hart, Tiina Hukari, Laurel Jones, Martha Konrad, John Ruys, John Williams

Kyle Jones (The Express)

1.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Curriculum Portion)

1.1 Call to Order

Ms. Thompson called the joint meeting of the Curriculum Committee and Academic Senate to order at 2:34 P.M. and reported Greg Daubenmire, Senate President, was ill and would not be facilitating the meeting. It was explained the first portion of the meeting will be devoted to discussion and action on the Liberal Arts Degree along with discussion only on GE Wellness Credit for veterans.

Quorum was met.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Kutil reported the agenda should be restructured to move General Business items 1.4 (Guests), and 1.5 (Public Comments), under the Academic Senate portion of the agenda up to be located under section 1.2 of the Curriculum portion of the meeting, as technically they are guests and individuals should be provided the opportunity to speak under Public Comments if desired. Draft Senate minutes can be approved under the Senate portion of the meeting.

(Cassidy/D'Elena) to approve the restructured agenda; approval was unanimous.

1.4 Guests

See discussion and comments under Section 2.0 and 3.0 of the Curriculum portion of the meeting.

1.5 Public Forum (This time is reserved for members of the public to address the Academic Senate on matters not already appearing on the agenda. Please limit comments to **three minutes.** In accordance with the Brown Act, the Academic Senate cannot act on these items.)

No comments or concerns were raised.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Liberal Arts Degree

Ms. Hart provided a brief background noting last year the Curriculum Committee worked through the process of changing the Liberal Arts Degree to conform to the requirements of the Systems Office. Rule changes occurred quite consistently. Several of these required changes were:

1. Three (3) different GE patterns so students can differentiate. (LPC GE, CSU GE, UC GE)
2. Area of Emphasis – 18 units required from multiple disciplines for a "broader base". A minimum number from each discipline.
3. Required each area be "tied" to a degree or career path.
4. Required Wellness area to be more focused.

It was noted the Curriculum Committee worked to follow same pattern as approved last year. The Senate initially received the document at the January 28 meeting, at which time they were requested to review it for changes/corrections. Ms. Hart requested that feedback be provided during this meeting in an effort to approve the document and move forward. Several senators brought forward proposed changes as follows:

- It should consistently state "a minimum of three (3) units from three (3) different disciplines as appropriate.
- Page 1, Paragraph 1 – The term "ideal" should be changed to "appropriate."
- Page 7 – Move History 1 and 2 to Humanities rather than keep in Social Science.
- Page 3, Section 2 – Change the term "transfer to" to "pursue."
- Page 3, Section 1 – Last sentence, change the term "and" to "or."
- Page 5, Section 6 – Change title to state Career Technical.
- Page 6 – Change term "transfer to" to "pursue" to be consistent with prior change.
- Page 7, Section 8 – Rather than list various law enforcement jobs, change to state "various law enforcement careers."

(Tarte/D'Elena) to approve the LPC Liberal Arts and Sciences Degree with proposed changes as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

3.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 GE Wellness Credit for Veterans

Ms. Alvarado explained the proposal originated last Fall in the DCC (District Curriculum Committee). The proposal is for military veterans with a DD-214 honorable discharge and will grant the following:

- 3 semester units toward AA/AS Degree
- Waiver of the Wellness GE requirement (areas of Health and Physical Education) for the AA Degree. **OR**
- Waiver of Physical Education GE requirement for the AS Degree.

The proposal was thoroughly discussed in the DCC and support for providing our veterans with academic credit for their experience was articulated. Ms. Alvarado noted the next step is to present the proposal to the Academic Senates and Curriculum Committees at both colleges for adoption. Should there be any changes requested, the proposal will need to go back to the DCC for continuing discussion.

Several senators inquired as to the rationale for awarding the units. Ms. Alvarado explained it is due to the fact that military personnel complete basic training as well as receive experiential training while serving in the military. She clarified it is not meant to be used as a "reward," but understands there are philosophical questions surrounding it. Senators were strongly encouraged to visit the website www.goarmy.com; it contains valuable information regarding requirements in health/wellness, physical education, and work experience required of a soldier. It is similar across other branches of the military.

Ms. Everett requested clarification regarding the number of units and the Wellness waiver. Additional comments/concerns were raised regarding prerequisites and catalog language. It was noted the DCC perspective at this time is one in which they [DCC] feel military personnel/veterans have learned or are learning in a "learning" work based environment already. Several senators commented on the [minimal] amount of students this will potentially affect, it will serve these students better to have a unified process.

The topic of how this may open the door for other groups who feel they are entitled to units due to "life experiences" was brought forward. Responses ranged from the current process LPC has of credit by examination and blanket petition to noting it is really about providing veterans credit for equivalent content received through the military in these specific areas (Health, Wellness, and Physical Education). Mr.Tarte commented on his perspective being a veteran himself noting the course outlines for boot camp can be obtained; they have a set curriculum in place. It was noted the institution should do as much as possible to minimize the "hoops" veterans currently are required to work their way through. For clarification, it was noted the waiver means "in lieu of," so the student can take another course to equal 57 units. It does not mean a substitution.

Several senators indicated they don't have significant issues with the Health or Waiver (3 elective units); however, there are concerns regarding credit by examination for life experience.

