

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

October 21, 2008

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

V111

MINUTES

Members Present: Phyllis Arias, Eva Bagg, Lou Anne Bynum, Cathy Crane, Rose DelGaudio, John Downey, Ann-Marie Gabel, Shauna Hagemann, Peter Knapp, Eloy Oakley, Kevin Ryan, Sigrid Sexton, Natalia Schroeder, Christopher Villa, Steve Wallech, Joan Zuckerman

Absent: Donald Berz

Note Taker: M'Shelle Reece

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 2:13 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of September 16, 2008 and May 13, 2008 were approved.

3. Update on SLO Committee

Dr. Bagg reported she is soliciting for representatives for the Integration of Student Learning Outcomes Committee (ISLO) with recommendations due by October 31st. President Oakley thanked everyone for their hard work in preparing for our accreditation visit. Everyone should be proud, as the accreditation team was very complimentary on our work in the area of Student Learning Outcomes. The Council discussed the accrediting team's preliminary recommendations, most notably the recommendation to improve upon our processes of Assessment and Student Learning Outcomes to include the development of outcomes at the course, degree, program and institutional levels. The team also recommended that we assess the attainment of SLOs in our syllabi and faculty evaluations. Academic Senate President Sexton conveyed there is concern and controversy across the state over including SLOs in faculty evaluations and recommended that this is a battle to be fought at the state level. President Oakley agreed, but stressed the need to respond to their recommendations, cautioning a possible consequence of not responding could result in harm to our accreditation status. He suggested we move forward and respond to the team's recommendations that can currently be addressed. He further indicated that the District's leadership must begin discussing and strategizing how we will respond to the question of faculty evaluations and SLOs while awaiting our final accreditation report.

Natalia Schroeder shared that she recently attended a conference wherein she learned that other colleges have done something very interesting by presenting their associate degree or general educational requirements as program outcomes. She stated there is much confusion on program versus institutional level outcomes, indicating that what we call institutional level outcomes/core competencies are really program level outcomes. She expressed that our institutional level outcomes are not always appropriate for all students who attend, but more specific to those on a general education path or associate degree path. She suggested that the ASLO Committee might be reanalyzing/redefining what our institutional level/core competencies are in order to make them more manageable.

4. Reorganization

Reorganization forums have concluded and updated organizational charts are being finalized incorporating revisions resulting from forum discussions. The District will now begin to focus on implementation, taking into account the District's current financial status based on the state's budget crisis.

Members reviewed the organizational charts distributed and concern was expressed in the area of Distance Learning Education, as the chart does not indicate or separate out the instructional/academic side of Distance Learning Education from the support/service side. Members sought clarification on how the instructional side and support side will coordinate and the types of students that make up Distance Learning Education. It was conveyed that faculty concerns are based on the fear of the department losing their academic connection – not fear of change or to whom they report, but fear of the loss of the academic connection. President Oakley reiterated that the instructional side of Distance Learning Education will remain with the department. He emphasized that the reorganization's intent is not to take away the instructional side, but to bring both sides together in order to give Distance Learning Education the resources and support necessary for it to grow and succeed.

Members further discussed and agreed to make the following changes to the organizational charts:

- Reverse the solid line/dotted line reporting structure for the position of Faculty Professional Development Coordinator to indicate solid line reporting to Academic Affairs and dotted-line reporting to Human Resources.
- Remove the position of Faculty Professional Development Coordinator entirely from the chart as it is not a new position, and including it will only cause unnecessary confusion.
- Revise the chart under the area of Dean of Student Success to indicate that the disciplinary centers belong to and fall under the departments of Learning Academic Resources and Academic Support and Development.
- Add College Work Experience Administration and Police and Fire Academy Administration under the responsibilities of the Dean of Career Technical Education.

5. Compressed Calendar Update

Concerns on the compressed calendar have narrowed to the issue of a 5-week versus 6-week winter intersession. The Academic Senate and Curriculum Committee are currently discussing the impacts of both variations and expect to reach a final decision soon. President Oakley stated we have missed the chance for state approval for a compressed calendar for the 2009/2010 academic year and must hurry to meet deadlines for 2010/2011. Next, discussions must begin on strategy for implementation, recognizing that many areas will be affected by the compressed calendar.

6. Academic Council Retreat

The probable timeframe for the next Academic Council retreat will be late in the spring semester. Current suggested retreat topics are leadership and shared governance. The Council will continue to think of additional possible retreat topics.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.