



COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE

September, 2010

Welcome Back!

The Academic Senate is back in session every Thursday in SS A&B from 12:45 to 2 pm. The Agenda is posted every Monday morning in the window of the Senate office to the left of the main entrance to Fusselman Hall and in the Kentfield and IVC mailrooms. It is posted on the Academic Senate website as well, but isn't active until Tuesdays. It has also been sent to faculty *marin.edu* email addresses for the last year. However, it was noted this August that this list only includes credit faculty. So we are working on gaining access to the complete list of faculty MyCOM portal email addresses and will post at the portal as soon as we have access. This will include credit, noncredit and community education faculty.

Banner Survey!

Look for a Banner Satisfaction Survey on your MyCOM portal email. We will post a link to this survey hopefully in the next two weeks. Please help us assess faculty/student issues with registration and class information pages.

Are you frustrated about the state of technology at College of Marin? Would you like to have a say in the future directions of college-wide technology needs and expenditures?

Join the Tech Committee.

Thursdays from 11 am to 12:30.
(See page 3).

I would like to take this opportunity to ask the College Community to give a thoughtful read to the letter written to the Board of Trustees by our new Academic Senate President Sara McKinnon. I can't imagine any member of our community not agreeing whole-heartedly with its premise. The peaceful tone of the letter is refreshing to say the least. It made me think: "Wouldn't it be nice if we were all on the same team and worked together" as well as "Don't we all agree that we are here for the students?"

These comments to the Board really did make me proud to be a member of the Academic Senate. I ask you to please give the few moments of thoughtfulness it deserves.

--Senator Joe Mueller

(see page 2)

Academic Senate President's Comment to the Board of Trustees (Aug. 24th)

You know, Dr. Chialin Hsieh, (our new Director of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness or PRIE) asked me a few weeks ago where I want to lead the college as the Academic Senate President. I hadn't really thought of it that way - as we've just been trying to wade through WASC directives and the rest of the political morass that is College of Marin. So I've been thinking about it. Yolanda's stellar vision over the last 3-4 years was to bring us to the level of using data and evidence for our decision-making processes, and she has clearly accomplished this and then some. We are well on our way to making this a reality.

For me, my vision is to bring the faculty together to a shared vision of making instruction and student learning better - by actually talking to each other and not just in some "pro forma collegial discussion" or because WASC said we had to, but with a heartfelt trust and desire to share techniques and strategies. We did this in ESL in the 1980s and then it got lost in the 90s as we became fragmented. When I took over as the noncredit ESL coordinator ten years ago and was often the only one "in charge" of anything, we began again to work together and develop our program. In just the last 4 months, noncredit teachers have worked together to create original curriculum for nine classes as well as original assessment tools for promotion testing, and credit ESL teachers have created a clear alignment of their SLOs with their writing, grammar and reading curricula. I think we are pretty darned successful, if I do say so myself.

But the college community as a whole, over the last several years of epic failure on contract negotiations, has also become fragmented and much of our focus - which should be on student learning - has been consumed by infighting, distracted by nervousness over dwindling resources and diverted from our real purpose as faculty - teaching and helping our students achieve their goals. For me anyway, I cannot imagine my life without teaching. In the midst of all the present uncertainty and frustration over the contract and over the amount of work that continues to be piled on us through WASC directives, a quite possibly naive me sees hope that once past all this insanity, the faculty could come together again to do what we do best - teach and engage students and each other in discourse not mired in animosity and anger, but rich with ideas and fruitful collaboration. This would be my vision for College of Marin.

If you care about this college and its future, please take care of your faculty and staff and be cognizant that just as teaching is our lifeblood, so we are the college's lifeblood. We need to be able to work in an environment that respects and supports our efforts and our primary job - teaching and assisting students to better their lives. Please keep this in mind as you complete negotiations on contracts, and as you choose a president - hopefully one who will work with the faculty and not against us.

Thank you.

