



DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE

APPROVED MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2021

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

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** – No Public Comments
- V. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

March 12th 10+1 Webinar:

F. Espinoza addressed the 2nd in a three part Webinar series hosted by the DAS. While it is difficult to identify a day that would allow for 100% of DAS members to attend the Webinar, the hope is close to 100% of DAS members will attend this important Webinar event. The ASCCC Vice-President, Ginnie May will be presenting on the important topic of Academic and Professional Matters, 10+1.

A. Lopez suggested sending out, with the next Webinar reminder, the new electronic ASCCC handbook which has a lot of valuable information that Faculty can benefit from by having it as a reference.

April 16th Fri. Webinar (propose changing to April 23rd) and Select Webinar Topic:

F. Espinoza acknowledged an error with calendaring the final Webinar for April 16th. There is a major conflict since the Webinar would be on the same date of the ASCCC Spring Plenary. **F. Espinoza** recommended to delay the final DAS Webinar to be held the following week to now be held on April 23rd from 11:00-12:00 noon. DAS members agreed to delay the final Webinar to the following week due to the conflict. **F. Espinoza** informed members that a topic for the Webinar needs to be identified for the sake of planning. **F. Espinoza** suggested having a plan A/B just to have a back-up topic in case there are challenges with planning.

G. Johnson commented that he had earlier recommended that DAS look at the new Ethnic Studies requirements that the legislature had passed into law as a possible topic for a Webinar. **G. Johnson** wanted to underscore that he believes the topic would be of interest to the Faculty at-large.

J. Bell suggested a Webinar topic focusing on Equity and Equity Frameworks. It could be along the same lines as the Ethnic Studies topic but a little broader. It can also include what the ASCCC suggests for implementing an equity framework.

P. Srinivasan proposed a topic to address how the Pandemic has affected Faculty teaching. Even though the hope is that it is the tail end of both the pandemic and large-scale remote instruction, what has been the impact on faculty and their teaching?

A Lopez commented on the importance of addressing Area F Ethnic Studies changes that will be directly impacting students. Students need to ask counselors about graduation and transfer requirements which must now include the changes to the ethnic studies requirement. It is important that the faculty hear about the changes so we are informed and plan to better serve students. Many are still not aware of these changes and there is a lot of confusion. It will be helpful to have a panel of people come talk about the Ethnic Studies Area F changes.

F. Espinoza repeated the three Webinar topics suggested: Equity Frame-Work, Impact of Pandemic on Faculty, and Ethnic Studies (area F) changes. It was determined that the first choice Webinar Topic would be (Plan A) Ethnic Studies Changes and the second-choice topic (Plan B) is Equity Frame-Work.

G. Johnson commented that perhaps P. Srinivasan's suggestion, on the topic of the "Impact of the Pandemic on Faculty," be addressed by the College Senate's. Perhaps each Senate can sponsor something about the impact of the Pandemic on Faculty. The focus can be on what may be relevant to individual colleges or Senate's can come together and do one event. There would be a lot of interest in this topic.

ASCCC Area B Meeting-March 26, 2021

F. Espinoza reported on the up-coming Area B meeting taking place. All should have received the invitation to the meeting. If you have not received the invite, we can send the details with the agenda. It is free to attend. Karen Chow, faculty member at De Anza College, serves as the Chair for Area B. The earlier part of the meeting will address various topics and the latter part of the meeting will focus on Resolutions to consider for the Spring Plenary in April.

A Lopez further clarified the importance of the Resolutions discussion at the Area B meeting. This is where resolutions coming out of Area B will have a first read. This is a testing ground to determine which resolutions are likely to be supported. The resolutions are not available at this time; however, they will be forward to the faculty. There may be proposed resolutions that may be of interest to various discipline faculty. In the past, the ESL took interest in resolutions and requested that their delegate vote a certain way. Eric Narveson (Faculty) serves on the resolutions committee at the ASCCC Plenary. If feel strong enough about an issue, he can assist with drafting a resolution coming from our colleges.

ASCCC Spring Plenary- April 15-17, 2021

F. Espinoza took an informal poll of who will be attending the up-coming Plenary. The majority of DAS members will be zooming in for the two-plus days. F. Espinoza reported that a request was made to Chancellor Breland to sponsor the DAS President to register and participate in the virtual ASCCC Spring Plenary. Espinoza anticipates that this request will be approved by Chancellor Breland.

A Lopez recommended to DAS members who will be attending the Spring Plenary to make some time to observe the Saturday Resolutions session. It is interesting to observe the dynamics of the session and the voting that takes place. Some resolutions can get a bit contentious but always maintain collegial interaction. It is interesting to hear the pro's and cons for each resolution presented.

R. Pratt suggested that the Plenary is a nice opportunity to identify faculty on campus, who are not yet involved with the Senate, and encourage them to attend the Senate Plenary. Attending for the first time can really be an eye-opening experience for faculty who have never been to the plenary. It can really change a perspective and shed a whole new light on the governance process that faculty are engaged in. This is a great opportunity to find new faculty who have not yet tapped into this understanding and can contribute to strengthening the advocacy of the Academic Senate.

