FACULTY SENATE MEETING JANUARY 18, 2005
12:40-1:20 PALANAKILA 117

Present: Ben Moffat (Presiding), Floyd McCoy, Winston Kong, Mike Tom, Paul Briggs, Mari Nakamura, Evelyn Sugihara, Dave Ringuette, Baylina A. Kahalepaoule (Student Representative), Laurie Tomchak (Recorder), Peggy Regentine, Ryan Perreira
Guest: Carla Jones

1. The Minutes for Dec. 7, 2004 were accepted with the correction that Clayton HEE (not Yee) and Tommy Waters are the Senate and House Chairs of the State Higher Education Committee. Minutes of November 30, 2004 and January 3, 2005 were accepted as submitted.

2. Old Business--AA Ballot Redux
It was moved and seconded, and the motion passed that the AA Ballot will be re-distributed and eligible faculty will be instructed to vote again, since some faculty members did not receive ballots in the last round of elections due to changing the position of some faculty mail boxes in Alakai. The new deadline will be February 4 at 4:00 PM. An email will be sent to the facstaff list and hard copies will be placed in the boxes of eligible faculty to notify all of this re-vote. The previous ballots will be destroyed.

3. New Business--Middle College--Carla Jones
Carla plied those present with Padfolios, interesting hybrids of lined pads and portfolios decorated with the logo of CTE, Career and Technical Education, the state organization she represents. Each padfolio contained a brochure about CTE, delineating its career pathway system and other aspects of its goals and programs, and a copy of the White Paper Carla prepared for Superintendent Hamamoto. CTE receives a budget of 6 1/2 million a year from the DOE for programs and professional development and training to help keep students in education and off the welfare rolls. The Middle College concept is especially geared towards students who are not necessarily academically at risk, but who are bright students who have become bored or disengaged from high school and do not have the credits to receive a high school diploma. The idea is to put them in community college courses that will satisfy their remaining high school requirements, as well as getting them on the road to college. They will be given additional counseling and guidance to devise a career plan, since at least some post secondary education is important to their career success in the future.

What would be asked of WCC if they choose to participate? The college will be asked to provide spaces in core courses such as Math and English, and perhaps if additional courses are needed a room in which a carefully chosen high school instructor will give a high school course. This room would be utilized in low demand times. It is hoped that some of these students will get re-energized and turned on to school again. What will WCC get in return? We will get more students at a time when our enrollment is stagnating, students who are often very bright and add to the classroom atmosphere.
Some senators expressed doubts about the "brightness" of these prospective students, and Carla said that they are interviewed, tracked and pre-selected for the program. When asked how the program differs from early admit programs already in place, Winston said that early admit has a GPA requirement of 3.0. Running Start has a requirement of 2.0, but these students can only take certain classes. Also, Middle College is oriented towards career and technical programs and early admit is oriented to liberal arts.

Another concern that senators had was how the program would fit in with the proposed University Center, which seems to be pulling us in another direction. Also, there seems to be some overlap with Upward Bound and talent search and other programs in place, but these are federal programs of limited duration. Some senators thought that it might be a good way to lure more local kids to WCC. The number of students wouldn't be more than 10-15. Hawaii CC is planning to institute a program due to declining enrollment, and theirs may involve as many as thirty students.

As far as funding sources, Kamehameha has said that it might help with transportation or tuition. The Bill and Melinda Gates foundation is another funding source. Carla said that her grant writer is available for seeking funding, so that it would not be incumbent on busy WCC faculty to put that together.

Evelyn said that in her experience, high school students grow up as they mingle with adult learners. Floyd cited the example of a high school student in one of his classes who got the best grade in his class and is continuing on in one of Dave Krupp's summer programs.

Some additional classes could be provided by the Myron B. Thompson online program. The counseling and teaching of additional classes would be provided by the high schools, and would not be incumbent upon WCC.

Other CCs are considering the program, but some, like LCC have other initiatives, and Kauai and KCC decided against it due to space considerations. They may re-consider due to declining enrollments across the system. MCC’s culinary program may get involved. The impetus behind the program and others like it is the crisis in Hawaii high schools, with low percentages of Native Hawaiian students graduating, etc.

If WCC does agree to participate, the first step would be for WCC administration and faculty senate leaders to meet with local high school principals to ascertain if there is a need for it.

The senators thanked Carla for the information and the meeting adjourned at 1:30.