



DISTRICT ACADEMIC SENATE

APPROVED-MINUTES

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

F. Espinoza welcomed DAS members and guests to the November DAS meeting of the Fall 2020 semester.

- 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**

**Brief up-date, Ethnic Studies: Changes in CSU and Potential Impact on CCC's
Faculty Guests: Professor Arturo Villarreal (EVC) & Dr. Cindy Huynh (SJCC)**

F. Espinoza introduced the topic of Ethnic Studies changes in the CSU and potential impact on the California Community Colleges up and down the state including our EVC and SJCC Ethnic Studies course offerings. Ethnic Studies Professor's: Dr. Cindy Huynh of San Jose City College and Professor Arturo Villarreal of EVC were invited to present a brief update on the changes in the CSU and potential impact on Ethnic Studies course offering in the CCC.

P. Villarreal provided a brief history on the origin of Ethnic Studies. A little over 50 years later, Governor Newsom has signed AB 1460 which makes it a requirement for all CSU's to offer Ethnic Studies courses beginning Fall 2021 and requires CSU students to take a 3-unit course in Ethnic Studies in order to graduate beginning in the 2024-2025 academic year. It is projected that there's going to be a major influx of students into our campuses who will need to meet the Ethnic Studies requirement.

C. Huynh provided additional information regarding some challenges with attempts at colleges to qualify their classes to count towards Ethnic Studies when they're actually not. Another concern shared is the need to provide enough Ethnic Studies course offerings. There is a need to think about beginning to ramp up to ensure that students are going to have access to an Ethnic Studies course to fulfill this requirement

throughout the year. This may mean additional full-time and adjunct positions. It was also stated that Ethnic Studies is one of the most, if not the most, requested class via dual enrollment at SJCC.

H. Jellison posed the question: is there be a way to design an Ethnic Studies course where students in dual enrollment can earn credit both for the high school requirement and for the college requirement?

C. Huynh replied that students would get credit for high school graduation in and then also can use the course for transferable units as well.

G. Johnson shared his support for the new law on Ethnic Studies graduation requirements and asked: Do you envision that approval for a course to meet the Ethnic Studies designation would go through curriculum committees which are the purview of academic Senates? Also, there was a lot of concerns from other disciplines that they were already offering courses that met Degree requirements and for transfer and this may mean a possible decrease in other courses. There is concern that some history classes would no longer be required or as popular. An increase in faculty needed to teach an Ethnic Studies course may result in an overall decrease in some other disciplines.

C. Huynh replied that she believes approval would have to go to curriculum and it would be an Academic Senate issue regarding what courses fulfill an Ethnic Studies requirement. There will be a need to have Dialogue on this issue on courses fulfilling Ethnic Studies and the impact on other areas. At times, it may become politicized or contentious.

A. Lopez provided clarification regarding the passing of Resolutions on Saturday at the ASCCC Plenary. There has been an effort for years to have all California Community Colleges to have an Ethnic Studies course be part of the Associate's degree graduation requirement. The SJECCD already has the requirement. It really would be a change for the colleges who don't have that requirement right now. One of the Resolution's addressed that Ethnic Studies courses must be taught by an instructor who meets the minimum FSA qualifications for Ethnic Studies. SJCC has the dual enrollment course offerings. Currently the most popular classes offered as dual enrollment are Ethnic Studies courses.

ASCCC Fall 2020 Plenary

F. Espinoza shared that the ASCCC plenary took place last week over a 3-day period. It was challenging to be looking at a computer monitor over three days. However, important topics were addressed: curriculum, diversifying faculty, recruitment of underrepresent faculty efforts, creating opportunities for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated, upcoming changes with Ethnic Studies, governance and much more, all with the theme of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

A. Lopez stated that this was the first ASCCC plenary that he attended over the last six years that had a theme of equity for brown and black students and had at the forefront that Black Lives Matter. The plenary reflected the shift towards equity that is taking place in the state that is much needed. A discussion within the SJCC executive committee is needed to determine how we're going to address these changes addressing social justice. And, now there is the backing from the state Academic Senate. This was a valuable ASCCC plenary and the overall theme really stood out.

H. Jellison shared her appreciation for the reading material recommendations made at one of the sessions and plans to share these recommended readings with other colleagues. For example, the book: Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain, by Zaretta Hammond was recommended for educators. In addition to academic and adult level reading material, there were also recommended books for children. Interesting workshops attended addressed important topics on: Academic Freedom, Equity, the Law and Accreditation Standards, Equity Teaching and other topics.

G. Johnson shared one take-away from the Plenary was the ask for faculty to commit to a Pledge to end racism on their campuses. G. Johnson indicated that he will be taking that pledge to his department and ask for people to formally sign the Pledge. He encourages other faculty to bring this Pledge to their divisions to also make that commitment in writing. That was one of the action items shared as a take-away from the Plenary.

