FACULTY SENATE MINUTES OCTOBER 5 2004
PALANAKILA 117 12:40-1:25

Present: Paul Briggs, Winston Kong, Kiko Hoe, Mari Nakamura, Peggy Regentine, Jean Shibuya, Evelyn Sugihara, Michael Tom, Aileen Yim, Dave Ringuette, Floyd McCoy (Systemwide Representative), Laurie Tomchak (Recorder), Ben Moffatt (Presiding)Bayline Kahalepauole (Student Observer)

The Faculty Senate convened at 12:40.

1. Minutes were approved as amended. The spelling of Dean Mullikin and Elizabeth Ratliff was corrected.

2. Old Business
   a. N Grade. Members were referred to LCC's Ballot on Floyd's handout "On a Uniform Grading Scheme." In this year's discussion of the issue, the matter had been referred to CAAC, but Jean said that they had decided to propose a campus vote on it. The options are to simply eliminate the N, to eliminate it but extend the withdraw deadline until the last day of class, or to retain it while adopting LCC's proposed definition(s). LCC eliminated it, but members considered the definitions provided. They seemed to require the student notifying the faculty member when they had a family emergency. Peggy and other faculty members felt that the N grade is part of the community college safety net, so that students who are having trouble initially would not be penalized when or if they got back on track. Other members felt that we would be doing our students a disservice by shielding them from the academic consequences of their actions. When they would go on to Manoa, they would be less prepared to work at that level, and the instructors there might look unfavorably on the "N" grade.

      It was moved and passed that Windward conduct a Campus-wide forum on the N grade, and that the material comprising Appendix IV of Floyd's handout would be distributed to all members for modification before the Forum, so that members who could not attend would have the opportunity to have input on the ballot. The ballot could be modified or voted on subsequently as is, as the campus decides. The date of the Forum will be November 19th at 1:30.

   b. Plus/Minus Grade. Members had been sent a copy of the previously passed but tabled motion on plus/minus grading: "On December 2, 2003, the Faculty Senate voted to recommend that WCC adopt plus/minus grades consistent with the practice at UH Manoa. We recommend that the awarding of points be consistent with UH Manoa. Faculty members at WCC would not be compelled to give plus or minus grades." This motion was tabled because there were concerns from the administration that the change might affect Pell grants and other financial aid, and that students might be more likely to have grievances against teachers for lack of uniformity of grading, etc.

      It was moved and passed that the issue of plus/minus grading would be an additional topic at the Nov. 19th forum. Both of these issues are important ones in light of accreditation. This does not mean that we have to eliminate the N and install
plus/minus grades to be accredited, only that the accreditors see that we have a fair policy that is uniformly applied.

c. Articulation Foundation Board. Last meeting Dean Mullikin and Patty Chong spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of conforming with the Manoa system. Members were asked if they had gotten feedback from their departments about WCC forming an accreditation Foundations Board. Most had not, and asked for more time to consider the issue. They are referred to item #1 in the September 21st minutes.

3. New Business, Reports

   a. CAAC (Jean Shibuya) CAAC had approved proposals for course modifications in prerequisites, co-requisites, and recommended preparation for Chem 161 General Chemistry 1 (3 credits) and Chem 162 General Chemistry 2 (3 credits). Previously, high school courses were prerequisites for the class, but since these courses cannot be checked by the Banner system, it was decided to require placement in Math 27 or 103 or completion of the courses with "C" or better, or concurrent registration in Math 135. These changes were approved by the senate.

   b. a straw ballot on the AA degree is being conducted.

   c. Since Letty resigned from the Aloha or Faculty Relations Committee, Jean Shibuya agreed to serve if no one else can be found.

   d. Ben will be looking over the Faculty Senate constitution to see what needs to be revised. There were questions raised over who would be voting members, Unit 7 members, more than half time faculty or BOR appointed faculty. Also, since there is no longer a Chancellor for the CCs, all modifications need only go to Angela, with no need to go any further.

   e. Floyd reported from systemwide that Manoa is planning a reorganization to put ITS and ORS back under Manoa, since these organizations do most of their work with Manoa. Under Dobelle, they were under systemwide administration. Also, President McClain is proposing a reorganization for the system that will reduce the number of Vice Presidents by two. There is a new regent from Kauai. The BOR will meet in Hilo in two weeks.

   f. Paul Briggs said that Staff Development has gotten its funding, so that it is able to entertain applications for grants of 800 dollars or less. The total available is around $7200.

   g. Faculty Senate Chairs’ Meeting with the Chancellor and DOI. 9/21/04 Master Plan Committee. Angela reported that in the UH System’s request to the legislature is money to update the campus’s master plans. We will know in the spring whether we have money. Angela may revive the master plan committee before then. It’s charge would be to
look at the existing plan, recommend changes, decide where new buildings would go.

Bulletin. Angela’s poll last year suggested that people preferred the list serve as a bulletin. The list serve is for information and business purposes. Angela did mention the possibility of setting up a second list serve for discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25.