Cerritos College
Faculty Senate

Regular Meeting • March 24, 2009

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Guests: Wendell Hanks, Michael Barrita, David Young, Carl Bengston
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began at 11:08 a.m. The flag salute was led by David Young.

REPORTS

Student Senate Liaison

After reporting a remark made by a student senator that professors should read the Daily Falcon, Mr. Guerra introduced ASCC President, Michael Barrita. President Barrita provided a brief update on the four main projects the ASCC has been working on this year:

- They are happy with the Habits of Mind campaign. A lot of students are excited to be a part of it.
- The transformation of the former reflection just outside the Student Center is nearing completion. The goal is for it to be ready by the spring awards banquet. A ceremony is being planned, but a firm date has not yet been determined.
- The athletics department is their main target for replacing water fountains. They are particularly focusing on the water fountains in the dugout area of the baseball field.
- An iFALCON scholarship fund has been established. People can donate directly to the scholarship fund via the Foundation. They have already raised $800. The ASCC plans to give out two scholarships a year.

President Barrita thanked the faculty who have been helping them with their various projects. President Reece announced that Mr. Barrita will be receiving the Academic Excellence Award from the Political Science department.

MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Senator Johnson and seconded by Senator Soden to approve the minutes of 3/10/09.

Action: The minutes were approved with two abstentions.

APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS

Committee Members Needed

President Reece reported that a request was sent out to divisions for members to sit on the SLO committee. The committee will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 3:00 p.m. The location has changed to LC 62.

Motion: It was moved by Senator Juntilla and seconded by Senator Ernest to approve President Reece as the Faculty Senate representative to the committee.

Action: Motion was unanimously approved.
President Reece reported that homepage of the Habits of Mind website, which has been up for just a couple of months, has received approximately 178 thousand hits. He also reported that the administration is planning to submit Habits of Mind as the next Title 5 grant.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Academic Excellence**
The Academic Excellence Awards ceremony will take place this evening. Sixty-two students will be receiving awards. This is the third year in a row in which approximately 60 students will receive awards. In previous years, there were much fewer.

**Outstanding Faculty Awards**
The awards ceremony will take place at 11:00 a.m. in the Student Center on Thursday, April 24th.

**Academic Calendar**
Copies of the academic calendars for 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013, which have been approved by the CCFF and the District, were distributed.

**UPDATE ON AGENDA FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**

President Reece provided copies of an update on the Agenda for Student Success. The Senate has been working on the Agenda for almost three years. The goal has always been to elevate it to a college-wide agenda. After President Farmer presented ARCC data to the Board at its February 4th meeting, the Board asked the Administration to prepare a student success plan for the college. There are now three key groups that want to see the development of a college-wide plan to improve student success—the Board, the Administration and the Faculty Senate—but there is not an obvious mechanism or group to facilitate the development of a plan. As stated in the update, the Faculty Senate Executive Board recommends a shared governance taskforce be established to address the issue, which would meet according to the following criteria:

- The taskforce will report to the Faculty Senate and the Coordinating Committee.
- The charge of the taskforce will be to draft an initial Student Success Plan that includes a set of recommended projects/programs that need immediate attention. The initial plan should include a proposed structure or organization for implementing the initial projects/programs, a recommended reporting process to the Board and campus community, a plan for sustaining management of the college-wide Student Success Plan and possibly more.
- The taskforce will be directed to present their proposal to the Senate by May 5 and to the Coordinating Committee by May 11.
- The taskforce will conclude with the presentation of the proposed plan unless they are requested to continue working by the Faculty Senate and Coordinating Committee (for example, the taskforce may be needed to help with ongoing management of the plan).
- The taskforce will be open to the entire campus and operate under the principal of consensus. The committee will be co-chaired by a faculty member and an administrator. The chairs will be selected at the first meeting.

In response to a question about whether there would be some type of funding set aside for the projects, President Reece noted that not having funding is part of the reason some of the projects are not getting traction.
Almost all of the projects will need some sort of funding, but do not all have some sort of funding source identified. This is a challenge behind all of the projects.

**Motion:** It was moved by Senator Johnson and seconded by Senator Soden to support the development of a taskforce and recommend the Coordinating Committee do the same.

**Action:** Motion was unanimously approved.

**SENATE DISCUSSION**

**SLO Calendar**

The reintroduction of the SLO timeline (it was first introduced at the general faculty meeting in February), which calls for all departments to have gone through the SLO assessment cycle for at least one class next year, spurred an approximately 15 minute discussion. A couple senators shared that they had been surprised to learn about the timeline—particularly that it was being recommended that only one class per department would need to move through the assessment cycle next year. Some departments have already established assessments for all of their courses. Concern was expressed that the timeline may be too relaxed. It was clear that some were worried about how it may impact accreditation.

