

College Senate
19 November 2004

Senators present

David Lerman	John Hancock	Ann Smith	Mac Lafferty
John Foglegren	Martha McKenna	Pat O'Rourke	Tamyra Turner
Tracy Cersley	DJ McGill	Linda Hitt	Linda Cahill
Tom Hyder	Connie Pippin	Jane Kingston	Cherno Jallow
Kathy Hudson	Marie Melton	Jan Reed	Kit Decker

Two documents were circulated:

- 1) Task Force on Reducing Textbook Cost Recommendations
- 2) List of other task forces or committees on which senators currently serve.

It was noted that there have been some difficulties printing documents from the Senate website.

Minutes approved from the October meeting.

College Hour

Tara Atkins-Brady shared some of her findings on the college hour related to issues of availability of instructors at that time, enrollment in classes that do not offer other sections at any another time, etc. We wanted to find out if students remain on campus at that time or if they simply leave. This leads to the larger question of whether we are offering classes at the right times, at the optimum times for student access, and if students are killing time on campus simply waiting for classes to start. Student senators pointed out that Honors students would prefer not to have MWF classes, and that Friday afternoon is not a popular class time. Other questions arising in our discussion:

Do we need to survey our students on these issues?

Does College Hour provide a time to create community or does it interrupt and delay the academic schedule?

Do we in practice simply fill in College Hour with meetings knowing that most faculty are not teaching?

What are the effects of scheduling a college hour on student retention?

Are there similar policies at other colleges?

Is the real issue that we lack an appropriate space to create a center of activity/community at Piedmont?

Further thoughts to David Lerman via e-mail, please.

Please view the full report from IRPIE at the end of these minutes.

Professor Emeritus

Minor revisions made to the policy have been approved by the FPA. The revisions reflect the opinion that Emeritus status should not be a major award for a select few but rather the next sequential step for a majority of retiring faculty.

Motion: That we accept the new revised policy as written.

Proposed: Jane Kingston

Seconded: Mac Lafferty

Result: Approved unanimously.

College Textbooks Prices

The Task Force is working on this to generate recommendations.

Note from our CFAC representative: the Chancellor is keen to see peer groups make recommendations about standardizing textbook use throughout the system.

Suggestions must be sensitive to copyright issues and other rules, e.g. that Inter-Library Loan is not to be used for textbooks, the fairness of library-bookstore competition, etc. Students were concerned about the timing of availability of funds for financial aid, timing and method of release of ISBNs for books to be used in courses.

Academic Prize Day

'Awards' is a more felicitous title. Should the event coincide with the Spring Fling, and perhaps include awards for sports and clubs? Jan Reed requested that she be included on the committee.

Next meeting

Will be held 10 December 2004.

Motion: To adjourn.

Proposed: Mac Lafferty

Seconded: John Hancock

Result: Adjourned at 4.20pm

Respectfully submitted

Kit Decker, secretary

PVCC Senate Request for Data About College Hour

The Senate submitted nine questions related to student enrollment, courses, and meetings during college hour: [1] How many students are enrolled by time slots? [2] How many students are enrolled only M-W-F? [3] How many students are enrolled only T-Th? [4] Is the data available to track changes over time? For instance, 5 years, 10 years? [5] Have there been any surveys to ascertain if students would attend "brown bag" courses, or courses scheduled only during the typical lunchtime hour (i.e., College Hour)? [6] Are instructors, in fact, all available during College Hour? [7] How many classes are taught during College Hour? [8] Of those that are taught during College Hour, is there always a section offered that isn't during College Hour? [9] How many meetings are being conducted during College Hour?

In response to the Senate's request, course enrollments were analyzed by type, day, and time for the current term (Fall 2004). Two important assumptions are made in these analyses: [1] To be available for college-hour activities, students must be on-campus on Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays, and [2] students are most likely to be on-campus during this time if they have classes scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays, particularly in the time slot preceding and/or immediately following college hour.

Student Enrollment and Availability for College Hour

At the time of this analysis (October '04), there were 12,213 enrollments (4,351 students) in Fall 2004 credit courses. Of the 12,213 enrollments, 9,102 are in courses offered at PVCC's main campus. The remaining 3,111 enrollments are in courses offered off campus, at high schools through dual enrollment, or distance learning. The 9,102 "main campus" enrollments account for 3,169 students (i.e., students taking at least one course at the main campus).

Of the 3,169 students taking courses at PVCC's main campus, 2,278 students are enrolled in at least one course meeting on Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays. The remaining 891 students are not enrolled in any M-W-F classes. The 2,278 students (i.e., those on the main campus on Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays) represent 72% of "main campus" students and 52% of all students. *That is, about half of all students are taking courses at PVCC's main campus on a Monday, Wednesday, and/or Friday.*

Of the 2,278 students on the main campus on Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Fridays, 434 students are in courses in the time slots immediately preceding college hour, and 574 students are in courses immediately following college hour. Of these, *134 (6% of all MWF students, and 3% of all PVCC students) are on the main campus on Monday, Wednesday, and/or Friday for classes immediately before and after College Hour.*

Courses Offered and Instructor Availability During College Hour

There are 496 courses/course sections offered at PVCC's main campus. Fifteen courses (43 course sections) are offered during College Hour. Presumably, instructors of these sections would not be available during college hour for activities or meetings. Of these 15 courses, 13 have a section(s) offered at a time other than College Hour. Two (2) courses, ART 259 (1 section) and NUR 142 (4 sections) do not have an alternate section.

Meetings During College Hour

At this time, data regarding the number of meetings during College Hour is not available. We know, from experience and anecdotes, that College Hour is a popular time for both formal and informal administrative, faculty and staff meetings. Having a shared college calendar would facilitate this analysis.

Student Surveys

To my knowledge, no surveys of students have been conducted to explore interest in "brown bag" courses, or to evaluate college hour from the students' perspective.