

COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE

MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: 12:45 PM — 2:02 PM via ZOOM

Present: Beattie, Coulson, France, Jones, King, Kreit, Muller, Perrone, Rolston, Schmidt, Seery**Absent:** Wood**Invited Guests:** Greg Nelson

- I. **Agenda** — Approved (King/Kreit) by all Senators present.
- II. **Minutes** — Approved (King/Perrone) by all Senators present.
- III. **Public Requests** — none.
- IV. **Officers Reports**
 - a. President: A concerned member of the faculty contacted her about refund fees. Greg: we have form but we should not be charging a fee. The OER/ZTC task force, money coming our way, the College needs a ZTC task force ad hoc. In conversation with Jonathan, sees it straddling PRAC. Jonathan was concerned about 10+1 and textbooks, thought it should be in Academic Senate. But then it would have to follow Brown Act. Senate should write the charge for the task force. This is a state program. Ron (library) will come to Senate. Let's just do what he did at his former school and move it along.
 - b. Vice President: We have a new State Chancellor. Sonya Christian. Former math teacher and chancellor at other districts. There are 116 CCCs. The online CC counts.
- V. **Committee Reports** — none.
- VI. **Invited Guest — Greg Nelson re: College of Marin Bookstore.**
 - a. Regarding the faculty concerns about the bookstore, VP Nelson spoke with the Senate regarding possible alternatives and solutions. He expressed his solidarity in wanting to find a solution that would promote access and equity, lower costs, and ease of use for students. He said that only 40% of faculty put in orders this semester, and that since volume is low, costs are high.
 - b. The College doesn't make any money off the bookstore because the bookstore doesn't earn enough, and for this reason (not profitable for the College) no space was made for the bookstore in the new LRC; instead, the bookstore will remain where it is in the old M&O area. From the perspective of Follet, markup is necessary for a business to cover its costs. However, upon review Nelson found that Follet's markup is not consistent across the board. Instead, prices are based on ordering volume. If faculty would agree to order the same book for all sections, which would go against COM's policies of academic freedom, Follet might charge less. Another issue affecting the general functioning has been turnover in staff — we are on our third manager since October.
 - c. One possible solution, using Follet, is a program that requires student body vote — students would pay a \$45 dollar fee per semester, which would cover books for the semester for all students. Everyone would pay, but not everyone would benefit. The student body would have to be able to vote during day, night, on each campus, and ASCOM would need to vote as well. We did this with a Technology Fee.
 - d. Another option is that COM could also buy classroom sets of texts and rotate them out. Senator Kreit asked if faculty could move toward class sets as individuals. VP Nelson said that yes, if we can allocate resources for it. Class sets would need to be purchased on a rotation anyway, so we don't have to spend all the money at once every few years. This is the perfect time to get started with this. We can recommend to PRAC that we put resources aside. VP Nelson assured the Senate that if the Senate lets administration know what is needed, he can prioritize it. Senator Rolston and Senator Seery asked about the particular needs of ESL students who need to write in their books and need codes for online workbooks. VP Nelson said that if everyone chooses the same text, maybe codes could be purchased at volume and maybe these books would need to be replaced more often (in a class set). However, it would not be feasible or equitable to subsidize just one program's student book costs; whatever we do it needs to be college-wide.
 - e. Senator Schmidt reminded those present about Gregg Grist's astronomy kits, and Senator Muller explained that instead of using the bookstore for art kits, sometimes the Art Department has invited art supply companies to campus to sell at a discount. Something similar could be a solution for astronomy as well as other courses that require students to purchase non-textbook materials.
- VII. **APs/BPs — Approved**

- a. AP 4222 – Remedial Skills Coursework — we had decided to put “Academic Senate or its designee.” That’s the only change we have to the document that was previously sent to the Senate. No objections.
 - b. AP 4102 – Career and Technical Programs — deferred. President Coulson expressed that she was concerned about APs including unnecessary details and opinions when they should mostly just reflect state legal language. This AP had quite a bit added to it that doesn’t seem necessary. She will edit and talk to parties who submitted
 - c. AP 3900 – Speech: Time, Place and Manner — no comments.
 - d. 3900 and 4222 were approved by roll call vote (King/Beattie).
 - i. Ayes: Beattie, Coulson, France, Jones, King, Kreit, Muller, Perrone, Rolston, Schmidt, Seery
 - ii. Nays: None
 - iii. Absent: Wood
- VIII. **AB 2449:** as per the end of CA state of emergency, the Brown Act requires that a quorum be present in the room, but individuals may Zoom if needed. President Coulson asked that, if Senators normally were present and intended to Zoom, they let her know so she could make sure she would have a quorum.
- IX. **Wrap Up/Future Business:**
- a. LRC meetings, concerns about floorplans and lack of sufficient classroom space
- X. **Adjournment:** 2:02 PM

For questions or information concerning the Academic Senate minutes, contact Caitlin Rolston, Academic Senate Secretary: crolston@marin.edu