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Guests: Preston Hampton, Francie Quaas-Berryman, Nathan Durdella, Mark Fronke, Carolyn Chambers, Connie Mayfield, Wes Nance, Renee Chomiak, Dan Smith, Jeanine Prindle, David Young, Lynn Serwin, Stephen Johnson
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND
PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began at 11:07 am. The flag salute was led by Secretary Ukita (Counseling).

MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Senator Hallinger (SEM) and seconded by Senator Soden (Business Education) to approve the minutes of 4/22/08.

Action: Motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS

President

President Reece reported that President Stolze was unable to attend the meeting, and presented information about the CCFF on his behalf. The CCFF will hold an open meeting for all faculty members, whether union members or not, on Thursday, May 1, 2008, from 11:00 – 12:30 in SS 139. They will deliberate on whether the union should continue negotiations with the district via limited mediation or accept the district’s proposed offer. The CCFF Executive Board will hear comments from faculty until approximately 12:15, and then will vote on which path to take. If they Executive Board decides it would be better to accept the district’s offer, then the union will distribute the proposal to the union members for a vote.

Secretary

Secretary Ukita expressed her interest in declining the nomination for Outstanding Senator.

Immediate Past President

Former Faculty Senate President, Bob Chester, thanked the body for having him back.

Student Senate Liaison

Senator Lee reported that current ASCC President, Jason Macias, was officially elected to be Student Trustee for the upcoming academic year. Current ASCC Vice President, Michael Barrita, has been elected President.

Senator Lee expressed his disappointment in the low turnout for elections. In response, a suggestion was made that they contact Cal State Long Beach, as they recently tried a new method of voting online that led to an increase in the number of students who voted.

Senator Lee reported that the ASCC budget will be about the same, and that clubs that did not submit a proposal did not receive ASCC funds.

Tagging onto Senator Lee’s report, Senator Soto (Counseling) announced that some students are planning a silent protest on May 1st to express concern about Project HOPE.

APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS

President Reece announced that volunteers are needed to help serve food at the Outstanding Classified Awards luncheon on Thursday, May 15th. The following volunteered: Bob Chester (pending finals schedule), Craig Breit, Liz Page, Julie Trager, Sandy Marks, Charlene Fobi, and Debra Moore.
ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS

Last Senate Meeting
Next week’s meeting will be the last Senate meeting of the academic year.

Summer Availability
President Reece explained that there may be some need to access the Senators during the summer. Senators were asked to fill in their summer availability.

Commencement
Commencement will take place on May 10th. Contact the Bookstore for cap and gown information.

Outstanding Senator of the Year
Nominations accepted today. Elections are scheduled for today. Presentation is scheduled for next week.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair of the Instructional Program Review Committee, Professor Lynn Serwin, provided the Senate with an update. Professor Serwin handed out the committee’s summary report for the 2007-2008 academic year. Professor Serwin noted that this year was a bit different due to accreditation and the new unit planning process. She also explained that the committee asked for a lot more evidence-based information.

Professor Serwin reported that all of the programs that were under review submitted self-study reports, many of which were commendable, such as those from the Accounting, Earth Science, and Child Development departments. Some reports did not include sufficient evidence to support claims in the documents and were returned to the programs for improvement. One department, Art and Design, completed the revision. The Program Review committee made several attempts to help departments complete meaningful reports, but it completed its work for the current year without validating two programs: Reading and Real Estate.

Overarching themes from Program Review included equipment, facilities and personnel. Professor Serwin identified a couple of specific department needs. Child Development is hoping to expand to include infant and toddler care. Accounting has a serious human resources need, as they have had three retirees. The department went through hiring processes that did not result in faculty being hired, as the president decided not to hire anyone and apparently did not give an explanation as to why. It was noted that this is a problem, as other departments will have faculty retiring soon as well. It was also pointed out that the historical document that provides faculty hiring guidelines requires an explanation.