Point of Clarification (Morrissey) – The campus does not currently offer credit by examination for life experience. The credit by examination process was briefly explained.

Dialogue regarding the best interest of students continued. Ms. Cassidy commented on the cumbersome process for credit by examination. Ms. Acacio strongly recommended both committee members visit the army's website for detailed information. She stressed it is in the student's best interest. In conclusion, it was determined additional dialogue is required and will continue at the next Senate meeting. Ms. Alvarado noted there is not a rush; she doesn't expect much to occur until possibly April.

1.0 GENERAL BUSINESS (Senate Portion)

1.3 Approval of Minutes of January 28, 2009

(D'Elena/Tarte) to approve the minutes as written; motion carried with one abstention.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS

2.1 DE "At Large" Position (Librarian)

Ms. McCoy provided a brief historical background and explained that current membership consists of a faculty member from each division and a faculty member at large.

A request by the librarians to allow them to have one "at large "member has been brought to the DE Committee. The DE Committee agreed as long as the division representative was not a librarian. Ms. McCoy initially requested this be an action item on an early 2009 Senate agenda.

Mr. Kutil explained it has not been acted on by the Senate to date due to his desire to review the Senate Constitution and Bylaws to make sure there were no issues involving language/structure, etc. Upon review of the documents, Mr. Kutil reported there is nothing he can see which would prevent the Senate from moving forward and approving the DE Committee's request.

(McCoy/Lee) to approve the DE (Distance Education) Committee's request to allow one (1) "at large" librarian member; as long as the division representative is not a librarian; motion carried unanimously.

3.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Continuing Business

A. <u>Academic Senate Constitution</u>

Mr. Kutil presented the latest revised and "cleaned up" Senate Constitution. He explained the changes are mostly minor and was determined by the feedback from past Senate meetings, the Constitution and Bylaws subcommittee, and various official Board documents. Detailed discussions regarding the definition of collegial consultation and legal language, specifically, the terms "rely primarily on" and "mutual agreement" occurred. There was uncertainty and confusion regarding which one was more appropriate in the context of Board policy and academic and professional matters (10+1).

Several senators inquired what the law states and indicated it is what should be used. Dr. Jones commented that both terms are legal and the Board documents have defined the 10+1 matters to her knowledge. She went further to suggest the Senate contact the ASCCC (Academic Senate for California Community Colleges). Ms. Henson commented on Section 53203 of the ASCCC Handbook. It specifically states the Academic Senate powers and collegial consultation process between governing boards and the Academic Senate.

Concern was expressed the term "mutual agreement" provides the governing board with more powers or allows each party to have a "veto" option. Ms. Morrissey inquired if the Shared Governance document has been thoroughly reviewed and understood prior to revising the Constitution; it defines the terms in question. She strongly recommended Mark Wade Lieu, ASCCC President, be contacted for feedback before the Senate votes on the document. In conclusion, Ms. Thompson indicated this discussion will continue at the next meeting. Specifically, it is hoped additional information can be provided which outlines the strength and weaknesses of each term.

B. <u>Hiring Prioritization Committee</u> – Tabled to next meeting.

C. <u>Academic Honesty</u> – Tabled to next meeting.

3.2 New Business

A. <u>Senate Sponsored Scholarship</u>

After a brief discussion, the Senate decided to move forward and approve two (2) $300 student scholarships again this year. Mr. Hagopian, Senate Treasurer, reported there are sufficient funds in the Senate account. (McCoy/Lee) to approve two (2) $300 student scholarships; motion carried unanimously.

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 Senate President – *Greg Daubenmire*

No Report.

4.2 Treasurer's Handout

Copies of the report were provided prior to, and at the meeting to all senators. Contact Brian Hagopian with questions or concerns.

5.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER

5.1 Announcements

Mr. Kutil reported at the last meeting that he was working on trying to set-up massage sessions for faculty/staff interested, as he is trained in this subject. Due to a lack of interest by students, it has been canceled. He may still provide a limited number to those interested. If you are interested, contact him directly.

Ms. Lee inquired if the Academic Senate provides comments on the accreditation study.

Dr. Jones inquired if recent Basic Skills documents both she and Angella VenJohn distributed have been distributed to senators. It was confirmed senators received them. The documents consisted of a grant timeline, integration/process/effectiveness flow chart, timeline for Evergreen Learning Communities, and early alert pilot project timeline.

Ms. Henson commented on changing mathematics proficiency requirements in '09. She requested the Senate add discussion to the next agenda.

Ms. McCoy inquired about the status of the hiring process; noting the longer it is delayed the more disservice is done to our students since quality teachers will get employment elsewhere. She also reported the Faculty Association has put forth an individual for the subcommittee. She strongly encouraged it stop being delayed and move forward with urgency. Dr. Jones commented on the administrative/district perspective noting that as of today, there is what is termed a "conflict of process." She indicated it will have to be worked through the Chancellor's office and Council; quite possibly as an emergency meeting(s).

Barbara Morrissey was thanked for her Valentine Day treats.

5.2 2008/09 Meetings – Second and Fourth Wednesdays –

The next meeting is February 25, 2009.

5.3 Adjournment

No further business was raised. (McElderry/McCoy) to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.

Recording Secretary: Carie Kincaid

Approved: February 25, 2009