G. Johnson shared that past ASCCC Plenary's also helped to build bridges between Faculty from the two Colleges (EVC/SJCC). Friendships have resulted and has strengthened collaboration between Faculty to find ways to work together. Also, supporting what R. Pratt stated, this can be an opportunity to build new leaders, but also building bridges and friendships between Faculty at the two Colleges.

Transition: DAS Leadership June 2021-May 2022

F. Espinoza addressed the transition of the DAS Leadership for the next Academic Year. Rotation of the DAS President happens year to year. The position comes with a 50% load. In reviewing the by-laws: Article IV, Officers Section Three, states: that the officers and President shall be elected by the District Academic Senate members at their last meeting in April of each year. Obviously, there is a need to modify the DAS bylaws to move this to the last meeting in May. Also, there should be some consideration be given to formally create a transitioning process between the out-going and in-coming DAS President to ensure a smooth transition with the passing of the baton.

A Lopez shared that SJCC Academic Senate begins elections in April. The executive's elections take place in May. This is when the elections for officers take place. The last meeting in May is when the election for the President will happen.

R. Pratt stated that consideration should be given into looking to create some type of process to transition the incoming DAS leadership. It is a lot time and work. The District Policy Committee in itself can be a learning curve. It is worth exploring how to coordinate the transition. It would be helpful for a new incoming DAS President to at least have this available to them.

ACTION ITEMS (No Action Items)

REPORTS

Evergreen Valley College Academic Senate

R. Pratt reported that a couple of Ad-hoc committees are in progress. One is to look over the Program Review process. Some discussions have taken place and expect for some really good feedback to come out of that ad hoc committee and report back to the Senate. Another ad hoc committee is addressing the faculty prioritization process. Recommendations will be made to the Academic Senate and then to the College Council. This last cycle of faculty hires was the first time in Evergreen's history to utilize a faculty priority prioritization process that included faculty and administrators in one meeting to determine which positions to recommend moving forward for hiring in the fall. This is a huge accomplishments and kudos to President Gilkerson. As a result of this first cycle, there is a need for some significant tweaking to link new faculty hiring to budget growth. If this does not happen, it could result in another six years of what we've seen in the last six years was a decline in full-time faculty positions. It is also important to note the need to separating new faculty hires from replacement faculty hires. All the recent faculty hires taking place are not new, they are simply replacement hires, and nowhere near catching up to where the district should be. It is important to understand what's replacement faculty versus what's actually new.

The EVC Senate is looking at current committee chairs and where there is a need for additional support. A lot of work went into the BP/AP Credit for Prior Learning but there has not been movement to support the implementation at the college. With the change in College leadership, processes do change which is understandable; however, there is a need to have some clarity soon on how to address committee chairs. This is important for faculty members. who are assigned to any of these new or current roles to receive notification this Spring in order to plan for fall semester.

A faculty inquiry group will be starting soon. Approximately 45 faculty will be involved and participating in some sessions provided by the USC Race and Equity group to focus on combating structural racism. Faculty are looking forward to this effort.

San Jose City College Academic Senate:

A Lopez reported on communication going around at SJCC that there was going to be an 18% reduction of course offerings. This concern was brought to the Academic Senate by the faculty from the Divisions where they were told by their Dean. A lot of work by the Senate Executive committee went into challenging this proposal to reduce course offerings. The committee met with the college President and which resulted in avoiding any cutting of course offerings. Faculty, and Adjunct Faculty in particular, don't have to stress out about the proposed reduction in courses. A lot of calls had come in from faculty who were stressing out over these proposed cuts.

The Senate has been working to approve a lot of faculty evaluation committees. Also, communications had been sent out to serve on hiring committees for the positions that are going to be hired for Fall 2021. Committees are now in place and are waiting for the deadlines to close to move forward with the hiring committee process.

New Deans have been hired from out of state. It is important to provide information to help them become familiar with the role and function of the Academic Senate, along with, the role and function of the Faculty Union. A recent example was a new Dean who needed to better understand the process for the evaluation of faculty. This required some digging into the archives in order to provide accurate information to this new Dean. As a result of this experience, there is a recommendation to be made to identify where these archival data, motions, and other documents, should be located so they're more easily accessible for future Academic Senate leaders.

District Academic Senate

F. Espinoza reported that the larger RAM committee will be reconvening this week. This is important, especially since the larger RAM committee has not met since November 18 2020. It will be interesting to hear what the working group will be reporting out to the larger committee.

The District Policy Committee continues to chip away with up-dating BP/AP's, as well as, addressing the new legal changes coming from Sacramento. The committee will be meeting again this Thursday.

J. Bell provided closing comments thanking R. Pratt for all his work in researching the District's increase in their budget. This is really helpful information, Thank You.

R. Pratt commented that it is important to just take note of a trend that has been occurring. The Faculty leadership should continue on this path to ensure that there's awareness across the district to know where we've been and where we're going. It is not beneficial for students to stay on this trajectory, that's for sure! Thank you.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT (Approved with No Objections)