Senate Seconds – 4/30/2007

1. Several faculty members from the Physical Education Division (Terry Stoddard, Jessie Moore, Greg Smith, and Bob Owens) addressed the Senate Board to voice their perspectives on the way that the job description for the new division dean was developed. They criticized the administration for failing to consult with faculty on the job description; Hiring policy does stipulate that the job description should have been developed by the college president and the Academic Senate as a matter of mutual agreement. They thanked Kay Dabelow for listening to their perspective and delivering their concerns to the college president. The issue was referred to the Senate executive committee for further discussion with the president.

2. Rank Committee – Ted James presented a list of faculty for rank advancement. The list includes: 1. to assistant professor: Jorge Encinas, Rod Foster, Christopher McCabe, and Ruoyi Wu. 2. To associate professor: Cathy Johnson, Kate Meehan. 3. To professor: Laurie Burrus, Daniel Hamman. 4. To professor emeritus: Gregory Lee, Robert Wright, and Robert Navarro. 5. To adjunct assistant professor: Virginia Berrettini, Cynthia Hsiang, Iris Fiorito, Siv Si, and Darlene Burton. All were approved. The Committee also presented a draft of a proposed change in practice of rank advancement that will provide for advancement for instructors in Career and Technical Education areas. The Committee also presented a request from the Visual Arts Division for Professor Emeritus status for Mikki Bolliger. The issue was referred back to committee.

3. C&I/SLO Steering Committee – Carol Curtis announced two additional SLO workshops. One workshop will focus on rubrics on 5/11. The second workshop will focus on program SLOs on 6/1. Both will take place in the TLC (V103).

4. Educational Policies Committee – Jim Bickley reported that the proposed definitions and form related to academic dishonesty have undergone a few minor changes. A vote on the proposed definitions will be held at the next Senate meeting.

5. Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Ethics – Jim Bickley reported on the proposed Time, Place and Manner Policy. Dr. Kossler may forward the proposed policy to the Board of Trustees despite concerns and objections expressed by some faculty that the policy will restrict free speech. CAFPE will meet again on 5/10 for final input from faculty. The Senate board will vote on this proposed policy on 5/14.

6. Vocational Education – Kay Dabelow reported for Shelley Gaskin. A name change to the Career and Technical Education Committee was approved. The name change move reflects a nationwide trend. A proposed policy on Advisory Committees for Career and Technical Education programs was referred back to committee with concerns about a. the length of the terms for representatives serving on the committee, and b. the requirement that the committees be chaired by a community representative.

7. Executive Committee Recommendations – The following were approved for Accreditation Writing Groups: IA Mission of the College: Joe Conner, Eloy Zarate, John Sepikas, CB Improving Institutional Effectiveness: Dustin Hanvey, Ana Ogaz, Kris Pilon, IIA Instructional Programs: Rita D’Amico, Yu Chung Chang, Evangelia Quintanar, IIB Student Support Services: Cecile Davis Anderson, Virginia Herringer, Edward Martinez, IIC Library and Learning Support Services: Krista Goguen, Ruoyi Wu, Chiara Thomas, IIIA Human Resources: Dan Gallup, Lee Reinharten, IIBB Physical Resources: David Uranga, Debra Bronstein, Lyman Chaffee, IIIC Technology Resources: Sandra Haynes, Salomon Davila, Jeff Rudisill, IIIID Financial Resources: Ahni Armstrong, Pat Peach, Sharokh Bastani, IVA Decision-making Roles and Processes: Rita Gonzales, Susie Ling, Chrystal Watson, IVB Board and Administrative Organization: Joe Probst, Cheryl Beard, Asher Shamam. The following appointments to committee were approved: Appointment of Rita Gonzales to Ad Hoc SLO Committee, Carmen Porreca to the Video/Audio Production Specialist Hiring Committee and Leslie Tirapelle to 5081 Compliance Committee. The Board approved the spending of up to $200 for a reception to honor Senate scholarship recipients on 6/4 before the Senate board meeting. The Senate approved the sending of a letter of sympathy to the faculty, staff and students of Virginia Tech University.

8. President’s Report – Kay Dabelow indicated that Beverley Tate as chair of the Connections Committee reported that the Committee will conduct survey of faculty to determine what connections exist with feeder high schools. The Board of Trustees had its annual retreat where they received presentations on ARCC and on SBI. The Student Benefit Index has been modified to reflect actual selection of classes by students. At the plenary session of the ASCCC, the proposed establishment of Creative Writing as a distinct discipline was voted down as was the separation of Art History from Art. Vice President’s Report – Jim Bickley reported that the bookstore has now moved to the “W” Building. Student Affairs will move out of the “CC” Building soon. The Campus Center will be closed following graduation.

9. Debra Wood from the Natural Science Division made a presentation on behalf of her faculty. She asked the Senate Board for support of Dr. Khuloud Sweimeh. Dr. Wood described Dr. Sweimeh as an outstanding organic chemistry instructor; however, Dr. Sweimeh is experiencing difficulty in that even though she was hired for a tenure track position, PCC refuses to sponsor her for permanent residency. The administration’s response is that it is not PCC’s policy to sponsor an employee for permanent residency due to liability issues. Hiring policy and the union contract are not clear on these issues especially since the changes in federal law since 9/11. The Senate Board approved two motions: 1. The Executive Committee will investigate the facts and legal issues and bring back recommendations on Dr. Sweimeh’s situation at the 5/14 meeting. 2. Send to the Shared Governance Committee the issue of immigration status in the faculty hiring policy.

10. Roger Marheine announced that the decertification of CTA as the bargaining representative of the faculty is now in process. Faculty members will receive a ballot from PERB at their home addresses that will provide them with three options: a. keep CTA, b. choose a new independent union, c. have no union at all.

11. Nominations for the Ralph Story Award and the Unsung Hero Award are still being sought. Forms are available in the Senate office. Nominations deadline is May 7 at noon.

12. Jo Buzcko will send out a campus wide survey on smoking. All faculty and staff are asked to participate in the survey and convey their ideas on the direction the campus should take on smoking policy.