

Woodland Community College
ACADEMIC SENATE
Minutes – May 11, 2012

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monica Chahal (President)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Ferns (Language Arts)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Talwinder Chetra (Math and Science)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Clark (Vice President/at large)	<input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Clavere (Adjunct)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pat Wheeler (Adjunct, at large)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Gassman (Social Sciences)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estelita Spears (Student Services)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna McGill-Cameron (Business and Vocational Ed.)

Guests: J. Ortiz, J. Ruiz, J. Shah, L. Geren, Mitch Harris (ASWCC)

Call to Order at 1:07 pm

I. Approval of Agenda (Clark/Chetra)

II. Public Comment

- A. J. Ruiz notes that CCOF is having problems addressing student services, primarily financial aid. CCOF enrolls about 225 students and about 90% of them take advantage of some form of financial aid, yet their financial aid needs are not being adequately addressed.
- B. Spears previously met with the planning committee for transfer day and reports that we may consider closing campus offices on October 11 from 10:00 to 1:00 pm in order to better support the students for transfer day.
- C. S. Spina thanks Cheryl Latimer, Estelita Spears, Juana Ruiz, Brandi Asmus, ASWCC, Myron Hord, Ag Leadership, and everyone who provided salads, desserts, and drinks for the successful CSEA Appreciation Lunch sponsored by YCFA (Clark reported this on behalf of S. Spina).
- D. Clark congratulates the ASWCC for a successful soccer tournament on the quad over the past two weeks.
- E. Clark thanks J. Vallejo, C. Strobe, and J. McCabe for volunteering to read names at this year's graduation.
- F. Chetra reports that the deadline to drop with a W date went back to the original 75% date. The calendar committee requests the WCC Senate to email to faculty the new W drop date: November 16, 2012 and April 19, 2013.
- G. J. Ortiz commends N. Kirschner and the other professors who helped organize and inspire students to participate in the Research Symposium this past week.
- H. Clark introduces Mitch Harris, the new ASWCC President. M. Harris states that he would like to see students involved on all campus committees and reports that he will work towards this goal next semester.
- I. Gassman expresses concern that M. Khatami's departure to a district level position may negatively affect the committees she is serving on, especially in light of her success on the SLO committee.
- J. McGill-Cameron reports that restroom facilities would be impacted by the proposed reading center in the workroom of Building 800. The restroom facilities were originally

designed for faculty only and they are very small. Now that more students are using the WAM and room 851 for classes, more students are using the restroom facilities.

III. Approval of minutes for 4/27/12 (Clark/Gassman)

IV. President's Report-Chahal

- A. DC3 Team 1 has accomplished its goals and sent recommendations to DC3 regarding resource planning and allocation.
- B. The district received an additional \$500,000 from the state and our structural deficit has been decreased to 1.2 million.

V. Vice President's Report-Clark (Written report is attached to the end of the minutes; additional commentary follows)

- A. Reading Center. McGill-Cameron and J. Ortiz express concerns on various communication and student traffic issues. Would this new center stress the current facilities? How would restrooms be impacted? How are new programs being implemented into current facilities? Is the process of communicating relevant details to faculty an inclusive one? Concerns should be directed to R. Besikof.
- B. Clark reports that Kuldeep Kaur recommended a new program to outsource sending checks to students that will save the district approximately \$17,000 per year.
- C. If more than one volunteer is available for committees and decisions must be made over the coming weeks, the Senate grants authority to the executive council of the Senate to make those personnel decisions.
- D. E. Spears will be stepping down from the Senate and the election process for a one year term has begun. Thanks to E. Spears for her work on the Senate!
- E. Work on the Senate Constitution has been pushed to Fall 2012.

VI. New Business

- A. Student Loans 2012-2013. L. Geren reports that some students, upon learning that student loans would not be offered next year, registered with other colleges. The process of communicating information regarding student loans to students was faulty and premature. While it is positive that student loans will be offered for the next year and reviewed, questions remain as to how administration handled the decision making and communication process leading up to the decision to discontinue and then reverse that decision. The decision was made with faulty data without proper consultation with the parties that would be affected. The Senate will write a resolution in support of this statement. The Student Success Committee statement appears at the end of this document.
- B. Year-end retreat. Friday, May 18, 8:30-11:30 was the time that accommodated the most senators.
- C. College Council Joint Meeting. This is scheduled for August 10, 1-3 pm.
- D. College Council Co-chair responsibilities and compensation. This position can be taken by a classified staff member or a faculty member, so a method of compensation fair to both parties would need to be developed.
 - **Motion: That administration devise a method of compensation for the role of College Council co-chair (Clark/Chetra).**

Discussion: What about other committee chairs? Would this lead to more requests for compensation from other chairs? Where is the line drawn between job description expectations and leadership positions that go beyond the job description?

➤ **Motion withdrawn (Clark).**

- E. WCC Curriculum Handbook. Tabled until the Senate special meeting on 5/18.
- F. Curriculum institute participants. The curriculum institute will take place in July. Costs should be minimal because it takes place in Northern California.
 - **Motion. That the senate fund two faculty members' participation at the curriculum institute (Clark/Gassman M/S/C)**
- G. BSI Budget. J. Ortiz reports that \$28,000 is scheduled to be spent by the middle of August, leaving a budget of \$10,000 for additional projects.
- H. BSI Direction 2012-2013. One name was received to fill the position of BSI facilitator. The Senate approves T. Chetra for volunteering for the position. Thanks to J. Ortiz for two years of service in that role.
- I. Program Review Validation Committee. Clark reports that the committee is working on a purpose statement and that membership is to be expanded to include two classified staff members. The Senate has no concerns about adding more members, but it may pose a hardship to those classified members since they are already stretched thin.