The planning and resource allocation process requires an annual report from the Program Review committee that identifies overarching themes from all of the reports. A major theme that emerged this year is the need for the institution to establish a culture of inquiry, which is currently lacking. The culture of evidence needs to be an ongoing process that encourages program excellence. The committee discovered that much more needs to be done to familiarize faculty with an inquiry process and interpreting program data available through the Research and Planning office.

President Reece noted that the last two accreditation teams noted that Research and Planning needs to be augmented. Comments were offered pertaining to data gathering and analysis. In response to a comment about
data not always being up to date, Director of Research and Planning, Dr. Nathan Durdella, explained why most of the data about one to one and a half years behind the current term.

Professor Mark Fronke, who has been elected to be the chair of the Program Review committee beginning in the new academic year, reported the strategy the committee has come up with for next year. He explained that because each department is different and program review is a faculty driven process, the committee has shied away from dictating what information is necessary. Information can be pulled internally from emails, meetings, documented discussions in departments, and externally from the Chancellor’s office, Research and Planning, advisory committees, etc. The committee has been trying to change how the faculty have viewed the program review process by emphasizing it is an ongoing process, and that evidence needs to be gathered annually so that information is ready for the self-study report and themes can be more easily identified. The committee proposes to take one year off from reviewing any programs in order to evaluate and improve the program review process. They would use the year to go to other schools, compile best practices, look at data available, and make sure the committee members know how to understand the data and how to interpret so they can help the departments understand it. They would also look at the validation process. The validation reports tend to be summaries of the self-study report, but should discuss the evidence that was provided to validate the self-study report.

A request was made that the committee clearly identify what it wants the faculty to assess. Professor Fronke indicated that is part of what the committee would do next year. It was suggested that departments have a similar focus of what they need to be accountable for. Professor Serwin noted that one of the accreditation team’s recommendations is to have institutional learning outcomes.

The Program Review Committee, as stated in its report, requests that the Faculty Senate make a recommendation to accept its revision proposal so that more meaningful self-studies and validation team reports can be created in 2009-2010. A memo outlining the proposed revisions to the program review process was attached to the report.

A suggestion was offered to take a look at some accrediting agencies that have already established criteria that are basic to the evaluation of any program, and see what can be generalized.

President Reece suggested that the proposal be brought back to the next meeting for a formal motion.

SENATE DISCUSSION
Nominations and Election of Outstanding Senator(s) of the Year

The following were nominated:
- Roger Ernest
- Senate executive team: Bryan Reece, Debra Moore, Traci Ukita and Dodie O’Donnell
- Victor Obasohan

All were unanimously elected by acclamation.
President Reece provided a brief summary of what occurred at the special Board of Trustees meeting that took place on 4/9/08, and offered an update. He noted that the Board has not acted on the Senate’s request to remove Dr. Vela, and that the Board members have been very quiet. While he suggested that their quietness not be misinterpreted as inaction, he also acknowledged that he does not really know what it going on, and is not really supposed to know what is going on at this time. The Board has scheduled meetings with constituency groups to obtain feedback on the college goals, which may or may not be connected to the Senate’s recommendation (to remove the president). The Board’s discussions on the matter have been handled in closed session. The agenda item that allows them to discuss the issue was on the last Board agenda, and will be on the agenda for the upcoming meeting. President Reece pointed out that this is a very sensitive personnel item with legal implications.

Related to what took place at the special Board meeting, President Reece broached another sensitive issue related to comments Senator Mellas (SEM) made at the 4/9/08 meeting, as well as the regular Board meeting the following week. President Reece noted that individuals have a first amendment right to say what they want, but senators also represent the Senate as well as their divisions. After the two Board meetings, several people approached President Reece. Some asked if the SEM division changed its mind about the vote of no confidence in Dr. Vela, and if the Senate was unanimous on the resolution or not, as Senator Mellas argued in favor of keeping the president.

President Reece asked if anyone had comments, which prompted an approximate 30 minute discussion. Some people clearly felt that Senator Mellas crossed the line with the comments he made at the Board meetings. They primarily took issue with him not making it clear he was not representing the Senate or his division by qualifying his comments as personal opinion, as well as not alerting President Reece as to the nature of his intended comments beforehand. Others were not convinced that Senator Mellas misrepresented himself, believing that his comments were consistent with ones he had made before and that it was clear (at least at the special Board meeting) that he was speaking for himself.

