

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Retreat
Seaview Resort
May 11, 2015
9:30am – 3:00pm

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

I. Presentation of Task Force on Dual Credit

Karen York discussed progress by the Dual Credit Task Force, including reporting on courses taught in high schools by high school instructors working with a Stockton faculty liaison to help design and monitor the course. She reported on the qualifications of high school instructors, options for high school students enrolling in courses, and relationship to AP exams. There is legislation requiring public institutions of higher education to accept course credit of students who successfully complete a course from a dual-enrollment program.

Senators asked about specific requirements for dual credit courses and Stockton's obligation to accept credit. The Task Force has some data on how many students who take these courses come to Stockton. The estimate is approximately 10%, but it is difficult to tell since there is no access to data on students who do not attend Stockton.

Senators asked why Stockton would offer credits for classes that are already offered at the high school. Karen York explained that Stockton is primarily trying to align high school courses with Stockton courses. Other senators added that Stockton is trying to increase recruitment strategies and determine how best to place students when they come to college. Senators also expressed concern about the integrity of academic programs when students can enter with significant numbers of college credits and wanted more effort by the faculty to defend the integrity of Stockton's academic quality. Roger Jackson noted that the Senate charged this task force with information gathering and the senate cannot step over into terms and conditions of employment, but noted that the Senate purview does include curriculum.

Senators asked whether there is data on how many students get a C and get credit for the high school class. Karen York said there is, but it has not all been analyzed. She mentioned that the administration has been very forthcoming with all the data.

She noted that the Union contract for liaisons has expired, and anticipated that all the necessary information could be gathered by December.

Senators asked about the number of schools involved in the dual credit program and how they were selected. Karen York said most schools or superintendents initiated the contact with Stockton. It was noted that it is difficult to partner with high schools with fewer resources because sometimes they do not offer AP courses. In addition, there is a high rate of turnover in the faculty of Atlantic City schools.

Senators asked whether there is student evaluation or assessment of the rigor in these classes. There is none except when students take proficiency or AP exams. Standards are

communicated to the teachers by liaisons in order to make the class comparable to a college course.

The task force has already indicated that they need to continue work into the next year. A task force is only charged with work for one year and so the Senate needs to charge the task force again.

Motion and second: To continue the Task Force on Dual Credit into the next academic year with a preliminary report in December.

Discussion continued regarding whether to ask the task force to develop a recommendation based on the information. Discussion of pros and cons included concerns regarding the state law requiring Stockton to accept credits, and concerns regarding the number of credits students can earn prior to matriculating into Stockton.

The vote was called: unanimous in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

II. Presentation by GENS committee representative on proposal to remove specific G course limits

John Bulevich introduced a proposal to remove specific G course limits. Some minors have specific requirements for G courses which can interfere with students' motivation to take other G courses. This proposal was originally introduced by Rob Gregg. Some senators were concerned that G course distribution was originally intended to help students take a breadth of courses. Some discussion evaluated the potential consequences if some students might not have to take courses that are unlike their majors. However, students can already take all their ASD with G courses. Some senators were worried about the current erosion of G courses. One difficulty in making exceptions for minors is not all students complete minors, making adjustments on the basis of majors is problematic because students often change majors. Other senators asked whether the limits for G courses could be increased instead of making no limits and wanted more information about the scope of the problem.

Motion and second: Refer this issue back to General Studies to ask for greater clarity on the extent of issues that motivate this and to determine whether or not there is a less extreme method for resolving this and related problems. Vote: unanimous in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

III. Presentation by Academic Policies on Permission Slip for Field Trips Form

Shelly Myers presented the permission slip made after modification with input from the senate at the last senate meeting. The permission slip specifically indicates the faculty member whose class is being missed has the prerogative not to allow the student to miss class. The form has students fill in their own names to be accountable for getting letters signed. The field trip faculty member would fill in specific information so the form could not be used inappropriately. Discussion included questions about whether faculty taking students on field trips should manually sign each letter for the class of students or whether a signed copy should be posted on Blackboard for students to download. Some faculty

wanted to be able to keep a copy of the letter if a student was missing their class for a field trip. Some senators suggested creating a system for completing the whole process online. Other faculty suggested no solution will be perfect. Senators questioned whether there should be a policy requiring faculty to document field trips in this way or whether using the form would be a courtesy. Some senators preferred that use of the form would be consistent across the faculty, with either everyone using it or no one using it.

