

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2016

(Approved by Executive Council on January 25, 2017)

Executive Councilors present (noted by *):

*Karen Frindell Teuscher, <i>presiding</i>	*Shawn Brumbaugh	*Robert Jackson	*Margaret Pennington
*Filomena Avila	*Dianne Davis	*Sean Martin	*Karen Stanley
*Denise Beeson	*Terry Ehret	*Molly Matheson	*Michelle Van Aalst
*Paulette Bell	*Deirdre Frontczak	*Bud Metzger	*Albert Yu
*Marc Bojanowski	*Michelle Hughes Markovics	*Terry Mulcaire	

Negotiators/Appointed Positions present: Debbie Albers, Mark Ferguson, Warren Ruud

Staff members present: Carol Valencia

Faculty members present: Sandy Nieto, Kat Valenzuela, Mora Vejby

The meeting was called to order at 2:41 p.m. in Doyle Library, Room #4245, on the Santa Rosa campus.

CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

1. **Negotiations Report.** This report and discussion were conducted in Closed Session.
2. **Conciliation/Grievance Report.** This report and discussion were conducted in Closed Session.

Closed Session adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Open Session reconvened at 3:25 p.m.

MEMBER CONCERNS WITHIN AFA'S PURVIEW

1. **Canvas Compensation.** Terry Ehret read an email message from faculty member Mark Bradley regarding compensation for converting courses to Canvas. His understanding is that there are two different compensation models currently in effect: one for designing a new online course using Canvas where the District has offered compensation to faculty members, and one for converting existing courses to Canvas where no compensation has been offered. He believes that compensation for these two tasks should be equal. Terry Mulcaire encouraged faculty members to communicate this message to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and area deans. Mark Ferguson added that it is the goal of AFA to ensure faculty compensation for any work approved by the District.
2. **Class Cancellations.** Bud Metzger brought up a concern about the fair and equal treatment of adjunct faculty members when courses are cancelled. He would like to see an explanation about fair treatment included in the hourly assignment offer letter sent to faculty cubbies. He added that it would not cost the District anything to do this. Terry Mulcaire stated that AFA does not have any power over these decisions, explaining that we have "message power" but do not negotiate the schedule.

MINUTES

There being no corrections or additions, by unanimous voice vote, the Council approved a motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2016 Executive Council meeting as submitted (18 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).

(Approved minutes are posted at <http://www.afa-srjc.org/minutes.shtml> .)

PRESENTATION

1. **Online Education Issues** (*Phyllis Usina, Faculty Co-Chair of the District Online Committee*)

- In introduction, Phyllis explained that she has worked with Distance Education (DE) since 1977, starting as an instructional aide. She was an original member of the District Online Committee (DOC) and petitioned for it to be an official committee. She has been the co-chair of that committee for 10 years. DE is a type of teaching that was not supported by the District for many years, and the DOC kept moving it forward. She also worked with AFA when Chairs didn't know how to evaluate their online classes; the DOC worked on online evaluation guidelines because they felt that the Contract language was biased against online classes. At that time, the DOC went through *Article 14: Faculty Evaluations* and *Article 17: Job Descriptions* in order to come up with language that was more general so that it would apply to both face-to-face and online courses. The DOC also had an active role in the workload study with the Senate. Phyllis has been hearing from AFA that there are some concerns about evaluating online courses, about Canvas, and about Academic Freedom. She opened the floor for questions from the Council.
- Questions & Answers:
 - Q: What do you see as the future of DE in the next five years?
 - A: I cannot speak for the District since I'm a faculty member. However, I think we are trying to fill the needs of students based on demand reports and enrollment issues. My theory is that students are working and want online classes because of the flexibility. Statewide, we are seeing a lot of demand for online courses. Based on surveys, students say they are ready for online courses, but faculty members do not feel that they are.
 - Q: I'm concerned about faculty autonomy. I trust SRJC, but I do not trust the State (the Chancellor's office, the [Online Education Initiative](#) (OEI), etc.). Is our District committed to faculty members designing their own courses as they see best?
 - A: The OEI rubric is only for courses that are in the [OEI Course Exchange](#). We are currently not signing up to be part the Exchange. If we choose to sign up, it will be 2018-19 at the earliest. We need to give people information on best practices in order to help them with their courses. The DOC has not discussed anything about taking away faculty autonomy. The DE department supports faculty members in using the materials they choose for their classes.
 - Q: I definitely see the benefit of making our interface efficient and having better IT support for online teachers. My concern is with the idea of "streamlining" learning—there is no magic pill that will enable students to learn.
 - A: I've only heard about "streamlining" math instruction in the Senate with programs like [Mathway](#). SRJC can opt out of OEI participation. Individual faculty members can opt-in or opt-out.
 - Q: What is the success rate for students in online classes? Are there any statistics on that?
 - A: The SRJC [Fact Book](#) has this data. There are course completion and retention data for online and face-to-face classes. This data shows that online completion is lower which I think goes to the readiness of students and quality of the online instruction. I believe that the standards should be the same for both types of classes. The evaluation piece is important, and that's what I believe AFA should work on.
 - Q: It's a monumental job to do these course conversions to Canvas. People are worried that we're moving in the direction of [MOOCs](#) and canned classes. What do you know about this?
 - A: I have not heard that and would definitely fight against it.
 - Q: I heard from the DE department that the College would like faculty members to create online classes so that others can teach them (e.g. the Online College Project).
 - Comment from Councilor: Just because you're getting the materials from another instructor, does not mean the class is "canned." It's the same as getting PowerPoints and syllabus information from other instructors for a face-to-face course.

- A: Yes, it doesn't mean that you can't change things and make them your own.
- Q: Is there any difference in the transcripts of students noting whether the class was face-to-face or online?
 - A: No, and I don't think that practice is right. It would create a situation of "separate but equal" for online classes.
 - Comment: But they are not the same. For some fields it makes a big difference, and I think we should have honest reporting of grades for courses.
- Comment: AFA's concerns are really not about what you are presenting today. We're more worried about the larger instructional issues. If we're involved with a large statewide group, we will lose local control of these issues. It's a systemic reality.
- Comment: AFA's biggest concern is about the welfare of faculty members. We would like to work together with the DOC—work to fairly evaluate our online faculty members without harming them.
 - A: That is my interest as well. The DE department and DOC feel like we're under fire from AFA, and we want to build a bridge in the future to solve these issues.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Secretary/Treasurer Vacancy for Spring 2017**
 - Karen explained that this is a one-semester vacancy. We will open nominations today, and they will remain open until we vote at our next meeting in January. She asked for nominations. Sean Martin was nominated.
2. **FACCC Advocacy & Policy Conference Attendees, March 5-6, Sacramento**
 - Karen explained that there are registration deadlines before the beginning of spring semester. Please let staff know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending. Deirdre Frontczak added that one topic at the conference will be the impact of the Trump administration on California Community Colleges. (For more information on the conference, see <http://www.faccc.org/event/2017-advocacy-policy-conference/> .)

OTHER REPORTS

1. **President's Report.** None
2. **Treasurer's Report: October, 2016.** Michelle Van Aalst reported briefly on the following items:
 - The \$1,600 *Conference and Travel* expense was for attendance at the fall CCCI Conference.
 - The \$14,000 *Professional Dues: FACCC* expense was payment of two months of dues.
 - The *Professional Dues: Other* and *Professional Fees: Other* expenses were our annual CCCI dues and contributions.
 - The actual revenue from dues and fees is on target for the fall semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carol Valencia.