R. Pratt also stated that race and equity was a theme throughout the Plenary. It does require a need to look inward at ourselves differently and to address the race and equity issue at the state level. It is a reminder that we have a duty. It's not just a pipe dream. It is important to bring this theme back to our campuses. Enough with the talk, to really take actionable steps.

DAS hosted Webinar(s) for Spring 2021

F. Espinoza addressed the Oct 30th Webinar hosted by DAS that featured ASCCC President Dolores Davison as the speaker. Over 50 people Zoomed in for this DAS hosted event. G. Johnson was recognized for his critical technical support during the Webinar. F. Espinoza proposed having a future DAS hosted Webinar for the Spring 2021 semester on an issue/topic identified by the DAS. This will be brought back as an Action Item for the Dec. meeting.

J. Bell suggested the timing would be good to have a Webinar topic addressing Race and Equity since that will be the theme at SJCC for the up-coming Spring PDD.

P. Srivinasan supported the idea and proposed planning a little bit more in advance to possibly draw a larger Zoom audience.

ACTION ITEMS

DAS Goals for AY 20-21 (approved unanimously)

F. Espinoza presented three Goals that were discussed at the Nov. DAS meeting for the 2020-21 AY: 1. Implementation of RAM for the 2021-2022 Academic Year, 2. Enhancing relationships and collaboration between EVC and SJCC faculty, 3. Expand communication with the District community at-large. Some discussion took place for clarification of Goals. A motion to approve the Goals was made by R. Pratt, seconded by A. Lopez. All three Goals were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

R. Pratt, EVC Academic Senate reported EVC Senate is currently working on the new faculty prioritization process. Faculty presentations for new positions will take place later this week followed by a committee debriefing. This is a joint committee between Faculty and Administration. This is the first time at EVC to

have one single process to identify the new Faculty hires. EVC will have six new Faculty hires for this year to announce. Also reported was the innovation funds at EVC and a plan to have faculty work on ideas and produce anti-racism curriculum and instruction this spring semester. How Faculty will be compensated for this work is currently being discussed. The initial proposal was to pay Faculty with a stipend for their work. The Faculty Union has not allowed stipends as a form of compensation in our District. So, this is an issue that is currently being worked on to compensate Faculty at EVC for their grant related work.

A. Lopez, SJCC Academic Senate reported that SJCC Senate does not use stipends to pay faculty. Faculty who do additional non-instructional work receive a non-instructional assignment for compensation. This practice will continue with the innovation funds. If a proposal is made to use stipends, it must go through HR and the Faculty Union. The SJCC Senate recently had officer elections and voted: A. Lopez as President, J. Bell as Vice-President, and H. Jellison as Treasurer. Two new Faculty members were voted to the Executive committee., Jose Cabrera and Elena Dutra for the remainder of the Academic Year. At the next Senate meeting there will be an election to replace out-going member Jesus Covarrubias for the DAS committee. Also reported was the Senate has just cleared the faculty hiring priorities. A total of eight positions were requested for the four available positions. There have also been announcements of retirements. There will be a request to try to fill those vacancies as soon as possible while following the process. A professional development plan has been passed by the Senate. It is an education plan for emergency training for faculty teaching distance education. The Bylaws and Constitution committee. continue to work on updating the SJCC Senate bylaws. It is a lengthy process. Lastly, AP/ BP 4235 Credit for Prior Learning was approved by the Senate and continues moving forward with the approval process.

F. Espinoza District Academic Senate acknowledged the New EVC VP of Academic Affairs, Dr. Matais Pouncil who was Zoomed-in for the DAS meeting. A brief up-date on the progress of the RAM committee was shared. An emergency District Policy Committee meeting was called to address the time-sensitive AP/BP 4235 Credit for Prior Learning that must be approved by the Board of Trustee's December 2020 meeting. As a result, the committee is confident it will meet the December deadline. An up-date was shared on the Area B Regional ASCCC meeting that took place. Much of the emphasis addressed up-coming changes in CA law and Resolutions in preparation for the ASCCC Plenary. Guest presenter, Chancellor Oakley addressed the challenges that the CCC system and students face during this pandemic. He addressed how the for-profit Colleges and Universities in CA are making a come-back. With the election of Donald Trump, and his Secretary of Education, Betsy Devos, they deregulated, a lot of the protections from the for-profit higher education industry. This has been particularly harmful to students of color in CA.

In closing, a special acknowledgement was made to Alex Lopez for being selected, by his colleagues statewide, to serve as an officer to the ASCCC Latinx Caucus.

ADJOURNMENT Moved to adjourn without objections.