In response to a question raised about what options there were to deal with the situation, suggestions were offered, which included raising the level of awareness about being clear as to when one is speaking as a representative of the Senate or a division and when one is speaking on his/her own behalf, discussing a code of ethics at a future point, asking Senator Mellas to write a letter clarifying that his comments were made as an individual, and asking Senator Mellas to apologize or risk censure.

Senator Mellas, who was not aware that this was going to be a topic of discussion, had not prepared any comments, but expressed interest in hearing all of what everyone wanted to say, after which he would be prepared to take a definitive action. He pointed out that the Senate was not unanimous on the vote of no confidence, though he recognized that it was unanimous on the resolution. He also clarified what he meant when he characterized the SEM division vote on the confidence issue as having been narrowly passed.
The issue was not resolved, but recognizing the time and the need to discuss the next agenda item, President Reece moved the agenda.

President Reece furnished copies of a memo to the senators from Senate leadership, which provided background on an issue regarding the Campus Transformation Committee (CTC), as well as recommendations. The memo explained that the Senate floor recommended that Senate leadership collaborate with CTC members in developing a proposed solution. The proposed solution, which would not require Board intervention, but rather action by the CTC, is to establish a task force. The proposal outlines what the task force could do, identifies who could be involved, suggests a meeting schedule and timeline of activities and deliverables, etc.

Senator Ernest (Liberal Arts), who has been very involved with the CTC from the beginning, provided additional information. He impressed upon the body the importance of moving forward. He also reported that the location of the theatre building is locked in, and a request to change the site could result in losing the thirty million from the state. The project went outside of the accepted project flowchart adopted by the Facilities Planning Committee, which requires sign offs from area managers. The Child Development Center and the new Fine Arts building will be locked in if final project proposals (FPPs) are approved in July. Senator Ernest explained that FPPs are submitted with floor plans, and that locking in projects limits the ability to move other buildings. He expressed some of his concerns with the master plan, highlighted a need to establish a protocol for decision-making, and suggested that the proposed solution would address many of the concerns, although some of the timelines would need to be moved up.

Because many senators had to go to their classes, there was no longer a quorum present, so no official vote was taken. However, the thirteen senators still remaining at the meeting indicated their support of the plan.

The discussion continued for approximately ten more minutes, during which time President Reece and Senator Ernest (Liberal Arts) fielded various questions about CTC related activities. In response to one question about keeping the Burnight Center where it currently is, Senator Ernest explained that there would not be any swing space, and that there would have to be a compelling reason to move the theatre or risk losing the money from the state. In response to a question about what would happen if the bond to which the building funds are tied fails, one of the other CTC members indicated that the building would still be on the list until whenever the bond passes. It was also pointed out that the current building is not ideal and is getting worse.

President Reece will carry the proposed solution to the CTC. He acknowledged that the CTC cannot establish a subcommittee without going through the Coordinating Committee for approval, but could have a quasi-committee or working group. The taskforce would not be able to take official action, but could make recommendations to the CTC, which can take official action. President Reece pointed out that the master plan has a multimillion dollar financial implication on the campus that will last for
decades. He indicated that there is agreement on what the problem has been, and pointed to the need to fix the problem.

ADJOURNMENT

The Senate adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Faculty Senate Secretary, Traci Ukita.

**OFFICIAL MINUTES APPROVED BY FACULTY SENATE 8-26-08**

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, MAY 6, 2008

11:05 A.M.

BOARD ROOM

Faculty Senate Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday.

Dr. Bryan Reece
President
Ext. 2219

Debra Moore
Vice President
Ext. 2418

Dodie O’Donnell
Faculty Senate Clerk
Ext. 2217

Traci Ukita
Secretary
Ext. 2592

Visit the Faculty Senate Web Page

www.cerritos.edu/faculty-senate

for agendas, minutes and other information of interest to faculty, staff and others.