Motion and second: To approve the form for pilot testing next year as a courtesy. Vote: unanimous in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

IV. Presentation by Administration and Finance on dependent tuition waivers for graduate courses

Susan Fahey presented information from Charles Ingram on the cost of offering graduate tuition waivers. The union has approved this. Spouses, partners, and children are included as dependents. Human Resources defines a dependent, so the language may need to be changed to specifically include spouses and partners and age might be important. Questions addressed whether there is a limit on the number of semesters. The answer is unclear. Some graduate programs are already at capacity, but Administration and Finance does not believe cost is their concern because those issues will be taken up by the administration.

Motion: To approve tuition waivers for graduate courses for spouses, partners and dependent children. No second was necessary. Vote: unanimous in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

Motion and second: To adjourn for lunch and reconvene in one hour. Unanimous in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried.

V. Presentation of the new Senate Website

Jennifer Lyke presented the new website for the faculty senate. Content was copied from the old website. The content can now be edited by the Senate Executive Committee. It is expected that the new website will replace the old one on the Stockton website sometime this summer. Senators asked questions about whether the website is searchable. It is not at this time.

VI. Discussion of Potential Task Forces on Modules & Winter Graduation

Rodger Jackson introduced these issues to be taken up next year.

VII. Presentations by Standing Committees

a. Student Affairs

Arnaldo Cordero-Roman provided an overview of his committee's purview, which includes all issues addressed by Student Affairs, including those related to students' mental and physical health, campus events and housing. Four main concerns are: 1) multiple faculty retirements, 2) including Student Affairs in the Institute for Faculty Development, 3) student housing, and 4) the Office of Veterans Affairs as there will be over 600 veterans on campus next year.

b. Library

Michael Rodriguez presented a summary of issues taken up by the Library Committee. The Library Committee currently assigns a staff member to act as a liaison in an advisory capacity for each program. Issues addressed this year include open access journals, repurposing physical space, digital preservation projects, and the search for an electronic resources coordinator.

c. Information and Technology

Aakash Taneja discussed work of the Information and Technology Committee. The committee was not assigned any specific tasks for this year, so they continued working on issues they have been involved in previously.

d. R&PD

Michelle McDonald presented the work of R&PD on behalf of Heather McGovern who was unable to attend the Faculty Senate retreat. The R&PD committee recommends that SCOSA and Academic Advising review their own project proposals in the future. Both review proposals that are not as scholarly as typical R&PD proposals, and therefore it is difficult to compare them. The R&PD committee also recommends allowing Scholarship of Engagement funds to be extended across two years since it often takes a year to get the project up and running. The committee recommends quarterly review of Provost Opportunity Fund applications. These issues should be taken up by the Faculty Senate next year.

e. Administration and Finance

Susan Fahey presented a summary of topics addressed by Administration and Finance. In addition to graduate tuition waivers, other issues included the Lakeside Lane parking lot, flat rate tuition for dual degree summer students, university finances, and accessibility issues. Accessibility problems include parking, signage, doors, bathrooms, elevators, and exterior paths.

f. General Studies

John Bulevich discussed a new process for proposing General Studies courses, especially streamlining objectives. General Studies objectives will be automatically mapped to ELO objectives. IDEA objectives may continue to be included or be eliminated entirely. The five-year review process will also be streamlined. Compliance is problematic since there are no repercussions. The committee is considering incentives for encouraging compliance. Discussion also included questions about whether courses that are approved but not being currently taught could be taught by new faculty to streamline the process for new faculty.

g. Academic Programs and Planning

Vicky Schindler discussed the committee's work on the Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership, proposals for three minors, and one certificate program in MAIT. Procedures addressed included the Life Cycle of Programs Procedure and the webpage information regarding the submission process for new programs and minors. Documents have been presented to Rodger Jackson and Michelle McDonald for review. These documents will serve as templates for new proposals.

h. Academic Policies

Shelly Myers reported on activities of Academic Policies. The Academic Honesty Review Board elections will now be conducted in the same way as other standing committee elections are held in their respective schools.

VIII. Agenda Setting for the Coming Year

Brian Tyrell listed six items to be considered in the coming year: 1) CAPP adjustments are only reviewed by one person if a program coordinator is signing their own CAPP adjustment, 2) concerns regarding the recruitment and retention of African-American faculty, 3) the meeting module schedule, 4) winter graduation, 5) proposals for submitting programs, and 6) de-coupling Academic Advising, SCOSA and Scholarship of Engagement funds.

The floor was opened for suggestions. Ideas for topics for the senate to address next year included attendance and participation at meetings of standing committees, and evaluation and/or enforcement of the smoking policy on campus.

Motion and second to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:53.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Lyke, Secretary of the Faculty Senate