

MINUTES
College Senate Meeting
Friday, November 7, 2008

Attendees: Colleen Bishop, Laurie Thurneck, David Thompson, Bill Hurd, Terry Clore, Bruce Glassco, Ed Kingston, Rebecca Ward, Brian Wisniewski, Freycinef Azo, Andrew Williams, Pamela Frank, Amy Gillespie, Kris Swanson, Allen Duff, Crystal Newell

Old Business

After introductions, the minutes of the previous meeting were read. Kathy wants the standing committees to begin publishing their minutes to the web. The minutes can be sent to Scott Huston for publication. Allen Duff, the chairperson from the Student Services committee, stated that both current and past minutes can be forwarded to Scott for posting.

The October minutes were approved unanimously.

Student Services proposal

Allen Duff presented a proposal from the Student Services committee to increase the number of voting student representatives from six to nine; this proposal is for this academic year only. The committee typically has six student representatives who vote; nine requested membership this year. The committee members voted unanimously to allow all nine students membership.

The Senate discussed whether or not to suggest rewording the proposal to six or more students; this would allow the Student Services committee to vary the number of voting students from year to year. Allen Duff reiterated, however, that the committee is only seeking permission to increase the number of students for this year. Next year, the committee will reduce the number of voting students back to six. The committee discussed having the additional students act as alternatives, but ultimately decided not to so as to encourage participation. The question was asked if this would tip the balance of power (since there would be more voting students compared to other members). Since the committee typically votes unanimously, Allen Duff thought that altering the number of student representatives would not affect the balance of power. The nine students selected this year were picked by the faculty and staff who serve on the committee.

There was discussion as to whether or not the Senate has ultimate authority over the number of people on the committee. The Senate may make a recommendation as to the membership and minimum size of a committee, but our recommendations are approved by the president. If a committee would like to add additional representation, they may.

A motion was made to approve the committee's proposal of increasing the number of voting student representatives from six to nine for this academic year only pending approval from the president. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Senate Bylaws

Anita Showers had a reporter contact her regarding attending a Senate meeting. Currently, the Senate bylaws allow for the general public to attend Senate meetings. The Executive committee met with the president regarding this issue, and he suggested that a reporter may inhibit open discussion in a Senate meeting and that the bylaws may need addressing.

Discussion ensued as to who is the "general public". Could we limit access to people associated with PVCC, i.e. students, faculty, and staff? A question arose as to whether or not that included both past and present students, etc. Even if the Senate meetings are limited to those associated with the College, the bylaws must be changed.

A person, such as a reporter, who may have an agenda, can inhibit open conversation, particularly during brainstorming sessions. Perhaps non-College visitors can observe but not participant in a meeting. But then, what about a student reporter from the Forum who is a part of the PVCC community? Some Senate members pointed out that the minutes are already published on the web and reporters can contact Anita Showers and the Office of Marketing and Media Relations for information. A suggestion was made to allow people to attend meetings by invitation only. If a reporter does attend, Anita Showers also could accompany him or her. Another suggestion was made to have all inquiries to attend a meeting be filtered through the Office of Marketing and Media Relations.

The Senate has the power to limit access by using the agenda and executive sessions to schedule when a visitor may come. This would close certain meetings to Senate members only.

A motion was made to change the bylaws to the following:

Meetings of the Senate are ordinarily open to members and invited guests. All other inquiries should be directed to the Office of Marketing and Media Relations.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

To amend the bylaws, a two-thirds majority of the total number of senators is required no sooner than two weeks after today's date. A vote on the amendment of the bylaws will be sent via email. Once passed, the Senate website will be updated.

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 5.

Submitted by,
Crystal Newell