Academic Senate Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Voltaire Villanueva at 2:02 p.m. in the Krause Center for Innovation (4006) and via Zoom. (See attendance below)

Roll Call

Secretary Robert Cormia conducted the roll call. Attendance was noted, and a quorum was confirmed.

Adoption of Agenda

Julie Jenkins moved to adopt the agenda, and Patrick Morriss seconded. The motion was carried by consensus.

Public Comments

No public comments were presented.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October 28, 2024, meeting was brought forth for approval. Patrick Morriss provided clarification regarding Senate communications, emphasizing that the Senate Digest is intended as a supplemental tool for division senators to disseminate information rather than as a primary communication method. Ben Kaupp moved for approval, seconded by Alison Meezan. The minutes were adopted by consensus.

Consent Calendar

Discussions included the vacant CNSL and DRC/VRC seats in the Teaching with Technology committee. Patrick Morriss inquired about the tenure due process pool, and Ben Kaupp clarified that there was only one member, David Marasco, currently in the pool. Voltaire Villanueva highlighted three faculty members involved in Credit for Prior Learning. Ben motioned to approve the calendar with the addition of Andy Lee to the list. Rachel Mudge seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Regular Business

Reimagining Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Ben Kaupp initiated the discussion by requesting guidance on improving the assessment of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). He clarified that the focus was not on individual classroom performance but on ensuring SLOs are measurable, equitable, and actionable at an institutional level.

Sara Cooper from STEM noted that faculty have not had adequate time to evaluate current SLOs, a sentiment echoed by Tracee Cunningham from Counseling. Hilda Fernandez stressed the importance of incorporating student feedback into the process, emphasizing the value of real-time insights into their learning experiences. Fatima Jinnah and Lynette Vega shared similar perspectives, with Lynette highlighting how collaborative faculty discussions around SLOs could serve as a unifying and enjoyable force for effective instruction.

Rachel Mudge raised concerns about conflating SLO discussions with RSI (Regular and Substantive Interaction), while Hilda shared that her division conducts annual program reviews, advocating for time and resources dedicated to SLO development. Alison Meezan suggested breaking up professional growth activities into quarterly, full-day sessions to provide focused time for topics like SLOs.

Concerns were raised about confidentiality and the potential misuse of SLOs for evaluative purposes, particularly in program review and discontinuance. Ben reiterated that the discussion should center on managing SLOs organizationally rather than as a measure of individual performance.

Development of Comprehensive AI Guidelines

Alison Meezan presented an overview of the draft AI guidelines, referencing an ASCCC resource document published in late spring. Rachel Mudge emphasized the need for assignment-specific AI policies, while Eric Reed cautioned against placing the burden of monitoring AI use solely on students.

Patrick Morriss proposed default settings for AI permissibility, stressing the importance of clarity and consistency. Julie Jenkins suggested that if AI use is allowed, students must understand the importance of properly attributing AI-generated work. Alison added that equity issues related to AI tools should be considered, and Sara Cooper proposed a temporary policy to address immediate needs while waiting for a district-wide policy to be developed.

Voltaire highlighted the importance of faculty input in shaping these guidelines and suggested revisiting the topic through the APM (Academic Policies and Procedures) committee. Alison noted that the Teaching with Technology committee was actively working on this issue.

Program Viability, Revitalization, and Discontinuance (PVRD)

Voltaire introduced the discussion on program viability, emphasizing the need for a clear process in light of accreditation feedback. He highlighted the interconnection between program review, SLOs, and program viability.

David Marasco reflected on the last program discontinuance process in 2011, stressing the importance of proactive discussions rather than reactive measures during crises. Sara Cooper emphasized the non-punitive nature of program review and advocated for faculty involvement in defining decision points. Hilda Fernandez underlined the importance of holding administration accountable for equitable program funding and noted past instances where program closures coincided with the creation of administrative positions.

ASCCC Fall 2024 Plenary Resolutions

Evan Gilstrap summarized key resolutions from the ASCCC Fall Plenary, including curriculum updates, academic renewal policies, and common course numbering. Patrick Morriss raised concerns about a resolution advocating for undoing AB 705, particularly its impact on prerequisites for transfer-level math and English courses. He proposed pulling the resolution off consent for further discussion at the plenary.

Academic Senate Budget and Scholarships

Robert Cormia provided a financial update, noting a $10,000 balance. He proposed maintaining a $5,000 reserve while funding part-time faculty events and scholarships. Hilda Fernandez suggested stipends for student ambassadors involved in initiatives like guided pathways and onboarding.

Standing Items

Officer and Committee Reports

- **MIPC Board Policy**: Patrick Morriss discussed military procedures for students called to active duty and the importance of re-enrollment accommodations upon their return.

- **STEM Center**: Sara Cooper highlighted faculty concerns regarding the allocation of one-time COVID block grants and the need for sustainable funding for peer tutoring programs.

- **Curriculum Committee**: Ben Kaupp provided updates on activities related to curriculum development.

- **AI Workshop**: Robert Cormia announced an upcoming workshop on AI teaching assistants.

Announcements

Hilda Fernandez raised concerns about the challenges faced by undocumented students amid a toxic political climate, urging faculty to advocate for marginalized populations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2024.

Attendance: Members attended both in person (Room 4006) and via Zoom.

Role	Name	Attendance
Dean of Equity	Ajani Byrd	Zoom
Faculty Chair of Teaching with Technology	Allison Meezan	4006
DRC/VRC	Ana Maravilla	absent
Vice President of Curriculum	Ben Kaupp	4006
HSH	Brenda Hanning	absent
Professional Development Coordinator	Carolyn Holcroft	Zoom
LRC	Destiny Rivera	Zoom
KIN	Don Mac Neil	Zoom
Classified Senate Rep	Doreen Finkelstein	Zoom
FAC	Eric Kuehnl	4006
LRC	Eric Reed	4006
Counseling	Fatima Jinnah	Zoom
FAC	Hilary Gomes	Zoom
LA	Hilda Fernandez	Zoom
FA Rep	Jordana Griffiths	4006
BSS	Julie Jenkins	4006
KIN	Katy Ripp	Zoom
HSH	Lydia Daniel	Zoom
24-26 Part Time Faculty Rep	Lynette Vega	4006
23-25 Part Time Faculty Rep	Michael Chang	4006
BSS	Mona Rawal	4006

Apprenticeship	Nate Vennarucci	4006
Executive Vice President	Patrick Morriss	4006
ASFC Rep	Paulo Verzosa	absent
STEM	Rachel Mudge	4006
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert Cormia	4006
STEM	Sara Cooper	4006
President's Cabinet	Stacy Gleixner	4006
Counseling	Tracee Cunningham	4006
LA	Ulysses Acevedo	4006
President	Voltaire Villanueva	4006