

Oxnard College Academic Senate
Monday, December 13, 2004
2:30 PM
CSSC 101/102

I. Call to Order--2:38 pm.

Officers Present—Lynn Fauth, David Magallanes, Jeannette Redding, Tom Stough.

Voting Senators—Mike Abram, Mark Bates, Alan Hayashi for Brett Black, Robert Cabral, Elissa Caruth, Gloria Guevara, Greg Kaapuni, Amy London, Christiane Mainzer, Gary Morgan, John Norbutas, Jim Petersen, Anthony Rodriguez, Carolyn Dorrance for Winston Sarafian, Ralph Smith.

Non-Voting Faculty—P. Scott Corbett, Ishita Edwards, Chris Horrock.

Guests—Felicia Torres, Paul Olmsted, Executive Vice President Ramiro Sanchez and Deans' Council.

II. Additions to the Agenda/Announcements—M. Abram announced that the annual Science Expo will be held on Wednesday, April 27 at Seaside Park in Ventura. Faculty help will be needed.

F. Torres requested more faculty presenters for the Multicultural Arts Day on Wednesday, April 13. She also asked faculty to give credit to students for attending these activities. M. Abram suggested that faculty view the event as an "alternative learning environment". Torres explained that 27 faculty have agreed to conduct workshops for visiting high school students. Entertainment and vendor displays will also be part of the day. Contacts are being made with high school counselors to attend. A. London asked: what is the workshop format? Answer: 45 minute slots. Torres reminded all to keep in mind that the Arts Day is intended for the College's current students as well as its potential future ones. Rotary Club and other community volunteers will help with greeting and directing the guests.

III. Approval of Minutes for November 22, 2004--Moved by A. Hayashi, seconded by R. Smith, carried.

IV. Committee Business—L. Fauth reported on three decisions reached at the joint PCC/FRC meeting. First: President Ledesma-Reese will appoint a task force to create the updated strategic plan for the College. Second: CCI decisions for IELM money were approved, but FRC will serve as the appeals body. Third: the plans submitted by CUDS plan for traffic improvement and safety around the Child Development Center were approved.

Campus Use, Development & Safety—no report.

Professional Development Committee—T. Stough reported that plans for Spring Flex Days were approved.

Curriculum—J. Redding reported that the Committee hopes to present a workshop on how to submit course outlines. She noted that procedures have greatly changed with the new all-electronic environment.

Program Review—L. Fauth reported this committee's work as "ongoing".

Student Services—no report.

Technology—no report.

V. Treasurer's Report--\$ 437.90, unchanged.

VI. Dialog with Deans Council on Scheduling Potentials

R. Sanchez noted that the College must maintain its focus on student learning. The Council's goal is to develop a uniform schedule so that students can take more classes in afternoon time slots. The Council realizes that there will be an impact on many academic programs.

D. Magallanes: will the proposed changes apply to all five-unit classes? Answer: most community colleges are going to Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

C. Dorrance: could a department still offer a 75-minute class three or four mornings a week? Answer: in general, yes. However, there must be as much uniformity as possible for students' sake. Discussion followed.

M. Bates: there are many arguments for and against these changes, but a definite decision is necessary. He noted that Santa Barbara City College has adopted block scheduling for all of its day and evening classes.

D. Cooper has compiled statistics on success rates for various class configurations (see attached document). Discussion followed.

P.S. Corbett: will scheduling become too complicated for us as well as for students? L. Fauth: the proposal gets rid of the Monday/Wednesday/Friday 50-minute class as the standard model. Complications come from four- and five-unit classes.

M. Abram—advocated moving to compressed calendar; pointed to success of LACCD in recovering lost students. Sanchez: this is a bargaining issue. AFT and SEIU haven't bought into the idea. Faculty must advocate for this if they want it. Fauth responded that AFT objected to going outside of the 40 weeks of work/10 months of instruction model. The District was also uninterested. Discussion followed.

Dorrance noted that Social Science faculty can get much more accomplished with longer time blocks. Hayashi asked: can success data be analyzed for different class

configurations? For example, 10 hour per week PACE mathematics courses had a completion rate of less than 25%. He voiced doubt that students will be successful with this. Also, how will office hours be handled?

Fauth noted that scheduling is largely under management purview. Deadline for decision: first or second week of the Spring. Further discussion will take place at the January 10 Senate meeting.

Fauth speculated about some of the advantages the revised schedule might bring; for example: the opportunity to offer once a week courses on Friday as well as electives and experimental courses. He guessed that the time wasted in a 5-day, 50-minute class on roll taking, assignment distribution, etc. represents about 50 minutes per week. For a 4/5-unit class with two meetings per week, wasted time drops to about 20 minutes per week.

Fauth further suggested that the revised schedule would make better use of existing room space. Block scheduling would also increase student opportunities to participate in club activities, tutoring and the Scholars' Lecture Series. He found that five colleges similar to ours have mixed scheduling; i.e., a combination of traditional and block scheduling. Questions were raised about whether Banner can handle such variances. Answer: yes it can, but the semester start/end dates must be consistent for the District as a whole.

Fauth also asked rhetorically: are the students interested in this issue? Adam Powers will report back to the Senate in January. There may be greater competition for earlier class times causing more courses moving to afternoon slots. A response might be to place core and general education courses in the afternoon. In any case, the decision would have to be followed by an advertising push to inform the student body.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stough
Secretary