-- Sara McKinnon, Academic Senate President

COM Committees looking for Faculty Participants:

EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE Still needs 4 more faculty

(meeting time TBD) Seven faculty members sit on this committee

The Educational Planning Committee operates as a subcommittee of the Planning and Resource Allocation Committee and is responsible for coordinating and setting goals for planning of broad educational endeavors at the College.

INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE Still needs 4 more faculty

(Meets Wednesdays usually February – April)

Five faculty members sit on this committee

The College Instructional Equipment Committee operates as a subcommittee of the Planning and Resource Allocation Committee to ensure faculty, staff and student involvement in recommending allocations for instructional equipment. The Committee will make recommendations to the Planning Committee regarding the specific instructional equipment allocations.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Still needs 5 more Faculty

Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Seven faculty members sit on this committee

The Technology Committee operates as a subcommittee of the Planning and Resource Allocation Committee to assure staff and faculty involvement in technology planning and to provide guidance for major technological decisions.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS Still needs 1 more Faculty member

Meets Wednesdays 1pm to 3 pm (3 Counselors + 2 Faculty)

The Academic Standards Committee is a standing sub-committee of the Academic Senate and as such is charged with reviewing and recommending to the Senate all college policies relating to academic standards for students.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE - Always Needs Members!!!

Meets Thursdays from 2:15 – 3:45 pm in HC 124

Contact Chris Schultz

This committee reviews and approves new, revised and deleted course outlines, degrees and certificates. (Doesn't look like much, but it is huge!!!)

if you are interested in being considered for any of these committees, please contact Sara McKinnon (sara.mckinnon@marin.edu).

COM Governance Committee Members 2010 - 2011

as of September 3, 2010

College Council (Three Senate Officers)

- Sara McKinnon
- Becky Brown
- Yolanda Bellisimo

Planning and Resource Allocation Committee (PRAC):

Sara McKinnon/Nick Chang – Co-Chairs

- Michele Martinisi
- Windee Cottle
- Yolanda Bellisimo
- Ron Gaiz
- Sara Lefkowitz
- Patrick Kelly
- Earl Hagstrom

EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE (still need 4)

Seven faculty members sit on this committee

- Blaze Woodlief (Chair)
- Peggy Dodge
- Bonnie Borenstein

FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE

Two faculty members sit on this committee

- Fernando Aguedelo-Silva
- Erik Dunmire

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Two faculty members sit on this committee

- Yolanda Bellisimo
- Anne Gearhart

STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Two faculty members sit on this committee

- Karen Koenig
- Luz Moreno

INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE (need 4)

Five faculty members sit on this committee

- Arthur Lutz

GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Three faculty members sit on this committee

- Wendy Walsh
- Christine Li
- Victoria Coad

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (still need 5)

Seven faculty members sit on this committee

- Harriet Eskildsen
- Kathleen Smyth

SLO Facilitators:

Arts and Humanities/CTE:

- Yolanda Bellisimo

Math and Sciences, PE and Allied Health:

- Anne Gearhart

Program Review Facilitator:

- Sara McKinnon

Curriculum Committee Chair: Chris Schultz

- Kristi Kuhn, Paul Smith, Sara McKinnon, Becky Brown, A.Joe Ritchie, Letta Hlavachek, Rinetta Early, Maula Allen, and Rebecca Beal

Academic Standards:

- Rinetta Early
- Toni Yoshioka
- Charles Williams
- Laurie Ordin

Equivalency Committee

- Yolanda Bellisimo
- Meg Pasquel

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Advisor

- Jessica Burton

2010-2011 Academic Senate Officers:

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|---------------------|----------------|
| • Sara McKinnon | President |
| • Derek Wilson | Vice President |
| • Becky Brown | Secretary |
| • Yolanda Bellisimo | Treasurer |

Additional Full time Members:

- Bonnie Borenstein
- Michael Dougan
- Rinetta Early
- Arthur Lutz
- Joe Mueller
- John Sutherland
- Blaze Woodlief

Part-Time Credit

- Robert Ovetz
- Meg Pasquel
- Radica Portello

Part Time Non-Credit

- Erika Harkins

<http://www.marin.edu/senate/index.html>