Faculty Senate Meeting March 9, 2012

In attendance: Amy Collins, Heather McCreery, Kelli Bradshaw, June Pedraza, Beth May, Brian Stout, Steve Philbrick, Kevin Kelley, Michael Goekin, Andrea Anderson, Nancy Kaida, Carlos Acosta, Wes Anderson, Linda Reeves, Simon van Dijk

- Super senate agenda for today:
  - Budget/compensation – Brian had a meeting Wednesday with the compensation committee and they made a final proposal for 9 month pay period and summer pay. The committee feels it is a good package; Brian will talk to the chancellor today. If the chancellor approves the package then it will go to board committee a week from Tuesday. He is worried about summer but Zeigler seemed optimistic. There are no changes for this summer.
  - Chair selection policy – Steve: What is your understanding of the policy? Beth: It is left to the colleges. The super senate has discussed there should be a clear policy because of things that has happened here and SPC. Beth is asking the senate for feedback. Members agree there should be a policy in place at each of the colleges but it does not need to be a district policy.
    - Linda watched the town hall meeting at SAC and one question was about chair selection. The chancellor stated they are essentially serving as administration, that there is a learning curve and by time you get past that the 3 years are up, and there was a lot of talk about it becoming an administrative position. Her concern – do faculty have any say?
    - Brian – that learning curve is a good thing, when faculty get back into the department they are more valuable.
    - What about the effects of an administrative position?
    - Do you really want someone serving for 20+ years, how has that worked out for some other colleges?
    - This is something to keep an eye on.
    - We need to look into SACS definition of shared governance.
  - Percentage of courses in major/capstone courses – Currently the last 25% of coursework has to be done at the school the student is graduating from, but they student does not have to take any core classes at that school. There will be discussion about whether this should be changed, or at least capstone courses must be taken at that school. The district will want the easiest route to award degrees. Courses for majors are not as important but capstone course are important they are taken at graduating school. There are some schools not covering the materials necessary in certain course. Maybe entrance and exit exams would help?
  - Alamo colleges’ online status – The initial committee was dissolved and no longer notified of any information about the status. Brian attended a meeting (he was there because he was part of the LMS committee) but didn’t really know what was going on. Linda – Next step is they are going to hire the director and they are hoping to get the program in place for next spring.
  - Assessment summit – Beth went to pre-meeting about the summit this week. On this committee from our college there is an adjunct and Jimmie. At the pre-meeting they talked about trying to work so the old committees work doesn’t just get thrown out. One problem they
were having is no one could find a job description of a faculty member since early 90s; they want this to be based on the job description but HR cannot find one.

- Faculty focus group responses- The district hired a focus group in the fall and had faculty talk about different issues. Beth has the report; Dawn had to get the report through a third party. Nothing in the report is attributed to anyone directly; it basically says what we already know about the issues at Alamo colleges.
- Textbook policy concerns- the super senate may be looking at different texts for different sections. They may also maybe looking at people writing their own.
- Beth will report back after the super senate meeting.

• The chancellor was on the radio discussing our role in the reduced cost bachelor’s degree working with Texas A & M- San Antonio. Alamo colleges would offer 3rd year courses, students would sign agreement with A &M SA.
  • Discussion:
    ▪ This is good financially for students.
    ▪ Right now we have problems with UTSA not recognizing some of our course work and moving it from 2nd year to 3rd year.
    ▪ There was an article in express news – UTSA announces $10,000 degree with first 2 years at cc and finish at UTSA in 8 semesters
    ▪ What will probably happen is we could get accredited through A & M for those 3rd year courses
    ▪ This is already happening in Florida and other areas of US
    ▪ Several think this is a great idea.

• Grades are due during spring break for flex 1, this can create a bit of an issue. Would like to suggest in future sessions that grades be due after Spring break.

• Report from this Tuesday’s CLC meeting – Linda attended. Anderson marketing group will be creating some videos throughout campuses. One of their possible slogans is “faculty – doing it, teaching it”. (general discussion followed). There was talk about summer pay – many at the CLC meeting feel there should be a compromise bet all adjunct pay and % of load. At adjunct pay for summer faculty cannot be expected to work on all the extra duties like prepping for adjunct day and student advising. There will now be 2 extra days rolled into our contract and each college will have some leeway as to where they use them. For NVC one of the days will be the August adjunct training day. The question was raised if faculty should be paid for doing advising during the summer? The new faculty pay rate for non teaching duties will be $37 per hour, and advisors only get about half that for their job. According to CLC faculty promotion and tenure procedures are going to be approved with minor changes. There will be no more terminal year; faculty that will not be renewed will just notified earlier (March 31st). All of these procedures may be changed in the future due to board decision about tenure and the work of the new committee. There was some discussion about chair selection, discussion about some areas where it may be more appropriate for an administrative chair than a faculty chair (such as workforce).

• Update on library staffing – as of 2 days ago, the chancellor was not going to approve external posting and we would have to take a transfer from SAC, but today they were told they could do an external posting.
• Board of trustee elections – There are new candidates for districts 5 and 7. In district 5 Zarate is running again, against Ramiro Nava who is the principal at Armstrong Elementary. In district 6 Sprague will run unopposed. In district 7 Fernandez will not run again, but has endorsed Yvonne Katz, former Spring Branch ISD superintendent. Since 6 and 7 are unopposed those races will most likely not be voted on.
• Report on the special board meeting – The board was in executive session only, and there were only a few people in the audience. While waiting Beth was talking with those waiting and found out there was a summer last week about the Eagle Ford Shale project.
  o Ramiro Nava will be a guest speaker at the SAC AUP meeting.
  o We can invite him to come out to speak to our faculty.
• Faculty senate elections – today is the last day to nominate faculty to represent your department, please talk to department members as we still have several where no one has been nominated. Elections will be held the week we return from Spring Break.
• Michael updated us on Jackie’s innovation team. There were 26 asked to be on the team and they had their first meeting. Julie and Jackie and their group had done some work already. There were 6 areas identified as needing innovation but Michael could not remember all 6. He knew one was adjunct faculty training and development (weekly opportunities like full time have). Nancy was at the meeting as well and she remembered learning communities, faculty advising, accountability, and student success were some of the areas.
• Carlos reminded everyone that AAUP would be having their next meeting on Friday March 23rd at Michael’s house at 4pm. There will be bbq, etc.

Next meeting – March 23rd