ACADEMIC SENATE
October 17, 2007 - 3:15P.M. – 5:00P.M. – Boardroom
Minutes

PRESENT: David Payne, Jo Anne Cripe, Kenneth Bearden, Miya Squires, Stacey Burks, Bruce Enyeart, Laree Hartman, Angela Kraemer, Mark McKinnon, Debbie Reynolds, Mimi Riley, Shaaron Vogel, Tony Wren, Dave Stephens, Courtney Rowe

ABSENT: Elizabeth Dunn, Andy Vranich

GUESTS: Molly Emmons, Teresa Ward, Suzanne Gripenstraw, Leslie Henson

I. CALL TO ORDER was made by President David Payne at 3:23P.M...

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

III. VISITOR’S COMMENTS:

A. FW Grading Policy – Debbie Reynolds discussed and distributed a handout on “FW Grading Policy”

1. No show students are not being accurately reported during the first two weeks of a term as required by law. The importance of how the information is reported was stressed. Reporting certain information on the grade roster as opposed to on earlier rosters may result in problems with financial aid…the grade roster is not an attendance roster.

2. Student’s receiving Financial Aid must be reported for non-participation within 30 days of their last attendance.

3. Motion was made by Shaaron Vogel and seconded by Tony Wren to form an ad hoc committee to examine the ambiguous language and fine tuning of FW policy. The motion was carried unanimously. Shaaron Vogel and David Payne volunteer to help with the committee.

B. Learning Communities Pilot Project – Molly Emmons was given the floor to discuss and request help from the Academic Senate with basic skills students and the Learning Communities project. Ms. Emmons explained the basics of learning communities, the importance Learning Communities has received from the State Senate through the BSI, and how they have been carried out at Butte, thus far linking basic skills and general education courses. Ms. Emmons acknowledged there have been
some concerns over the project, such as the recommended prep issue and enrollment issues. Shaaron Vogel expressed interest in vocational pairings and the Senate’s willingness to help. Debbie Reynolds expressed concern over cap issues. A motion was made by Kenneth Bearden and seconded by Shaaron Vogel to create and ad hoc committee to look at the research, assess the progress, and recommend future direction. Mark McKinnon expressed support for LC but concern over students’ abilities to abandon one half of a link when they are unhappy with an instructor’s style. The motion to create an ad hoc committee carried unanimously.

IV. Reports:
A. Hearts and Flowers – Debbie Reynolds: June Gnass & Cathy White lost someone, Tom Baird is in the hospital

B. Legislative Report: None

C. Classified Senate Report – Dave Stephens: Guest Speaker Teresa Ward visited classified senate meeting to discuss proposed staff development proposal.

D. Associated Student’s Report – Courtney Rowe reported that the wired café will not open until Winter Break due to an asbestos problem.

E. Staff Development Planning Report—Teresa Ward reported on upcoming events such as the Brown Bag lunches, Faculty Fridays, and the Faculty Forum. Discussion of the staff development proposal ensued. Teresa brought attention to the proposal changes that had been made since the last senate meeting. She mentioned that the issue of cost depended upon individuals’ placement upon the salary schedule. Shaaron reiterated that the individual in charge of staff development needed to report directly to the Senate, not just regularly. Jo Anne brought it to the attention of the senate that there was already a motion on the table to support the proposal and that the motion had been tabled. Jo Anne Cripe made a motion that Academic Senate support the resolution, seconded by Stacey Burks. Shaaron stressed the importance that the faculty development process remain in the control of the faculty. Kenneth reemphasized that the original motion was to support the proposal as is and any modification was not necessarily supported. Vote was in favor with two nays and two abstains.

F. Vice President’s & Curriculum Report – Jo Anne Cripe: Full Faculty Forum 11/14/07 Wednesday in the Center for Excellence
1. Voting Update: proposed change for Academic Senate Constitution. Amendment to the constitution allows Associate Faculty a vote to count as a ½ vote. In order to approve an amendment, 2/3 of the total value of the weighted ballots is required. Discussion ensued over the history of this issue: Jo Anne mentioned that this had been voted for last Spring, Shaaron expressed concern that the vote had been for voting of executive officers, and Kenneth clarified that last Spring’s vote had been for the constitution changes. Stacey Burks made motion to approve the language changes in the Academic Senate bylaws, seconded by Mark. Question for further discussion: LaRee Hartman and it was clarified that any future amendment would have to be approved by the Senate first before going to the faculty. The vote carried the motion, 3 abstained. Jo Anne asked for confirmation that the next step is to send out the ballot to all full-time faculty. Concern was expressed that faculty is not aware of the issues on the ballot, especially due to not having minutes. A better way of communicating the ballot to faculty needs to be discussed. Current bylaws are online, Jo Anne pointed out, and everyone should take a look and compare at the standing committees and the proposed change to the constitution. There is still a little bit of time. Jo Anne mentioned that she would send out an email to the faculty regarding this proposed change. Stacey Burks expressed here frustrations regarding the change, additional work involved, and previous discussions of the violation of Title 5, which held this issue up. David Payne expressed that it is time to put this out and go forward to the forum. Tony Wren made a motion to move the forum, seconded by Shaaron Vogel, Motion carried with 2 Opposed, 3 Abstained.

V. Unfinished Business:

Unit Plans: Shaaron Vogel discussed and distributed her budget/unit plan chart. She emphasized that the original Senate support of the unit plan process was dependant upon revisiting the process and evaluating its effectiveness. The reorganization, Shaaron pointed out, was not approved by the senate, and this reorganization has changed the budget process which is a 10 + 1 item. While this new process as proposed may lead to greater input and more transparency, it is still something that the Senate needs to review and provide input on. The Senate and Administration should conduct an evaluation of the current budgeting process to ensure that all constituencies have appropriate input at the appropriate places along the process. Concern was expressed over the complexity of the diagram Shaaron provided and she emphasized that it was simply meant to generate discussion.
Her proposal is that the Senate review the budget process and recommend to administration a revised process. Members expressed a desire to have an old process versus new process diagram to highlight what has changed. Bruce expressed a desire to have more communication between the Senate and chairs over these issues to avoid superfluous discussion over process. LaRee expressed concern over the fact that the last unit plan revision was approved by the Senate in one vote, and her desire is to have such major decisions require a 2 meeting vote to allow Senate representative discussions with their respective chairs.

**Team Leaders** – Stacy expressed the need to have an A.S. representative to communicate with the chairs. Jo Anne explained that this has somewhat happen with the reorganization…David Payne is there as a Senate representative. Once this is better understood by everyone then the issues can be addressed. Shaaron expressed the role Senate used to play with Chair training, a role that no longer occurs. Concern is that this is a 10+1.

**VI. Future Agenda Items:**
CurricUNET Discussion – Laree Hartman

**VII. ADJOURNMENT: 5:19P.M.**

*This meeting was recorded.*
*Recording is available through the Office of Learning.*