VII. Other Reports

- A. CCOF. Clark reports that the connection/communication between WCC and CCOF has not been as effective as both sides would like. It would be nice to build a stronger connection between CCOF and the Academic Senate or other committees. For example, schedules are being developed currently based on the teachers available to teach at the CCOF, but schedules should really be developed based on student needs rather than faculty availability. Flex hours for CCOF faculty need to be better coordinated as well. R. Besikof should be made aware of issues with CCOF as they arise.
- B. Division Reports. Will the Psychology faculty vacancy in Spring 2013 be automatically refilled? Clark reports that yes, it would be refilled if hiring is allowed based on the budget, but we aren't sure if it would be refilled before the English "auto refill" that was scheduled two years ago.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned-3:10 pm (Gassman/Clark)

Vice President Report
May 11, 2012

1. Committee Assignments –

Jaya Shah to Student Success (representing Math & Science)

Many positions are still unfilled. We will solicit once more before the retreat and then the arm twisting will begin.

2. Curriculum Report –

- Draft WCC Curriculum Handbook for Senate feedback.
- Core Curriculum – definition moving forward.
- Curricunet – still moving slowly forward.

3. DC3T2 – last two meetings have been cancelled. The committee is scheduled to meet on 5/25.

4. Meeting with Chancellor Houston and YC AS President Steverson (5/9) –

- Agreed that the W change made by the Calendar Committee violated Board policy since the change is under 10+1 requiring mutual agreement between the Board and the senate.
- We agreed to pursue shared decision making training for faculty and administration.
- We agreed to begin discussions regarding what to do when the two senates don't agree on 10+1 issues.
- We agreed to discuss whether student loans are a 10+1 issue. Most of these discussions will take place in DCAS.

5. DC3 (4/30) –

- Moved forward on Parking AP. Positive steps forward have been made. Chancellor Houston acknowledges that this has been a laborious process, somewhat by intent, as we work towards establishing a consensus model for decision making. More tools are needed. A program review of the district police department will be conducted to provide answers to many unanswered questions.
- The Sutter proposal was discussed. The desire to coordinate schedules (primarily Sutter and CCOF, but perhaps DE) was discussed. Dean Besikof will work with the incoming Sutter dean.
- Two mini-retreats were arranged. One was held on 5/7 to discuss deliverables from 12-16-11 planning session. The other will be held on 5/21 to discuss calendar formation for next year. (Greg Kimbel and I have been asked to represent the two senates at the latter.)

6. (AM)^2 (5/4 with Dean Besikof in place of President Fairchilds) –

- Student Loans – discussed need to spread information.
- Curriculum – VP Konuwa shared concerns of Chancellor Houston that what we (district) has in our catalogs and CORs doesn't match with what is at the state chancellor's office.
- Discussed possible compensation options for College Council co-chair (which may no be a faculty member).
- Convocation – began a conversation regarding possible topics for Convocation including: safety, portal, division/department time, moving back to a district Convocation.

- Discussed possible conversion of part of the 800 faculty workroom to a Reading Center. We encouraged the administration to receive feedback from all faculty members in the area before moving forward.
- Program Review Validation Committee – agreed to ask senate approval to add two classified members to the committee.
- We also discussed the mix-up at the district level on repeatability, coordinator evaluation, and a suggestion to move some diversity money to the Cross-Cultural Series.

(This weeks (AM)^2 was cancelled.)

7. WCC Budget and Planning (5/2) – Set plans for summer progress and discussed time-tables for deliverable.

The Student Success Committee has serious concerns regarding the WCC Administration's pending decision to eliminate student loans. While we understand that the issue of financial aid fraud is a serious one, we believe that this decision will erect a serious barrier to student academic success. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the administration reconsider this decision.

As District administrators review data about fraud and default rates, we urge you also to consider carefully what other community colleges are doing nation-wide to counter this problem. There are other, less drastic solutions to the problem of financial aid abuse; some of these preventative practices have already been implemented by many other community colleges. (See the attached document: Preventing Abuse). These practices include but are not limited to the following: Requiring how-to-budget workshops for aid recipients; holding student aid until after the census date; monitoring out-of-state addresses; placing student photos online; training faculty to take attendance and to report possible academic misbehavior; providing bookstore credits rather than cash disbursements or advance payments; evaluating satisfactory academic progress; identifying and flagging students who have stopped attending after receiving financial aid checks (Baime & Mullin, 2012).

We would also ask you to listen to Chancellor Scott who recommends “that all colleges retain loan access for their students.” He goes on to say:

“[Federal student] loans represent 15% of the total financial aid resources disbursed by our colleges last year, third only to Pell Grants and BOG Fee Waivers. Consistent and timely availability of these resources is necessary to ensure access and affordability to a large segment of our student population. [...] A decision to not offer these loans to your students could adversely impact the persistence and full-time attendance rates at your college” (Cochrane & Szabo-Kubitz, 2011).

In addition, we urge you to listen to the many WCC students who tell us that they will no longer be able to attend this college should this decision go into effect. See the attached letters from a representative of these students. Even if this number of students is only a small number as we have been told, eliminating student loans portrays the college in a negative light especially to the community it serves. Student loans enable student success, and our college needs to send the message that their success is worth investing in and that students are indeed first.

References

- Baime, D. S. & Mullin, C. M. (April 2012). Preventing abuse in Federal Student Aid: Community College Practices. Washington, D.C: American Association of Community Colleges. Retrieved April 20, 2012, from http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Publications/Reports/Documents/Preventing_Abuse.pdf
- Cochrane, D. & Szabo-Kubitz, L (April 2011). The Project on Student Debt. *Students denied: How community colleges shortchange students by not offering federal loans* (p. 6). Retrieved April 17, 2012, from http://projectonstudentdebt.org/pub_view.php?idx=737