

Solano Community College

Academic Senate
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

UNADOPTED MINUTES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008
1:30 p.m., Board Room

ROLL CALL

Present: Matt Borchert; Karen Cook; Christine Ducoing; Erin Duane; Erin Farmer, Chair; Marianne Flatland; Bob Johnson; Laura Maghoney; Marc Pandone; Leslie Rota; Dr. Robin Steinback; and Donna Vessels.

Guests: Dr. Philip Andreini, Dean, Humanities.

Excused: Robin Arie-Donch; Erique Gigante; Maire Morinec; Janene Whitesell; and Wesley Wood.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Items are considered routine and will be enacted by the approval of the agenda unless removed from the Consent Items by a Committee member.

CONSENT ITEMS

It was moved by Marc Pandone and seconded by Leslie Rota to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 4/8/08 meeting will appear on a future agenda.

NEW COURSES - None

COURSE MODIFICATIONS - None

PROGRAM MAJOR NEW - None

PROGRAM MAJOR MODIFICATIONS - None

LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE REVISIONS

Marianne Flatland shared the draft version of the two degrees that will be replacing the Liberal Arts Degree; Associate in Arts in University Studies with emphasis, and Associate in Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with emphasis. Barbara Pavao, Robin Arie-Donch, and Marianne Flatland, as well as about five faculty members have worked on this project. There were about ten other colleges' degrees that were looked at that had already been accepted by The Systems Office, and those were narrowed down to about three and those three were used as models for Solano's new degrees. There have been presentations at the Division meetings to present the degree information and provide an opportunity for feedback. Any changes or suggestions you may have regarding degree emphasis area and courses therein, or other various suggestions, please forward them via email to Barbara Pavao, Robin Arie-Donch, or Marianne Flatland. Deadline for these revisions will be 10:00 a.m. May 6th.

The University Studies purpose is to facilitate the process of students who are working on transferring and help them gain a degree, much like the old Liberal Arts Degree, but in compliance with Title V. Looked at "assist" and tried to pick courses in the areas of emphasis that the local universities and colleges accept as transfer courses and that Solano Community College offers a variety of choices for the student. The areas of emphasis are: Arts and Humanities; Communication; Liberal Studies for Teacher Preparation, Science and Quantitative Reasoning; and Social Science. It is noted that these areas of emphasis consider the depth and breadth of knowledge in each

of the areas. It was recommended to review the Communication area of emphasis and change the wording to say, "Minimum of six units from each of three different disciplines.'

The Interdisciplinary Studies purpose is offer courses to those students who may not necessarily want to transfer to a four year college and therefore some courses are not transferable; those numbered 100 through 199. However, most courses do transfer and are numbered 1 through 99. The areas of emphasis are: Arts and Humanities, Communication, Science and Quantitative Reasoning, Social Science, and Wellness and Self Development. The areas of emphasis are described with a "hands on approach" vs. the theoretical language of the University Studies areas of emphasis. The Wellness and Self Development began by thinking about those student athletes who need to have a degree to transfer to a division one school, and this provides another alternative to those students.

The descriptions of the different areas of emphasis are modeled after what other colleges have put together, and from the California State University system executive order, as well as looking at IGETCE descriptions in those areas.

These degrees will be reviewed again in the future. However, it is very important that Solano Community College put these degrees in place by July 1, 2008 so that there is not a break for the students in the College's offering of this type of degree. And therefore, as the degrees are reviewed, there may be changes that are necessary at that time. Also, there is a listing of questions from The Systems Office that the Curriculum Committee should answer when looking at where courses fit in the General Education pattern, and in the future, the committee will be reviewing those questions in relation to the new degrees and their emphasis.

The Associate in Arts in University Studies with emphasis degree and the Associate in Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies degree will be brought back to the Curriculum Committee on May 13th for approval.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – None

Erin Farmer shared with the members that when she went to Plenary, there was an entire session just for Liberal Arts Degrees. There was a PowerPoint presentation that she can share with anyone who is interested; please email if you would like a copy. The requirement of The System Office regarding Liberal Arts Degrees is not a new development; it is just that they are now taking a closer look at Title V that specifies that there be a body of knowledge in a concentrated area. Other colleges are dealing with the same issues as Solano in regards to the Liberal Arts Degree revisions.

