

Faculty Senate Meeting

Meeting minutes, November 26, 2013

2:00pm Monk's Room

Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 2:13pm.
2. New Business Items
 - a. Agenda accepted
 - b. Meeting minutes (10/24/13) unanimously approved.
3. Board of Trustees Strategic Planning Committee meeting – Lisa Cook reporting
 - a. Outcomes:
 - i. President Carberry affirmed commitment to governance process. English Dept. will lead discipline review next year and make recommendations.
 - ii. Trustees decided to recommend the amended plan as is to the full Board of Trustees.
 - b. Highlights:
 - i. Pres. Carberry introduced the report of her “Special Committee,” formed after the last Trustees Strategic Plan Committee meeting, saying that “governance would be adhered to” in the implementation of this revised proposal.
 - ii. Special Committee co-chairs Kathy Rentsch and Chip Ates were invited to comment on their report. Co-chair K. Rentsch said that this committee was “the most honest committee” she has ever worked on. She also said “we attempted to roll the majority view and the next view into one objective.”
 - iii. The committee found that the “X” grade was an anomaly of QCC. The grading policy is to be further clarified “through the governance process.”
 - iv. M. Martin spoke in favor of the status quo, based on her years of experience teaching Developmental English, as Coordinator of the General Studies Program and as Chair of the Governance Steering Committee. She said that Dev. English is complex, has evolved over the years, and is now the best it has ever been. The Exit Exam is an important part of leveling the playing field, especially given that 80% of Developmental courses are taught by adjuncts who may not have had adequate training. The Exit Exam functions as a prerequisite to enroll in the next level; it is not technically an “exit exam,” because it does not prevent someone from completing the course.
 - v. Dean Chip Ates commented on his experience interviewing and hiring adjuncts, asking for “concrete evidence.”
 - vi. President Carberry added “I would like to undertake this investigation.”

- vii. VP Pat Toney said that the English Dept. discipline review will get data and look at the ratio of fulltime to part-time faculty.
 - viii. M. Bates and J. Brand spoke in support of the high quality of adjuncts teaching at QCC.
 - ix. Jean McLean spoke about the “X” grade, giving examples showing that the “X” grade is not unique, and is an attempt not to “ruin the GPA” for some students in special circumstances.
 - x. A QCC student spoke about a time she was very grateful to receive an X grade. This happened when she was absent, out-of-state, and difficult family circumstances prevented her from communicating with faculty members.
- c. Other:
- i. D. Yesihak asked, as English Dept. moves ahead with Discipline Review, would there be a discussion of ENG 100, ENG 101 and ENG 102? Might ENG 100 be eliminated?
 - ii. M. Wong responded that program requirements, transfer agreements and overall impact will have to be looked at. May try to move ENG 100 students into ENG 101.
 - iii. M. Wong reported that M. Bates has been approached to be on the Discipline Review Team. M. Bates reported that, at this time, there have been only informal conversations
 - iv. Where do we go from here?
A Committee is to be formed to look at retention, etc. Faculty Senate will be asked to participate.
4. College Policies That Need Review
- a. J. McLean recommended that the grading policy be reviewed.
 - b. D. Yesihak recommended that the arming of security officers be reviewed.
 - c. March All-College Forum to address “Safety” issues on campus. Faculty Senate needs to be well prepared with a position on “Safety” before this Forum.
5. New Business:
- a. Question posed: How can Faculty Senate deal with Part-time/Professional staff not being able to leave their work to attend Faculty Senate meetings?
 - i. Could Faculty Senate meetings be held after 4:00 pm?
 - ii. Group was reminded that this would be outside scheduled “governance times.”
 - b. Could Pres. Carberry be asked if, in support of governance, Professional Staff and DCE faculty would be able to go the Faculty Senate meetings?
 - c. G. Fitch recommended that we review the Bylaws to see if there is a way we might become more inclusive. If everyone cannot be included, then we’re not equitable. (per VP Pat Toney)

- d. J. Rice noted that this is not a Faculty Senate problem; it's a management issue.
- e. Consensus is that Faculty Senate do nothing at this point and just wait to see what happens.
- f. M. Wong, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, said the Bylaws need review/revision to become aligned with the new Governance structure.
- g. G. Fitch wants to look at other colleges and how they handle Faculty Senate membership.

Meeting ended at 3:00pm