



DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE

FINAL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

DAS Members Present: Judith Bell, Frank Espinoza, Heather Jellison, Garry Johnson, Alex Lopez, Wendy Pio, Randy Pratt, Preeti Srivinasan.

F. Espinoza welcomed DAS members and guests to the February 9th DAS meeting.

- I. The Meeting Called to Order** at 4:05 p.m. via Zoom
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**-Approved w/o Objections.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Approved w/o Objections.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Azita Tavana, (EVC Biology Faculty) commented on an issue regarding Faculty being eligible for 20% release time in order to convert their entire course to an open source. She believed that upon completion of the EDIT 22 course that she was eligible to apply for release time to perform this time-consuming work. She will follow up with R. Pratt-EVC Senate President for further clarification on this issue.

Lorena Mata (EVC Library Faculty) shared that an email was sent by Mark Branham (SJCC Faculty member) to All-District Faculty that the district is now offering free access to a database called “O’Reilly Online Learning.” L. Mata clarified that it is not available district wide. It is only available to employees of San Jose City College, because it was purchased for the use by only SJCC employees. She hopes that the EVC Dean will send out an email clarifying this for EVC faculty. Perhaps EVC may try to see if they can get a trial and determine if this is something that the campus is interested in utilizing.

V. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chancellor Breland was invited to share some comments on the past Fall 2020 semester and plans for 2021. B. Breland began with addressing the need to plan for the eventual recovery from the pandemic. He shared that the Organization has a chance to do different things, versus business as usual, and need to identify opportunities to serve the Community. Chancellor Breland thanked Randy, Alex and Frank for engaging in multiple levels of discussion to date on the topic of a Continuing Education entity in our District. We had a chance to hear from the organization: North Orange Community College District. They have had a Continuing Education Center since 1973. Their charge is to provide an extensive offering of non-credit programming focusing on Career Education, English as a Second Language, U.S. Citizenship, High School Diploma completions, Basic Skills, Parent Enrichment Programming, to name a few. Efforts in our District would be to facilitate more clear Pathway options into our credit programs at the colleges. Continuing Education tends to focus on non-credit and adult education free of charge. Faculty contributions to this effort are critical to make this opportunity a success. This is why I am speaking with the Faculty leadership and interested in speaking to the Academic Senate’s at both colleges. This is a way to challenge our organization to really extend it to the Community to meet people where they are. One of the opportunities that is on the table is to look at an

accreditation process. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accredits Continuing Education Centers throughout the state. There are approximately six or seven CE Centers that are accredited by WASC. The first step would be to become eligible for a three-year probationary accreditation. This would mean that after three years, the CE Center would then go through a full accreditation cycle which would expand opportunities to access additional funding from the State. Ultimately, this is an opportunity to think about to better serve segments of the community who otherwise would not make it to our College's doors.

J. Bell shared concern about the CE proposal and is familiar with the North Orange Community College District as a former employee. She emphasized a need to focus on the state of the colleges right now. Employees and students have and continue to deal with a lot of challenges. At the risk of sounding critical, the district needs to focus more on the colleges, before starting to branching out at this time. San Jose City College, in particular, is looking at funding cuts. It is important that the district focus on its main role, which is to support the colleges. This should be the first priority before moving forward to plan for any expansion which may take away resources from each college.

H. Jellison stated a concern regarding the connection and relationship with the South Bay consortium. Would this create a duplication of services? Would this create a competition between the two college districts in the consortium? I am curious about the relationship within the South Bay consortium, the career CTE departments, Career Ed departments, and other non-credit courses.

F. Espinoza commented his interest to hearing out any new ideas that can seriously better serve or enhance the kind of efforts that we're making to better serve our students and our Community who are in desperate need of support.

A. Lopez shared that North Orange County has an effective program. We need to be in an information gathering mode. There are still many questions with how a CE Center would look. As an educator in San Jose it's important that we provide our Community, with as much education as possible and, but we must look at our resources. I'm looking forward to continue the discussion to determine how best to provide services to our Community. We still need more critical information on how we would make this work and to ensure we proceed through the right channels and vetting process.

Chancellor Breland stated that we are exploring the possibility of a CE Center and that's all we're doing. Randy, Alex and Frank have been asking some of the very questions that have been raised. So, as we move forward, this is absolutely exploratory at this point. No decisions have been made to do anything. But, it is certainly worth exploring now versus waiting for recovering from the Pandemic, and then asking, now what are we going to do to help the Community? These discussions need to happen now as an organization. Of course, all within our channels of communication, our resources, and making sure that the appropriate governance protocols are followed.

DAS Webinar (proposed date: April 16th Fri. @ 11:00-12:00 Noon) Identify Topics to Consider

A Lopez shared that faculty and administrators can benefit from a 10+1 presentation that differentiates between "primarily relied upon" and "in consultation with..." There are many new employees at both colleges and in the District, who can benefit from this information. An example is the resource allocation model. The Senate is primarily relied upon for institutional planning and budget, and so what does that mean for people? I really don't think a lot of people understand the 10+1. Judith is creating a diagram so this information can be easier to understand. I believe this topic of 10+1 needs to be considered for a Webinar. It will be beneficial for faculty, our new Administrators and Board members.

J. Bell shared an interest in the topic of an equity-based funding formula. She is not sure if this is the best topic for the webinar. It perhaps may be better suited to present to the board of trustees. As a district, this puts equity at the heart of its values. It is important to walk the talk and look at what is in an equity-based funding formula? And, why we should consider adopting one.