A discussion at Plenary about external forces working on curriculum, and the desire to impose third party testing for vocational technical programs, may lead to external control of curriculum. The college's are trying to resist this control with the implementation of SLOs, and the colleges ailing themselves with their own accreditation bodies in an attempt to resist federal control of curriculum and assessment so that they can demonstrate that they are self monitoring, and they don't need to be externally monitored. There is a strong movement in Voc Tech with a proposal with a silver, bronz, and gold standard. The Systems Office is working hard to resist this movement. The third party testing could be very costly at the price of \$300 per person.

Jonathan Lightman talked about the demographics of California, and the role of Community Colleges in the economy of California, in the next 20 years. Some projections: if we continue with the budget cuts as proposed, the skills will go away, and the jobs will go away. California is competing with other parts of the country for the same workers. Mr. Lightman will be advising the legislators of the demographic findings in an attempt to resist some of the budget cuts that are proposed on the Community Colleges. He talked about a strategy to have legislators, with success stories from Community Colleges, in photographs with students to send back to their districts. The idea is that it is harder to cut the funding when they are seen and publicized in that way.

Scott Leigh spoke at a luncheon and talked about his road to success that began with the Community College. He talked about assessment, and that the push for assessment may not be in the student's best interest.

Announcement from Donna Vessels: for the last meeting on May 13th, the curriculum course agenda deadline is Monday, April 28, 2008; only courses that have been mentioned, or that Donna has spoken to people about, or courses that have gone back, will be put on the agenda.

Erin Farmer announced that her tenure as Curriculum Committee Chair will be up at the end of the semester. It is recommended that at the last meeting, May 13th, the position be elected. Erin will send out an email to open the floor for those interested so it may be voted on May 13th. It was recommended that someone new not be considered as chair since there are many new requirements from the state. Also, the person who is chair should also have a division representative on the committee as well. The committee discussed the restructure of the

committee by adding another division representative. Because the Curriculum Committee is a sub-committee of the Academic Senate, if it is approved by the Academic Senate and at the Curriculum Committee, then that is all that is needed for the change. Also, there may be other committee members who need to be elected; Erin will check with Donna Vessels on the listing.

Erin recommended that the Curriculum training be held during a Flex Cal session so that anyone who wants to attend may be trained on the curriculum process, and that it be on a required day. Suggest having someone from the Statewide Academic Senate come to give a presentation.

REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Board of Trustees approved the College's CurricUNET contract at their last Board Meeting. Implementation will begin; two Division Deans will be appointed, and will request the help of faculty members at the next meeting on May 13th. The company will transfer our Web CMS archive information into the CurricUNET system this summer. Need to review the outlines of record, and use the model outline of record from the state handbook as a guide.

Secured four reservations at the Curriculum Institute this summer; Erin Farmer as well as Dr. Steinback will be attending the institute. Have secured a place for the Curriculum Analyst and one other curriculum committee member; funding for four, but have asked for a fifth position through a scholarship from the Statewide Academic Senate. The institute is in Redwood City from July 10th through July 12th. Leslie Rota is very interested in attending, Bob Johnson agreed to use Perkins funding for Leslie to attend. Erin Farmer will find out who the other committee members will be and forward that information to Dr. Steinback.

REPORT FROM THE ARTICULATION OFFICER -None

OPEN DISCUSSION

Erin Farmer mentioned that the course outline of record, the curriculum committee did look at the original document, but Erin can send the one that has been adopted. One of the things that the Curriculum Committee needs to get away from is the laundry list of methods and objectives. She recommended is that there should be an integrated course of outline of record where the goals and the activities and the methodologies are linked in the explanation, so there is more narrative than just a list. For the Curriculum Committee to evaluate it, it helps to see the rationale, and forces the instructor to think about the relationships. Erin recommends that the committee look at revising the course outline of records, since that will need to be input into the new system; then all new courses can follow the new outline.

Bob Johnson recommended that when submitting for a new program, that a completed packet (the required state approval 501 packet) be submitted to the Curriculum Committee prior to any discussion for approval.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, it was moved by Bob Johnson and seconded by Marianne Flatland to adjourn at 3:03 p.m., to meet again Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 1:30 p.m., in the Board Room.

CCMinutes 4/22/08:km