

Pierce College Academic Senate
April 17, 2006
College Services Conference Room

Members Present:

The meeting was **called to order** at 2:15 pm by Barrie Logan. The **agenda** was adopted by consensus. The **minutes** of March 27th were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's Report—David Schutzer No changes.

College Administration Report—Bob Garber

- Pierce is one of three campuses in the district selected participate in CalPIRG's New Voter Project.
- The Learning Center internet access for students will be continued.
- A study of schedule conflicts was done to see how class scheduling may be improved so that students can easily enroll in more classes, especially those GE courses on IGETC.
- The Bond "Black Book" funding groups will be reviewed by PCC.
- Partnerships are being explored with the possibility of a biotech incubator being considered; only partnerships which are consistent with our educational philosophy will be considered.
- Partnerships for food service are also being explored. Renovation of the cafeteria/grill room is not practical. Possibilities exist for the area north of the cafeteria in the covered area.
- The commencement speaker (June 7th) is Dennis Zine.

Articulation Officer/Transfer Center Director—Elizabeth McCormick Courses submitted for IGETC were all accepted.

Senate President's Report—Barrie Logan

- **Encouraging Civic Engagement**—Kathy Holland, AFT Voter Registration Project and Sam Voorhees, State Public Interest Groups (PIRGs) New Voter Project.
Sam Voorhees gave some background on CalPIRG student projects. The New Voter Project was begun in 2003 and includes non-partisan information on political issues and efforts to increase student involvement in the political process. Kathy Holland and Jim Dawson are working on the campus to increase student voter registration. Faculty involvement was requested in the project by either making students aware of the registration process and/or by allowing classroom visits. Pierce will be having voter registration on the mall starting May 1st for 3 weeks. If you need voter registration forms, contact Kathy at x5265.
- The Academic Senate President vacancy (when Barrie retires this June) will be filled by Izzy Goodman as outlined in the senate by-laws. The Academic Senate Bylaws specify that a vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the Vice President of Academic Policy. The Bylaws further specify that the vacancy in the office of Vice President "shall be filled by a candidate submitted by the President of the Academic Senate. The candidate shall be considered endorsed and accepted when the candidate receives a 2/3-vote of those present and voting at a meeting of the Academic Senate." Monday, May 15, has been the date set for the Senate vote.

Old Business

Accreditation Standard II. Student Learning Programs & Services, A. Instructional Programs 7.a—Mark Pracher

Faculty distinguish between personal conviction and professionally accepted views in a discipline. They present data and information fairly and objectively.

- What policies demonstrate institutional commitment to free pursuit and dissemination of knowledge?
- How does the college communicate its expectation that faculty distinguish between personal conviction and professionally accepted views in a discipline? In what discussions have faculty engaged to deepen understanding of this expectation? How successfully do faculty make this distinction in the classroom? What mechanisms does the college have for determining how effectively it is meeting this expectation?

The Ethics Committee has had discussions on this standard and expressed that it is the faculty's responsibility to express what is given in the discipline and that a faculty member's own opinion may differ, but should be identified as such. This information is stated in the Faculty Code of Ethics – section II. (An excerpt of the Faculty Code of Ethics was provided to the senate members for this discussion.) Several members shared classroom procedures to ensure students know when opinions are being expressed.

The expectations are communicated to the faculty, existing and new, by the “Responsibilities and Obligations of Full-time and Adjunct Faculty” (also provided as a handout at the meeting). At adjunct faculty orientations the Code of Ethics is distributed and the Code is also available to all on the Pierce website. Violations of the code could be cited in the faculty member's evaluation. Student evaluations include questions on this topic as well.

New Probationary-Faculty Mentoring Guidelines—Approved

Serving Under-prepared Students—Izzy Goodman

- What beginning courses do under-prepared students take in your department?
- What skills are they under prepared in ... reading, writing, study skills, etc.?
- Do they take the wrong initial course in your department? Why? What should they be taking?
- Is it clear to them what the initial course is in your department?
- Do you think that it is your department's faculty's responsibility to help these students? Are you able to? Why or why not?
- How can we best help them?