F. Espinoza shared an interest to address Ethnic Studies. It is important to note the changes that are coming to our campuses and its impact on transfer to the CSU.

J. Bell shared an interest for a Webinar to address the pandemic's impact on education, on our teaching, both positive and negative. This would provide an opportunity to really look at all the work that we've done as faculty to rise to this occasion.

Tenured Faculty Acknowledgement

F. Espinoza presented an idea for the District Academic Senate to start a tradition to honor the newly Tenured Faculty members at the end of each academic year. It would be nice to host a face to face (once allowed) event off campus that would bring DAS members with newly Tenured members and their guest to celebrate their 4-year Tenure accomplishment. On behalf of DAS, a congratulatory email will be sent to the entire District honoring/acknowledging newly Tenured Faculty members.

Future Board of Trustee's Special Study Sessions

F. Espinoza will continue to announce to All Senators when special Board of Trustee study sessions will be taking place. I recommended to Chancellor Breland that it would be helpful, when emailing All-District, to add a sentence or two describing what topics will be addressed at the study session.

A Lopez concurred and added that other faculty on our campuses may be interested in participating if they knew what the topic is to be studied. I always encourage faculty to participate. The sessions have been of value.

Academic Senate Presentation to Board of Trustees

R. Pratt suggested sharing the plight of faculty and their experiences. Faculty now work where they live. It may be helpful for non-faculty to understand what it might be like to deliver a whole new teaching modality. The amount of work that is engaged in online instruction from home is quite a bit more than face to face instruction.

J. Bell shared that it would be great to talk about the challenges and successes that faculty have had during shelter in place. The Board also needs to understand their role, especially with accreditation. Perhaps highlighting to the board, the need to recognize that the focus should be on students and the colleges that serve the students. Also, on how the students are being impacted. This year has really caused incredible disruptions in their lives impacting their education. The colleges have done an amazing job with reaching out and providing support in many ways. I'd like to see this highlighted.

H. Jellison shared the importance of being open to adjust our perspective as new information is presented. It is also important to note that Faculty do not have the same support as administrators who have administrative assistants to support their work load. Faculty do not have support during class to provide aid. Also, the amount of outside work and professional development that faculty do without getting paid is not appreciated.

J. Bell shared that we should look at how well the faculty and students have risen to this challenge during the Pandemic. This is an opportunity to educate the board. The Senate has the right to communicate with the Board of Trustees. The Board is a critical piece of our governance. How we relate with each other is vitally important. If the Senate's rights are not being respected, it is important that this be addressed.

F. Espinoza recommended that if a Senate presentation is going to be made to the Board of Trustee's, the April 13th Board meeting would be best for the sake of planning. It would be important to determine what be the goal of the presentation. I do not suggest going to point fingers only to point out negative accusations. Also, if the Presentation is to happen, it should come from the leadership of both EVC and SJCC Academic Senates with the DAS President facilitating the process.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

(NO ACTION ITEMS)

VII. REPORTS

Evergreen Valley College Academic Senate

R. Pratt presented budget information gleaned from Data-Mart via the State Chancellor's website. Information shared was from 2014 to 2019 on the classifications of employees in the District which added a total of 72 full time benefited positions, none of which were faculty, which actually went down 41 full time faculty. R. Pratt shared his concern with Chancellor and the EVC college President. In addition, a professional review team will be coming to EVC. to review our processes. The team will be made up of faculty and administrators from other colleges. It's going to be similar to a mini accreditation; however, a lot less formal. The college will be producing a budget resource allocation process similar to Ram. A recommendation has been made to increase the frequency of Program Reviews which the Senate is addressing. Also, it is important that administration be sensitive to the needs of students and not cancel low enrolled classes.

San Jose City College Academic Senate

A Lopez shared that the Dean of Math stated that there's going to be an 18% reduction of courses in that area. Also, other Dean's commented that they were instructed by managers to make similar course reductions. The Faculty were concerned that there was no Senate input and were not included in the process regarding why they were going to cut classes. A. Lopez sent out an emergency announcement notifying Faculty that the proposed reductions was being looked into and that a meeting had been called between the Senate's executive committee and the SJCC President. The Senate was never informed on how Administration came up with the process for the proposed reduction. This is a good example on why 10+1 needs to be presented in a Webinar format.

District Academic Senate

F. Espinoza commented that he invited Chancellor Breland to share comments on the past Fall 2020 semester and to present his thoughts with this new Spring 2021 semester. Instead Chancellor Breland decided to focus his time presenting his concept vision for a Continuing Education entity in the District. As shared by Chancellor Breland, the Academic Senate Leadership participated in a presentation coordinated between the Chancellor Breland and North Orange College District. The Senate leadership still has many questions regarding the CE concept. What was presented today by Chancellor Breland is pretty much the extent of what we know regarding his CE concept. As you are aware, I continue to Co-Chair the District Policy Committee (DPC). Last month in January the DPC met over four separate days to make progress with reviewing BP/AP's. Several faculty, and others throughout the District, participated including campus Senate Presidents. It really is one of those thankless jobs; however, I understand how critical it is for this work to be done. Congratulations were given to the EVC Nursing and Allied Health Programs. The EVC Academic Senate presented a commendation to acknowledge the amazing efforts from the Faculty, Classified, and Administrators during this Pandemic, The Board of Trustees will address the commendation at tonight's Board meeting and recognize the work of individuals in these programs.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT (Unanimous at 5:09 p.m.)