
Rio Hondo College Academic Senate Minutes**April 21, 2015****Board Room****1:00 P.M.**

Present: Alan Archambault, Jose Arroyo, Robin Babou, Michelle Bean, Robert Bethel, Ada Brown, Fran Cummings, Mike Dighera, Marie Eckstrom, John Frala, Theresa Freije, Song Le Graham, Kathleen Hannah, Dianne Holcomb, Mike Javanmard, George Kimber, Steve Koelle, Sheila Lynch, Jim Matthis, Greg Miller, Carley Mitchell, Gail Modyman, Juana Mora, Steve Moshier, Katie O'Brien, Tyler Okamoto, Shelly Poetter, Vann Priest, Kathy Pudelko, Rudy Rios, Kevin Smith, Adam Wetsman, Jon Whitford, Colin Young, Mariano Zaro

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:01.

II. Approval of Minutes

- April 7th minutes
- The minutes were accepted with a minor revision.

III. President's Report

- **Plenary report – John Frala**
 - The Senate was informed about issues discussed at the Plenary meeting.
- **Common first year course - Marie Eckstrom**
 - The College 1 course was discussed at the last Senate meeting. At a community college in Boston, they have a learning community seminar course. The course is housed in the specific divisions that teach them. They are designed to allow students to explore one particular area of a subject in the class, but there are a variety of these classes with many options for students that can fit their interest. The Articulation Officer explained that she is contacting the Boston community college to examine it further. It was mentioned that career exploration could be part of these courses as well. The idea is that this course would just be one part of the program that would help create a sense of community with the students. Concerns were voiced about how the pieces of these communities will be brought together to develop these ideas into a unified program.
- **Taste of Rio**
 - The event is May 1 from 6-9pm. Volunteers were solicited to help with the wine pouring/serving. Contact Robert Bethel if you are interested.

IV. Unfinished Business**V. New Business**

- **International Baccalaureate – Song Le Graham**

- This proposal is similar to what the college currently does with AP classes. Credits would be given for IB exams.
- MOTION (S Graham, 2nd A Wetsman): To Adopt the California Community College General Education International Baccalaureate Test Equivalency List, grant credit for scores of 5, 6, and 7 for Higher Level Exams, and publish this list in the RHC Catalog.
- Motion passed unanimously.
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- **Waitlists**
 - MOTION FROM EXEC: As a pilot study for the Fall 2015 registration period, for select courses, both on-line and on-ground, the waitlist number would be increased by the same number as the class size limit number (e.g., a class set at 28 would have a waitlist of 28, a class set at 45 would have a waitlist of 45). “Targeted” courses would be those high-demand courses identified by deans for which an increased waitlist may provide relevant scheduling information. Faculty assigned to those targeted sections will have the opportunity to opt out of the pilot study. Additional sections of targeted courses should be offered when there are enough students on the waitlist.
 - Concerns were raised about room availability and faculty availability. Concerns were also raised about how extra classes would be added and what the mechanism will be. It was noted that if the waitlisted are expanded, students will be unable to enroll in certain classes if there are scheduling conflicts. Furthermore, existing data does exist- perhaps we are not utilizing the current data well enough? Are we giving students false hope?
 - Motion passed with 2 oppositions (S Lynch, K Smith) and 3 abstentions (K O’Brien, J Whitford, A Brown)
- MOTION FROM EXEC: To expose our students to political and civic leaders from our District and to introduce those same leaders to our professors and students, the Senate encourages instructors in appropriate disciplines to invite government officials and representatives from non-governmental organizations to present pertinent academic topics.
 - This idea is from Trustee Pacheco. She wants to get more exposure for RHC in local communities and wants to get our students exposed more to the local communities.
 - Call to Question (M Javanmard, 2nd by A Wetsman)
 - Motion passed unanimously
 - Motion passed with 3 Abstentions (M Bean, D Holcomb, J Mora)

VI. Committee Reports

Bookstore: The bookstore is possibly adding e-books to courses without instructor consent. Be careful with your bookstore requests. The bookstore manager will be at the next Senate meeting as well and can address concerns then.

FLEX/Staff Development: 32 faculty will be getting paid stipends for the online faculty training. There is information coming from the state about the upcoming changes to the staff development requirements. They are being expanded to include all staff, not just faculty. Take the SD survey to provide input on what types of staff development activities should be offered.

IEC: The Institutional Planning Retreat was last week. Also, staffing committee results came out. Odds are that we will not be hiring new faculty this year though.

ITC: They have been exploring screen sharing options. In short, there are too many options and the standards across the platforms are not uniform. This might need to be done department by department. Also, the Director of Facilities is involved with replacing fluorescent fixtures with dimmable LED lights.

DE: Faculty are finishing the online modules. Senators should remind their colleagues that to teach online for the Spring, 2016 that they need to get the modules completed by September 30.

Safety: Someone took the computer from a classroom upstairs in the A building- faculty are recommended to keep rooms locked.

SLOs: 15+ people showed up to the SLO workshop. Faculty were reminded to complete their SLO assessments. If you have questions, see Adam.

Student Equity: The committee will hold their second meeting this week.

VII. Announcements

S Lynch: The Writes of Spring is next week. Also, Rivers Voice is coming out. Finally, the River Deep Film Festival is 1pm both days of Writes of Spring.

J Frala: We are getting 20 more free charging stations for electric vehicles. 10 will be placed behind the PE building and 10 will go in lot H.

M Bean: Thank you to the union and to the Academic Senate President for their presentation of the newly tenured faculty at the Board meeting.

K O'Brien: Tickets are available for purchase for the pancake breakfast. Proceeds benefit the CARE program.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13.