

**MINUTES**  
**College Senate Meeting**  
**Friday, May 1, 2009**

**Attendees:** Ed Kingston, David Thompson, Marie Melton, Jennie Patteson, Bill Hurd, Brian Wisniewski, Amy Gillespie, Kris Swanson, Laurie Thurneck, Terry Clore, Bruce Glassco, Colleen Bishop, Yvonne Carey, Crystal Newell

The April minutes were approved unanimously.

**Sex Offender Policy**

The SGA reviewed the Sex Offender policy and suggested that the College notify parents of under-age students that a registered sex offender is on campus. After discussing the logistics of this suggestion, the Senate recommends that information regarding sex offenders be put into the catalog (as all policies are) and in the new student orientation packets. The Senate worries that if notification is given to parents, it may present the wrong image.

The Sex Offender policy was unanimously approved with the changes discussed last meeting. The Senate's recommendation will be presented to the President for approval.

**Smoking Huts**

As per the suggestion of the Senate, the Student Services committee contacted the Construction Academy who agreed to build and design the smoking shelters. The Construction Academy provided an example of a smoking shelter; the final shelters will be somewhat different from the one presented. The current hope is that each building will have a smoking shelter. A larger shelter will be built for the main building. Of course the smoking shelters will be handicap accessible. A potential suggestion from the group (Dr. Jackameit, David Thompson, Mary Lee Walsh, Allen Duff, and Byron Sorg) was to construct a larger shelter near the graduation site that could act as a stage. Some asked if another shelter could be built for the main building and placed at the South entrance. This particular location would be very convenient for students. However, placement there would depend on the future redesign of that entrance. At the very least, the shelters are movable. Another concern was the new Workforce Services building. Will this building have one as well?

Given the cost of materials, the smoking shelters would range from \$3000 to \$5000. Several local companies were interested in subsidizing the cost; local landscape companies also have offered assistance. All other smoking areas will be closed.

Ideally, the shelters would be in place by fall 2009. As a way to advertise the new shelters and better inform the students, the committee would like to begin a campaign in early fall. The campaign would introduce the new smoking policy to students. Amy Gillespie worried that the campaign would interfere with the QEP and the SACS visit. She asked if the campaign could be postponed to spring. Some suggested putting up better signage by fall and if necessary, doing a larger campaign in spring. The committee also could contact the Forum.

In addition to the students, staff and faculty will be made aware of the new policy as well as provided with information about a smoking cessation program through CommonHealth.

Some asked who has the right to enforce this policy. Any instructor or staff member has the right to ask a student for his/her name. Any employee can report an infraction.

The Senate unanimously approved funding for the smoking shelters. Dr. Jackameit will present the proposal to the board.

## **Summer Pay Policy**

Yvonne Carey provided clarification on the summer pay policy. She wanted to ensure that everyone understood how full-time faculty members are paid. In an e-mail to Ed Kingston, she provided the following explanation:

“Full-time faculty at PVCC have nine-month contracts. Full-time faculty are paid over 12 months, with the exception of a few faculty who are paid over nine months. For retirement and benefit purposes, full-time faculty receive credit for one year/12 months. If a full-time faculty member teaches during the summer they become adjunct, in essence, they receive a separate summer semester contract and they fall under the adjunct budget that is formulated to include the summer semester as well as the fall/spring academic year.”

Full-time faculty who teach in summer fall under the adjunct budget. This was the impetus for revising the summer pay policy.

## **College Council**

FPA and PASS currently are not the official voices of the faculty and staff. As it stands, the Senate is the only governing body who may make proposals or recommendations to the administration. In response, the FPA drafted a new constitution for a Faculty Senate. The FPA will review and vote on the new constitution in the fall. John Walsh also spoke with PASS so that they can begin looking into writing a new constitution.

While looking at the reorganization of the governance structure, the FPA also created a proposal for a College Council. In the proposal, the College Council would handle college-wide issues only. The administrative duties of the council would be removed. One of the main questions is whether or not the Senate should be involved in every policy decision. The FPA feels the Senate is an extra layer of bureaucracy.

Some wondered if the change to the Faculty Senate is in name only as it is still a faculty organization. Dr. Friedman does not recognize the FPA as the voice of the faculty. Will he now?

Some also wondered why we can't improve the current process. Bill Hurd asked if the representatives from the standing committees can't be used better. The process flow is there but not effective. The Senate was meant to streamline the approval process and end the need for task forces. It is not working effectively, however.

How is the current proposal for a College Council different? Amy Gillespie stated that with this proposal: 1.) FPA, PASS, and SGA would be restructured to represent the voices of their respective constituencies; 2.) All standing committees would report directly to the vice presidents and no longer require the approval of the Senate.

The main concern of the Senate is who would decide what issues are college-wide and thus under the purview of the College Council. According to Amy Gillespie, examples of non-college wide issues are those policies discussed by C&I. It is assumed that standing committees are representative of all groups and thus represent the faculty, staff, and students. Some Senate members thought that only two committees have students on them. This is a problem because not every committee is truly representative.

Also, the current Senate acts as a means of communication. The Senate is a place where all information converges and is a way to stay abreast of things going on in the College. The different kinds of representation encourage discussion and brainstorming. It is also the members' duty to inform their constituencies of what occurs. Amy Gillespie argued that the representatives from each of the standing committees also have a duty to communicate with their constituencies and to bring forth issues for

discussion to the standing committees. Laurie Thurneck, as the C&I representative on the Senate, stated that she has never brought anything from C&I to a vote in the Senate. She views her role as more of an informant or communicator. However, in the Senate, all groups are represented and someone might bring a different perspective to an issue. Some viewed the Senate as a check and balance. Some also worried over the reduction of size; reducing the number of members on the Council may potentially remove the voices. Where is the arbitration?

Amy Gillespie argued that any governing body is only as good as its members. She argued that the faculty, staff, and student groups should be officially recognized in the governance structure. They should represent themselves; they should be their own voice. Currently, the Senate is another inefficient layer in the approval policy.

Bruce Glassco suggested each aspect of the proposal be considered separately. One concern is the size of the new College Council. Without sufficient representation, Dr. Friedman may ask questions. Amy Gillespie suggested that a total consensus should be reached for major decisions. .

FPA will revisit this issue again in the fall. The Senate will present the final proposal to the president next year. In any case, the Senate will review its bylaws in the fall as well.

**Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. The Senate has adjourned for the summer.

Submitted by,  
Crystal Newell