



Senate Nanoseconds

What Faculty Need to Know

A concise summary of Senate business conducted at a Senate Board meeting. Complete minutes available on the PCC Website.
October 10, 2011 Academic Senate Board Meeting

Public Comments: Simon Fraser, from Associated Students and a member of Queer Alliance, a part of LGBT campus community, announced “coming out week” to promote a safe environment in which to freely claim one’s personal identity and to counter the negative effects of bullying. Events will begin Tuesday October 11, 2011 with a Poetry Slam on October 13th in the WiFi Lounge at 6:00pm. Chris Fennessy announced an Associated Students Town Hall, Thursday October 20th in the Circadian to be followed by a showing of Deathly Hollows part 2 in the Quad.

CalSTRS Update: Susan Hendricks, Retirement Liaison from L.A. Faculty Guild and currently seeking election as a Board Member of CalSTRS, provided an update on possible changes to CalSTRS such as “Air Time”, the ability to purchase five years toward retirement based on service credit and the practice “pension spiking”. See CalSTRS publication *Connections* for a fuller explanation of “Air Time”.

Budget Presentation: Budget Presentation: Danny Hamman, PCCFA Treasurer and member of Budget & Resource Allocation Committee (BRAC), reviewed publicly available budget information (much from PCC’s own website) and presented the FA’s perspective that claims that PCC was close to not making “payroll” were highly exaggerated. It is more a matter of priorities, not money. Examples included: 1) found a way to pay for an “Equity Adjustment” (average 10.88% raise) for PCC Management in late 2008 (just after the big crash); 2) April, 2011 - found \$6.2 Million for U-building “swing space” (i.e. portable classrooms) from money sitting in accounts while BRAC committee was feverishly looking for \$5M - \$9M to fill potential budgetary gap for 2011-12. Prof. Hamman also provided that, from his perspective, there is a lack of shared governance or “collegial consultation” in this committee as demonstrated by the fact that: 1) there was only one vote during the year (\$6.2 Million); and 2) lack of documentation to back up information presented after repeated requests; and 3) the final budget presentation was rushed with voluminous amounts of information and little to no time for discussion, consultation, or questions.

Sabbatical Leave Committee – Pat Peach announce the 2012-2013 application due date is October 31st. Sabbatical guidelines are outlined in the faculty contract. There will be two noontime workshops offered: October 13 at 12PM in the Circadian and October 18 at 12PM in C233.

Nominations and Election Committee Pat Peach affirmed the committee’s commitment to use less paper by emailing candidates statements. However, the ballot process will be done on paper.

Executive Committee Recommendations: 1) Academic Senate goals for 2011-2012 were adopted; 2) Rita D’Amico and Patricia Lynn were appointed to the Nominations and Election Committee; 3) Derek Milne, James Aragon, Steve Pell, and Lynn Wright were appointed to the Shared Governance

committee; 4) Dustin Hanvey, Martha Bonilla, Dan Haley, and Roger Marheine were appointed as interim faculty representatives to the Planning and Priorities Committee.

Realignment: Many concerns as to the rationale, goals, and outcomes of realignment were voiced by many faculty member. Some questioned how the project of realignment furthers the goals of the EMP and whether it is an unnecessary distraction in reaching our stated goals. Others noted that the realignment, which has already begun with the hiring of the new Vice Presidents and the refusal to hire replacement Deans, could create an administrative-heavy campus effectively weakening faculty involvement. Others countered that faculty could be strengthened by seeking appropriate funding and release time for faculty chairs. Further discussion was tabled for the next Academic Senate meeting.

Planning and Priorities Committee nominations: This committee has been charged with the task of developing a method to solicit input from the campus community concerning realignment and research realignment models. Because of the concerns and uncertainty about the project of realignment and the role of this committee, there were no nominations of permanent appointees made at this time. Academic Senate asks all those who are interested in serving on the Planning and Priorities committee to contact the Academic Senate Office by noon on Wednesday, October 19th with an expression of your interest. A democratic ballot process will be used to select representatives. Please submit a short (one paragraph) “vision” statement, or why you wish to represent the faculty voice in the planning stage of realignment.

PCCFA Report: Roger Marheine announced that Negotiations are to begin in November/December. The college is offering a new supplemental employee retirement plan 75% (Tier 2) with a declaration deadline of November 15 and a retirement deadline of December 31. The discussion for a third tier (deadline would be June 30, 2011) for faculty will take place this Friday. A raise for both full-time and adjunct faculty will be requested.

FACCC Report: Dr. Joe Conner encouraged faculty to visit the updated FACCC website. A part-time symposium is scheduled for October 29 at De-Anza College.

Announcements:

The authors of *The Three Doctors* will discuss their book November 18th 3:30pm in Cross Cultural Center.

Board of Trustee’s Candidates Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th at 7:00pm in the Creveling Lounge.