Presentation by Kathy Oborn on the Criminal Justice program and the Administration of Justice courses available for students. The major skills lacking in the students taking these courses are reading and writing. The most difficult courses would include AJ 2 and 4 with legal vocabulary. Students are referred to the Learning Center; peer tutors and study groups are helpful as well as assignments requiring students to improve these skills. While course sequencing is difficult because of the varied transfer requirements, AJ 1 is the recommended starting course.

Committee Reports

Pierce College Council— Pam Brown

Report on PCC mtg of 4/07/06 for Ac. Senate mtg of 4/17/06

1. David Tsao, an architect, has been selected to replace Bill Lukehart of Swinerton as our new director of campus Prop A/AA construction projects. Mr. Tsao was welcomed by the PCC.
2. PCC approved \$190K in college funds to finish construction of 3 equestrian riding/teaching arenas, restrooms & a hay barn. The Equestrian Educational Center has lost money each year, because our current facilities are primitive and unsuitable for equestrian courses and professional horse show events on weekends. Approval of accelerated construction will put the EEC in the black quickly and allow the college to earn \$100K in net revenues each year after 2008.

3. A “Capital Construction 5-year Plan” was approved by the PCC. The 5 year plan is required by the State Chancellor’s Office, and must be submitted annually. Each college lists ‘priorities’ for those campus construction projects which may receive state support (funding). Our 5-year plan has prioritized two capital construction projects, 1) Campus-wide Improvements/Infrastructure (\$6 million with a \$3 mill. college “match”) and 2) Horticulture Building Renovation and Gardeners Maintenance (\$6 million with a \$1.2 mill. college “match”), at the top of the list. Two other projects on the list, Library LRC Renovation (\$15 million with a \$3 mill. college “match”) and Reclaimed Water Infrastructure (\$5 million with a \$1 mill. college “match”) will be recommended to the Chancellor for state funding at a later date.
4. Roadways & Parking Lots construction costs have increased because “paving” is a petroleum-related product. The bond construction project for campus roads & parking lots is over budget by \$2 million (originally \$13 million; now \$15 mill.). Of 9 planned road & parking lot projects, 4 are given priority for the following reasons: safety issues (El Rancho Road), EIR or Environmental Impact Report mandates (East Parking Lot P-8), matching funds at-risk and new Student Services Building needs (Brahma Drive), and gains in spaces (Administration parking Lot P-1 – expected to double the number of spaces following its reconfiguration).
5. A new, one-stop centralized ‘Human Resources’ office was discussed for the college at the PCC meeting.
6. The PCC discussed the wording for the job description for “Director of Communications.” Mike Cornner who has served ably in this capacity will be stepping down at the end of spring, and the college will be searching for his replacement shortly.

Our next PCC meeting is April 21, 1:30 pm in the College Services Conference Room. Items on the Agenda include the future of food services and election procedures (for upcoming PCC Chair and Vice Chair elections). In May and June, the PCC will be considering possible revisions to the PCC Charter. –Respectfully submitted, Pam Brown Senate Rep to PCC

Academic Policy—Izzy Goodman No Report

Curriculum—Lyn Koller The next meeting is April 21st and the last meeting of the semester is on May 12th.

Educational Planning Committee—Izzy Goodman Progress is being made on the Educational Master Plan with goals being developed. The committee will split into subgroups to work on the goals and invite others who are interested to participate in developing the strategies to achieve the goals.

Professional Ethics—Betty Odello and Phil Stein

Part of report was given with the discussion of Accreditation Standard II

Phil Stein raised concerns about the movement against liberal professors. Rebecca Stein gave an informative presentation at the Ethics committee meeting which Betty Odello recommended for a future senate meeting. It was mentioned that CalPIRG has information on and advocates against this movement.

The committee discussed academic integrity (Betty also serves on the district task force) and recommends that the college tries the “Turnitin” program for 1 to 2 years to see if it is a worthwhile investment. This will be an action item on a future senate agenda.

Professional Growth and Development—Kathy Oborn

- Conference funds will be allotted (up to 500.00) for out of discipline conference attendance that provide service to the college. These are in addition to the discipline conference funds the faculty member may request.
- Discussion on reporting professional development hours. Clarification for some faculty members is needed (e.g. C vs. D basis). Simplification of forms for reporting is being considered.

Technology Management Committee—Jill Binsley, Gail Hobbs No Report

Adjournment was at 3:45