

Official Minutes
Plenary Session of the City College of San Francisco Academic Senate
Friday, August 15, 2008
Ocean Avenue Campus, Diego Rivera Theatre

I. Call to Order

The Fall 2008 Plenary Session came to order at 8:05 a.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

The CCSF Academic Senate adopted the agenda as amended.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Academic Senate President Hal Huntsman welcomed the attendees.

President Huntsman introduced the 2008–2009 Executive Council members.

IV. Officers' Reports

A. President Huntsman's report included these items:

- He acknowledged that last year the Academic Senate endured a period of challenge and expressed confidence that this year's Senate will move forward. The 67% increase in votes cast in last Springs Executive Council elections signifies an interested and engaged faculty.
- Faculty members are needed to serve on the hiring committees for both the Chief of Police and the Dean of Instruction, Curriculum, Tenure Review and Faculty Evaluation.
- During the summer Huntsman worked on several important issues, including the budget, BSI and new construction.
- The City College faculty put creative and intellectual energies into the Basic Skills Initiative (BSI) workgroups formed last spring. While many of our Basic Skills courses, programs, and services are very successful, students have not succeeded as well as anyone would like. The Basic Skills Initiative is an invitation from the state to do something different than we've done before. It is an opportunity to promote improved programs and practices that positively impact students in basic skills courses so that even more of our students pass their basic skills courses and move on to complete their educational goals.
- Huntsman urged that faculty members get involved in shared governance by asking to be nominated to a committee or by just attending meetings – all meetings are open to the public. Faculty members are encouraged to call, email, or come by to talk to the officers or any of the EC members and to stay informed by reading City Currents and checking the senate website.

Special Report Gus Goldstein, President of AFT 2121, brought greetings from the union. AFT 2121 is negotiating a new contract, with a goal of ratification this fall. Four Board of Trustees seats will be contested in the November 4 elections. Many of the candidates will speak at the AFT2121/COPE meeting on Thursday, August 21. Endorsements voted at that meeting will be publicized by the Labor Council.

B. 1st Vice President Edgar Torres reported on workgroup meetings organized by Chancellor Griffin to address a lack of support to the Department of Public Safety. Major concerns include the selection of a new Chief of Police, recruitment, training, retention, ranked command structure, and facilities at all campuses. Torres summarized the enormous responsibilities of the Department which include crime prevention and suppression, safety of life and property, traffic and parking, community education and emergency preparedness.

C. 2nd Vice President David Yee reported on progress towards providing ID cards for faculty. In the past, the main issue has been cost. Lack of faculty ID cards has made it difficult for faculty to be identified for re-admittance to buildings after evacuations. A new ID card system has just purchased for student ID cards. This is a smart card system that will produce cards with a magnetic strip on which information is encoded. The College also owns a plain ID system that was purchased two years ago. The current plan is to utilize whichever system can be implemented more quickly. If questions about what faculty information to encode for smart cards cannot be resolved quickly, then plain IDs can be issued. The goal is for faculty ID cards to be issued before the end of the semester.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Budget update

Leslie Smith reported that the California legislature is still struggling with the budget. The revised budget proposed by Assembly Democrats doesn't have the two-thirds majority needed to get out of the Legislature. The Republicans want long term cost budgetary cost controls which would prohibit the creation of new programs or the expansion of existing programs. While the state cannot send money to the community colleges until the budget is passed, City College employees will continue to get paid from District resources, so we are not vulnerable in the short-term due to the lack of a state budget. No one really knows until there's a budget, but it is expected that the District is not likely to receive any cost of living increases, and funding for categorical programs will probably be flat or decreased from last year. A major problem for California budgets is the reliance on revenues from income taxes – an unstable source that fluctuates as the economy changes. Leslie Smith of the Office of Governmental Relations is heading up the Student Success Stories project for the System. This is a visual project that will create soft sculptural representations of students. Each sculpture will have the face of a real student and be accompanied by a two minute recording of how community college changed that student's life for the better.

B. Basic Skills Initiative update

Ophelia Clark reported that: The BSI process began last year at City College with more than 180 participants: faculty, administrators, classified staff and students. Ophelia Clark and Dean Bruce Smith coordinated the efforts of four work groups which produced 40 different project proposals. Our report, sent to Sacramento May 1, included objectives for the next three to five years in the categories of: organization of developmental education; comprehensive programs and services; effective methodologies; professional development; and facilitating student completion of basic skills coursework and support for continued success in college-level courses. The latest version of the Basic Skills Initiative Implementation plan will be available on the web. Several coordinators will be needed to implement our plan. The development of these positions and the implementation plans will be going through shared governance. Watch City Currents for updates.

In response to a question, Clark reported that there will be some money available for faculty travel this year, details will be sent to the Departments. The biggest change will be that out of state travel must be approved by the Chancellor.

VI. New Business

A. Ocean Campus construction update

Huntsman reported that new parking lots where the gyms used to be will be open on the first day of class on Monday. The intersection of Havelock and Circular will be close sometime this semester by the San Francisco Water Department for water line work.

B. Resolution on the Proposed Soccer Field

Council member Ellen Wall presented a resolution on the proposed soccer field in writing. She pointed out that what is now planned to be built is not shown by any of the campus master plans. The large soccer field will close Marston, the road around Batmale Hall. Two large chain link fences with only a small gap between them may act as an obstacle to emergency egress from the back of Batmale Hall. No field house is planned so the facilities in Batmale and the Bungalows will get heavier usage than they are equipped to take. Contact Wall and other members of the Academic Executive Council to share your views on these issues.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Saginor, Academic Senate Secretary