Faculty Senate Meeting March 23rd, 2012

In attendance – Steve Philbrick, Nancy Kaida, Kelli Bradshaw, Beth May, Kevin Kelley, Linda Reeves, Brian Stout, Simon van Dijk, Andrea Anderson, Charles Hinkley, Carlos Acosta, Michael Goeken, June Pedraza

Meeting began at 8:35am

Ramiro Nava will be at the SAC AAUP meeting 3/29 MLC 229 at 4pm

Beth – Going over a few things that were sent in her last email to us:

• She sent a link to the budget books. If you want to look at the district budget go to the link. We are being asked to suggest more ways to save money. There is a budget retreat coming up if someone can go in her place Monday and Tuesday April 2nd and 3rd, she will forward the information. (Brian will go Monday and Kelli will go Tuesday) There are 2 budget retreats this spring - this is the first one, at the first one they going to plan for the 2nd one.

• Alamo colleges online – The plan is not to touch the curriculum, that will still be faculty driven. What they want is when students go to register they see all the online classes in one place. Once they hire someone they will work with committees at each college; district is also trying to centralize student services for online. Dr. Leslie said he wants us to be a player and we have to compete and wants to raise money (raise fees for online) so we can compete with University of Phoenix and Concordia, etc.
  o Linda – the libraries have different databases based on what programs each college offers?
  o Beth – I am not sure they would centralize that.
  o Michael – When I was on the original committee the idea was discussed of shared services and one college would have all library services for online, one would provide student support, etc. They also talked about the Phoenix model, where assessments are the same for each course.
  o Carlos – The Phoenix model is basically holding the student’s hand through the process, the assignments are all already set up, it is a template you must follow.
  o Michael – They talked about new instructors using the template, but material can be added to it. Then after one year they would be free to develop their own module.
  o Nancy – is anyone beta testing canvas? A student came in to the library and was having issues turning something in, we had several error messages?
  o Brian – I am using it and so far really have had no issues. It is super easy to use. Make sure the student opens it outside of ACES.
  o Steve – can we transfer existing classes into it?
  o Brian – you can but I recommend building new because there are so many cool features. It will be open in the fall to anyone wanting to use it.
Assessment summit email – Beth is not on the committee so she is only getting some of the information, but the committee will survey 15 faculty (or 15 from each campus) about their job so they can build a job description (The postings now don’t have a description); after that they will be meeting to create the job description. There will then be focus groups, and the committee will meet after those are conducted. They hope to have that work completed by May 4th. The work of the committee from last year will be used next year, and was supposed to be approved by the board last May but was not because of the tenure issue. They will move on it now to use in the interim.

Results of focus group – Beth will forward it to the faculty.

Eagle Ford Shale – was discussed briefly at super senate. Alamo Colleges are certifying students to do fracking. There is not much discussion about this.
  o Carlos – Do we (Alamo Colleges) have any training with alternative energies (solar, etc.)?
  o Beth – I don’t think so.
  o Charles – At Southwest campus – some training (did not catch what type)
  o ? – We may want to talk to colleagues and make sure they know this is going on.
  o Andrea – Earth day is coming up, maybe there is some way to tie it in?

Other Topics:

Steve- Social Sciences is meeting today with discipline coordinators regarding advising. Has this been brought up in other departments? What is expected? Is this for informal advising?
  o Brian – this whole idea is evolving; those faculty that want help we want to get them the resources to be able to do it. In his department there are a lot of faculty want to help. They are trying to come up with ways faculty can do informal advising and get them involved in whatever level they feel comfortable.
  o Steve – What about areas where there are several hundred graduates but only a few faculty?
  o Charles – One suggestion is for faculty from other disciplines that are willing to help other disciplines they feel comfortable with will help with disciplines that need more people.
  o Steve – has anyone tried to quantify what this is going to mean? How many hours a week will this add?
  o Beth – For us, the bulk of the advising will be before classes anyway. They go into the 2 classes that are required by all of their majors and advise students through those classes.
  o Brian – As part of another program he had up to 50-100 students where he has been declared their advisor, but it really does not take up as much of your time as you would think because they do not come by that often.
  o Steve – That is what the chair said as well, many students won’t come in.
  o June – Many students that don’t come in are the ones that need the advising.
  o Brian – The students need incentive to come in and be advised. Maybe being able to go through registration with their advisor?
Michael – He started working through another program, a student mentoring program with 10 students, and he found many have been advised in CCC but not advised correctly.

Beth – Hopefully this new faculty advising program will help, want students to come in and be told what classes they need to take; don’t fault advisors because we do not have enough.

June – In our department we have a bit of disconnect, many in the department don’t want to help because they are already overloaded because we are understaffed. They have a fear of being stuck in their office with 100s of students.

Brian – If certain faculty do not feel comfortable with this we do not want to force it, but for those that do we want to encourage them and give support.

Beth – Once it gets started I think it will reduce fears. Right now it is scary because it is unknown, no one seems to know what all it will mean.

Linda – Nancy Tipton has reserved rooms in the library for faculty advising, she said it was for advising and not training, does anyone know anything about this?

Beth – I’m wondering if that is not just for a particular department.

Brian – it might be when folks are manning tables like they did in the spring?

Beth – thought they were still doing that in cypress?

**Hiring Issues**

Michael – About 3 years ago NVC hired quite a few positions and three did not go through, Kathy Manning in business is one of those. Now her position is being eliminated due to budget. The department is fighting this since she should have been hired in the first place. Right now she is teaching their full time accounting classes in the mornings and without her they would not be able to cover the courses because it is impossible to get someone to teach accounting in the morning.

June – English is hiring right now, opening 2 positions but they were internal only and our full time temps are not eligible. That means only the interns are available to apply (here at NVC).

Brian – are you losing your temps?

June – they are on their 3rd year.

Brian – This is happening because of the overages at SAC.

Other general discussions followed.

**Compensation**

Brian - the board will vote on Tuesday about the possible pay raise. If you have any questions about it ask Brian. They are asking faculty to come out to the board meeting to support it. It is looking good for the vote, the chancellor was adamant about getting it approved now rather than waiting until the budget is set.

Simon – how does this relate to step, where it was previously based on years of experience?
o Brian – the plan is that every year the committee will meet and will produce a list of minimum and maximum raises, looking to make sure there are not compression issues. Generally the board will decide on the percentage raise each year and the committee will report out and that will be based on years of experience, so you will see where you are on the table.

o Simon – Sounds the same as the step system, which they ignored.

o Brian – the problem with the step system is the board does not understand it, but with the line they are going to see where folks are stagnant. This allows for the board to see the problems and for the committee to make recommendations.

- Carlos – Reminder about the AAUP bbq today at Michael’s house.
- Simon – March 31st is the Texas Science and Engineering Fair. They are always lacking judges and need volunteers. He is asking the senate to talk to their colleagues and ask for volunteers. They can contact Simon for more information. They need between 300 and 350 judges. Do not have to work here to volunteer.

Next meeting – April 20th