

Faculty Senate San Antonio College



MINUTES November 4, 2015 – 3:00 PM, VAC 120

MEETING CALLED BY: Vice President, Tiffany Cox, called the meeting to order at 3:08 PM.

NOTE TAKER: Tammy Perez, Senate Secretary

Members Absent: Steve Samet

A. Approval of Minutes

- October approved – BP made a motion, Jeff seconded

B. Reports of Board of Trustees Meetings

- BOT Standing Committee meetings, Oct 20: Lisa Black – Board members encouraged college administration to bring faculty to Board meetings with them. DMM may be a place to encourage and promote the things that are important to faculty.
- BOT Regular Meeting, Oct 27: Tiffany Cox, Terri Slonaker – several new policies were approved. The policy concerning employees not speaking to the Board until all other channels are exhausted was tabled until the next meeting. Mono stated that Bustamante pointed out that she had no way of knowing if people had already gone through proper channels. (Mono said he would send his notes to me to send out to the faculty senate.)

C. Reports of Officers

- Lisa Black: DMM – next step is that a survey will go out and give you time and ability to input your feedback – hopefully tomorrow or the next day. Then the team will mesh the feedback which will come back to faculty. This seems to be a much better model after the feedback from EDD. Great questions came out. Seems like maybe Dec. 1 will have a draft model. Please know that this isn't a complete model but more explanation will be offered at the Retreat on the 13th. This date is not good for everyone but is good for most. It will give us a chance to flesh out the committee structure and charge. This will allow the committees time to discuss their plans. Committee membership: we already have chairs for all of the committees: Kim Hochmeister for Research; Julie Engel for Elections; Jeff Hunt for Policy; Tom Cox for Communications; and Terri Slonaker for Curriculum. When we come together in the retreat, we will be able to talk more. Please let us know where you want to be with regard to committee membership.
- Tiffany Cox: Advising guides – last Friday was the kick-off meeting. SAC inserted ourselves into the work that was already underway by district. This work will result in advising guides for students transferring into a specific university and clarifies prerequisites. The tedious work is already done; our charge was to Quality Control the work and make sure it was accurate and clear with the crosswalks between Alamo Colleges and the top 7 transfer institutions. We are looking at the 12 top transfer concentrations this round and this will be the ground for the work going forward. It was a very productive session with CIS being completely done once it was over. Deadline is Nov 25 for work to be done. Dr. Vela will be sponsoring the work and submitting the

work from all 5 colleges to district. This process is a lot of work but it will be more meaningful because of the involvement of the faculty. Making it an organized process will make it better for us in the long run.

- Tammy Perez: Faculty mentoring: Meeting held on October 16 as preparation for Dr. Nutt's visit on November 6. Some progress was made toward inclusion of a multitude of opinions concerning the direction of the faculty model. More information will be forthcoming at the next senate meeting.

D. Reports of Standing Committees

- Survey and Elections Committee: Julie Engel reported that an email will go out for the tenure appeals committee. Three members will be elected. Make sure that it's someone that will be dedicated to the committee; Amanda wanted to know if adjuncts may serve. Since this is a tenure appeals committee the answer is no. With the guns on campus survey, several senators voiced that they don't see how it fits in as an action agenda item for the senate and proposed that this body not be the one to administer the survey but that the faculty member should take it to the SAC IRB if he wishes to carry out the research. Mary Lennon suggested that the guns on campus issue be addressed in some way. It seems that faculty should have input on the permissible areas part of the law. Jeff raised a motion to send the survey back to the faculty member. Motion was seconded and passed. A motion was made to create a new item to send to the policy committee to research guns on campus. The motion passed. Piper Professor Award: We received three nominations – two declined and Dan Dimitriu accepted but was uncomfortable with the process since there is no faculty selection process being that he is the only nominee. Senate voted in favor of his application moving forward.
- Research Committee: Kim Hochmeister reported that they met last week. So far, Liz Lennon and Chris Haugen comprise the committee. There is a great deal of research to be done on the Texas Legislature, campus carry, block scheduling, and allied health focus for block scheduling. There is an incredible amount of exploration that can be done on HS students and how their credit gets counted. This may give them more options. This committee has a growing list of areas to research. They are looking at national foundations, vendors, and upcoming changes in higher education. They are looking at creating a virtual workspace. Lisa suggested to Tom that we have a place to locate research on our Senate site. May want to give research to Tom as he moves forward with design of website. Many PTE programs are on block schedules.

E. Reports of other Senators

- Jeff Hunt: Employee Development Day – Thank you to the presenters. It was a small committee. It went well overall. Attendance was way up: 350 last year; 691 registered for breakout sessions this year. Needed to get the breakout sessions formalized sooner; need to start earlier; closed registration by mistake on Friday which caused problems. Thank you to departments that gave prizes. Feedback: faculty liked the selection this year; pushing for EDD to be on Friday next year. Breakfast was good. Need more staff options. Staff has to be on the committee. Some faculty take the day off because they don't feel it is important but in service happens everywhere. Please consider being on the committee for next year. Evaluations will be coming soon.
- Tom Billimek, Mike Burton, Jeff Hunt: High Risk Courses was discussed at Joint Chairs. Background: courses that have below 70% PGR are deemed as High Risk. Charrettes have been carried out to figure out what is going on with these courses. The Chair needs to see a trend with a professor, not just a bad semester. There is a list of strategies that you will meet with your Chair to discuss and determine options to help you raise the PGR via some type of action plan. We went through a good discussion to adapt the document. Discussion about at risk courses: there is an issue of how to define a high risk course; what about students that have to

drop due to other than academic reasons?; when we drop a student, we should have to put in reason that they drop to better identify those cases that are truly academic. We cannot be held accountable for student drops that don't have to do with academic reasons. Need to define what the W is in order to better define the high risk percentage. If an instructor has consistently low scores, look at the courses and the traditional difficulty or student preparation. Look at courses with low student success rate; Lisa points out that our community doesn't understand the student we teach. Look at the document in December meeting.

- Jeff had a question about eLumen: NA results are a problem because they adversely affect the reports. It is understood that the NA will stand. We need a consistent definition based on an action plan. Look at first two columns and see if they were 70% - senate leadership will take this to Blackwood and Vela. Additionally, Lakeview numbers could be hurting us – we need to call Lakeview to let them know what they are supposed to be doing. Mono says the English data was inaccurate. Julie also had problems with their data.

F. Old Business

- Open Educational Resources – Julie Engel is on the district committee. They have met once. This committee originated with the board inquiring about how to make ER cheaper for students and wonder where faculty look for vetted material. There is a lot out there. How could some vehicle exist for faculty to share, create, design, etc.? This is not about one textbook across campuses, it is not about requiring OERs. Apparently some faculty don't use the textbook and students lose money that way. At the board meeting there was a report on OER and there is a meeting tomorrow at PAC. We do belong to a consortium that gives us access to some ERs – Virginia bought it for us and Dawn will send it to me to send out. This committee needs a new committee member.

G. New Business

- Bylaws – will discuss this at the retreat – DMM will affect everything across the district.

H. Executive Session

I. Open Session for Vote

- Sean made a motion to table the Senate Engagement Strategies document in order to reformulate it into a philosophy statement at the Senate Retreat on November 13. The motion passed.

J. Adjournment

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:14 PM.