He explained that there are committee members with much knowledge of the SLO process, and that following the committee’s recommendation (timeline) should have the college in good shape in time for the accreditation team visit in June of next year. By that time, all of the departments will have gone through the entire cycle with at least one of its classes; the following year another three to five classes for each department will go through the cycle; and the year after that, the rest of the courses will go through. President Reece noted that departments are welcome to go through the process with their courses at a faster pace than the timeline the committee established. In response to a question, he affirmed that the timeline the college is going with is the timeline established by the SLO committee timeline. He pointed out that the Board of Trustees and the college administration have assigned the SLO strategy to the SLO committee, which is a shared governance committee. President Reece acknowledged that there has been some conflicting information about the timeline. He asserted if faculty have heard of a different timeline, it is not correct; that the committee has looked very carefully at the accreditation standards; and that the strategy is conservative and realistic. President Reece reminded the body that Vice President Brock is on the committee, as are the two faculty SLO coordinators, and that they are particularly aware of accreditation requirements.

Related to this topic, a comment was made about a survey that was distributed to determine the extent to which help from the Research and Planning office was received as part of the SLO process. Since some departments did not receive help from that office, the survey might be helpful as others go through the process.

President Reece indicated he would bring the topic back for discussion at the next meeting, along with printed information.

In response to a few requests for updates regarding accreditation, President Reece reported that we do have a director of Research and
Planning, and that there is another position that is being screened. He further reported that no date has been set yet for a visiting team to come back. He shared President Farmer’s guess that it will be after spring break. There will likely be two people, one of whom would be Bill Scroggins, who will visit for a round of interviews in one day. All of the paperwork that the college needed to submit in March has been submitted.

Before moving onto the next topic, a question was raised about the topic of online education that was discussed at the previous Senate meeting. President Reece acknowledged that this issue still needs to be cleared up with some sort of consensus about what the definitions should be for online and hybrid classes. He asked Senators Negrete and Wilson to circle back with him to discuss the possibility of setting up a meeting with Vice President Brock.

Professor Wendell Hanks presented two resolutions proposed by the Liberal Arts division. Professor Hanks asserted that the resolutions are responsive to basic needs on campus to improve student performance, and that the condition of facilities reflects what administration thinks of our students and staff. The first resolution essentially calls for a need to monitor the issue of the condition of facilities. The second resolution essentially requests that it be made clear to presidential candidates the importance of bringing the campus up to standards and maintaining its sustainability.

There was considerable discussion of the topic. Several themes emerged out of the numerous comments and opinions that were offered:

• There needs to be education for students and staff about how our facilities should be kept up. It is the responsibility of everyone on campus to help maintain it.
• Commitment, ownership and pride are factors.
• There are problems with both destruction and cleanliness.
• The process for getting things fixed takes a long time, but some things, such as graffiti, need to be addressed right away.
• It comes down to resources and funding. Need to look at where money is being spent and where the district puts its resources.
• A lot of money is wasted because facilities are not properly maintained.

Also, it was reported by President Reece that an independent consultant came in to evaluate the cleanliness of the campus. On a scale of one through five, with a score of one essentially being up to hospital standards and a score of five being filthy, the college received a score of four. The report identifies what would be needed to obtain a higher score, such as hiring more full-time janitorial/facilities staff. President Reece indicated that he could make copies of the report available to the senators. Members of the Facilities and Planning Committee expressed their surprise at hearing of such a report. They reported that for the last couple of years, they have asked that an inventory be conducted and a plan be developed, but were met with clear reluctance.

Several suggestions were offered, as were examples of what some faculty/departments do to address these problems.

• There should be a campaign to maintain the campus, perhaps...
• Some departments enforce strict policies about bringing food and drinks inside the buildings that they utilize.
• Pull together a graffiti crew.
• Post codes of conduct in classrooms.
• Take a broad approach. It needs to be about more than just hiring more people. There needs to be respect for the campus.

Noting the clear interest in the topic, President Reece remarked that the topic will be brought back for further discussion. Discussion continued for several more minutes. Additional points were made about the declining number of facilities staff members, having to solicit the help of students to clean up buildings, possible corporate interference in how things get prioritized, the need for a broad approach that encompasses more than just hiring more people, and the need for increasing campus surveillance. A slight modification to the second resolution was offered. A point was made that when making decisions which college to attend, the condition of facilities may be weighed against the quality of instruction; while there may be a strong problem with facilities at this campus, the quality of instruction is excellent, and we have outstanding teachers. Finally, it was observed that the flag has not been flown for a long time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Faculty Senate Secretary, Traci Ukita.

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

For further details of the meeting, audio recordings are available in the Faculty Senate office located in the Office of Academic Affairs.

NEXT SENATE MEETING
Tuesday, March 31, 2009
11:05 a.m.
Board Room

Faculty Senate Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday.

Visit the Faculty Senate Web Page
www.cerritos.edu/faculty-senate
for agendas, minutes and other information of interest to faculty, staff and others.