

COLLEGE OF MARIN
ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2020

12:45 – 2:00 pm via Zoom Meeting

Senators Present: Karen Robinson, Peggy Dodge, Patricia Seery, Jeff Cady, Patricia France, Kevin Muller, Kofi Opong-Mensah, Kristin Perrone, Dave King, Paul Cheney, Maria Coulson, Joe Mueller

Senators Absent: Meg Pasquel, Shawn Purcell

Guests: Karen Cresci,
Rinetta Early

Minutes

- I. Approval and Adoption of the Agenda – **ADOPTED (Cheney/Perrone) with revision to move VII, invited guest (Karen Cresci), to the top of the agenda by all Senators present**
- II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of September 17, 2020 – **APPROVED (Cady/Cheney) with corrections by all Senators present**
- III. Public Requests to Address the Senate on Non-Agenda Items - **NONE**
- IV. Officers' Reports
 - a. President- **NONE**
 - b. Vice President (Maria Coulson): VP Coulson reported that issues regarding Proctorio are being raised and will be coming to the AS. VP Coulson also reported that OIM is exploring the date to open up Canvas course shells for Spring 2021 and is proposing January 13, 10 days in advance of the start of the semester.
- V. Committee Reports
 - a. Curriculum: **NONE**
 - b. Academic Standards: **HOLD FOR AP SCORE DISCUSSION**
 - c. Other Senate Subcommittee and Governance Committee Reports
 - i. Distance Education Committee (DEC) – VP Coulson reported that the Committee is discussing recruiting and assigning faculty mentors to provide support during this time of remote instruction.
 - ii. Facilities Planning – Senator Cady reported that the Committee had a presentation from Isidro Farias on the progress of bond projects. Senator Cady shared the timeline for design of the new building replacing the LRC and pointed out that we are now entering the schematic design period. It is a short window of time, so faculty are encouraged to respond promptly to notices of opportunities to participate.
 - iii. Technology Subcommittee – Senator Cheney reported that the Technology Subcommittee has 2 ASCOM members now. Senator Cheney also reported that new technologies will be coming soon.
 - iv. Planning and Resource Allocation Committee (PRAC) – Senator Perrone reported that the Digital Accessibility Workgroup reported a savings in interpretation costs due to remote instruction. All faculty are reminded of their personal responsibility regarding accessibility. Senator Perrone also reported that the Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE) unit is being reorganized. PRIE is requesting a Director of Institutional Effectiveness position be created and posted.

- d. UPM (Senator Joe Mueller) – Senator Mueller is not sure what information from UPM Executive Committee meetings is confidential and wants to check with them before giving a report. The question about UPM Executive Meetings being open meetings was raised.

VI. Consent Agenda – **APPROVED (Muller/King) by all Senators Present**

- a. Governance Committee Appointments
Patricia Hulin - PRAC

VII. Invited Guests: Karen Cresci (Bookstore/Follett)

Bookstore Manager Karen Cresci provided a presentation to the AS regarding textbook issues that arose in regard to Fall 2020. She mentioned several service-related issues including late adoptions; publisher shutdown; delivery delays; delay in Follett notifying instructors; course material changes without notifying bookstore; students not getting messages about where to find materials. Manager Cresci described changes for the Spring 2021 semester and important reminders to all faculty. Faculty submitting textbook adoptions late is a major problem. Spring adoptions are currently due on October 15. Used materials can be procured, titles added to the rental library, new titles digitized, discount pricing negotiated with publishers, and students having books for the first day of class are facilitated if textbook adoption is communicated on time. Faculty are reminded to communicate to the bookstore, even if no materials are required or the class is OER. If an OER print book is available, the bookstore gets copies for those students who prefer having print as opposed to the online resource. OER print books are listed by the bookstore as recommended, not required. Finally, Manager Cresci noted that the bookstore building is still closed to the public. All material is available online at collegeofmarinshop.com. Once they have been authorized to open, with all safety measures in place, the bookstore will open with limited capacity in-store shopping.

Senate questions and comments included:

- Sometimes the automated system said a textbook book was available but it was not,
- The October 15 adoption date appears to be earlier in the semester than usual. That date is often too early for adjunct faculty to meet since some have not even received their teaching assignments by that time.
- Can some adoptions be rolled over from current semester, especially for classes that have no material required?
- Suggestion was made that adoption deadline be brought into alignment with the final schedule review. *Manager Cresci said she would give consideration to an adoption deadline of November 1.*

VIII. Action Items

- a. AP 7120: **DEFERRED** – Latest version not available for review
- b. Faculty Led Instructional Committee (FLIC) – **Establishment of the Faculty Led Instructional Committee as a subcommittee of the Academic Senate APPROVED by all Senators present with Senators Robinson and Opong-Mensah abstaining**

IX. Discussion

- a. AP Scores: The issue regarding AP scores currently under discussion is regarding a proposal from the Counseling Department that COM update AP policies to accept AP Biology as equivalent to COM Biology 110 and 110L. Senators Perrone and Robinson are taking the lead in communicating with Senator Mueller in his role as Co-Chair of the Life and Earth Sciences Department to seek Department approval for the change. A draft document has been created by the counseling department and backed by 100% of the counselors requesting the acceptance of AP Biology for COM Biology 110 and 110L and providing data

and rationale for the request. Also at issue is AP Environmental Science that also does not state a specific course equivalency at COM. Rationale for proposed changes and discussion included:

- Students with AP Biology and/or AP Environmental Studies transferring to 4-year institutions face hardships because no specific course equivalency has been granted them at COM. The lack of course equivalency limits students' ability to meet prerequisites at 4-year colleges.
- Many UC give specific course equivalency credit for AP Biology and/or AP Environmental Studies. Students attending a UC directly with these AP scores are awarded credit for a specific class, thus meeting specific prerequisite requirements at the UC. Students coming to COM before going to UC are required to take additional coursework and are thus disadvantaged.
- Academic Standards Chair Rietta Early presented data from her research of 37 geographically diverse community colleges in California demonstrating that COM is the only one that does not give specific course credit for AP Biology and among only a few who do not give specific course credit for AP Environmental Studies.
- Senator Mueller described the department position that led to the denial of course equivalency when last reviewed several years ago. The Life and Earth Science position is that the high school teaching experience in AP courses is not equivalent to the teaching experience students get at COM.
- Senator Mueller described anecdotal reports about students who came to COM with AP Biology and performed poorly in Biology 110. The question was posed about what we know of the experiences and subsequent success rates of other community college Biology departments with students who had AP Biology accepted.
- Chair Early and Senators Robinson and Perrone clarified that AP credit is granted on the basis of scores on a standardized test, not on grades given by high school instructors. Also, high school AP classes are structured around a Course Outline of Record (COR) similar to the COR at colleges.

Senator Perrone will see that Senator Mueller gets the final approved position document from Counseling to bring to Life and Earth Science faculty for discussion. Senator Coulson who has previous experience teaching AP courses in high schools offered to attend the department meeting to help answer questions.

- b. Response to COVID Emergency – Proctorio; faculty bandwidth – **DEFERRED**
- c. Institutional and systemic racism at COM - **DEFERRED**

- X. New Business - **NONE**
- XI. Adjournment: 2:06 pm

For questions or information concerning the Academic Senate Minutes, please contact: Peggy Dodge, Acting AS Secretary: pdodge@marin.edu