

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

December 16, 2008

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

V111

MINUTES

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

Absent: Cathy Crane, Steve Wallech

Note Taker: M'Shelle Reece

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of October 21, 2008 were approved with a minor correction under the SLO Committee Update.

3. Accreditation Recommendations on ASLO and Program Review

The Draft Accreditation Report has been received. This is a draft report from our visiting evaluating team to the Accrediting Commission and precedes the Final Report that will be going to the Accrediting Commission in January. President Oakley stated that although he could not share the actual report document with the Council at this time, he stated that the recommendation indicates the team felt there was very little, if any evidence, that we have SLOs at the various levels and almost no assessment done. He stressed the need for leadership to come to agreement on how we are going to deal with these recommendations now before the final report. He pointed out there is separate issue regarding evaluations in SLOs, which is considered by some to be a statewide issue. He stressed the need to put this piece aside for now, cautioning this should not derail us from the work that needs to be done. He indicated that although there has been progress recently, we need to be honest regarding possible issues on the current committee that may be hindering our progress. It was suggested that a plan be developed to review the SLO Committee on a periodic basis ensuring the committee remains on course and also that the committee expand its level of participation by possibly rotating committee members. Academic Senate President Sexton voiced concern that she hopes the Senate can be trusted to try and get the communications going on these issues. President Oakley emphasized that we must decide on how we evaluate, whether it be in the program or in

professional responsibilities and we must move forward. He warned that the Commission will most likely be requesting a midterm report or site visit, so we must prepare for this now and take the initial draft recommendations seriously.

4. Budget Challenges, Planning and Communication

President Oakley warned that upcoming budget years are expected to be worse than any in recent history and emphasized the need for the college to embrace and do our best to navigate this problem. As the State budget is still not balanced, and midyear cuts are still unknown, he urged the College must begin strategizing how to weather this storm and start looking at ways to conserve monies in preparation for upcoming budget years. He stated that the college is not going to be able to serve everyone in the same manner we have, so we must begin the difficult discussions of deciding how we will reallocate our resources while keeping our core mission intact (i.e., preparing students for transfer or certificate programs). Concerns were raised as to what the mechanism will be for such conversations and the need to keep discussions open and transparent and also be mindful of what we want the institution to look like at the end of budget cuts if/when funds are restored. President Oakley shared there is a movement in the State called California Forward whose goal is to reform community colleges. This group is a threat to us as they believe that community colleges should not engage in teaching for enjoyment, enrichment, but should focus on filling the workforce and transferring students to universities.

5. Adjournment

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