



ACADEMIC SENATE NEWSLETTER

May 2005

Vol. 2 No. 8

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CALENDAR

May 2

Senate Meeting, 11:10-12:20, Griffin Gate

May 16

Senate Meeting, 11:20-12:20, Griffin Gate

May 17

Governing Board Meeting, 6:30, Heritage of the Americas Museum, Cuyamaca

May 19

College Recognition Ceremony, 2:00, Student Center

June 1

Commencement, 5:30, Main Quad

At the March 15th board meeting, the board members requested a report from each senate describing what we do and how we meet our obligations as outlined in Title 5. The Grossmont senate will make its presentation on May 17 and Cuyamaca will follow with its report in June. Several faculty will make the presentation, each contributing expertise in one or more areas of senate responsibility. We will also share a more complete picture of shared governance and the Title 5 mandates guiding the role of the senate. For example, the chancellor failed to tell the board that the governing principle in Title 5's directive to boards is to "consult collegially" on academic and professional matters with the senate. There are two formal ways that the regulations allow this collegial consultation to occur (though informal communication is always encouraged): 1) through the board's primary reliance on the senate's recommendations, or 2) through mutual agreement of the board and senate on the senate's recommendations. It further defines what happens if the senate and board cannot mutually agree – the old practice remains in place unless there is a fiscal emergency which gives the board the ability to make a decision without mutual agreement. Our district operates under mutual agreement on all issues involving the senate, and arriving at mutual agreement, which we all know requires great effort, also provides the most buy-in for decisions and practices that the board enacts. The chancellor's lack of recognition of collegial consultation can be found at the root of most of the problems we face today. That's why the senate officers have repeatedly asked the chancellor to join with us in requesting technical assistance from the state level. A joint team of faculty and administrators would come to campus to help us work out differences with regards to shared governance. These folks understand the laws and regulations and can offer us effective practices to improve communication. The senate officers will keep asking the chancellor to agree to outside help to move forward.

Please attend the board meeting this month to support your colleagues who will share with the board the wonderful work of faculty through the senate.

IN A NUTSHELL

1. The new senate web site is available for you to use! Thanks goes to Tasa for her hard work to convert the site to the college format and update the information that is available to you there. If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to



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contact the senate officers.

http://www.grossmont.edu/academic_senate/

2. Three senate committees will have new chairs in the fall. The Curriculum Committee will be co-chaired by Chris Hill, geology; Faculty Professional Development Committee will be co-chaired by Patty Morrison and Edda Temoche-Weldele; and the Instructional Computing Committee will be chaired by Diane Mayne-Stafford. Thanks to the past chairs of these committees for all the service provided to faculty and students.
3. Elections for senate and union officers are taking place. Please vote! Selecting capable and responsible faculty leaders is an important part of the senate and the union because both organizations support the careers of faculty from different perspectives. Be careful to use the correct ballot box!

LOCAL/DISTRICT ISSUES

The chancellor declared in April that all new curriculum containing prerequisites that is approved by both Curriculum Committees will have the prerequisites immediately “hard blocked.” Hard blocking is a term used in this district to mean that enrollment in a course with prerequisites is blocked until the student can clear the prerequisite. Some courses in the district are identified as “soft blocked” which means that a students can enroll in a class with a prerequisites and provide the evidence of meeting the prerequisites the first week of class. It is a conditional enrollment. In either case, the prerequisites are enforced, so it is curious as to why the chancellor made a ruling that all new courses would have prerequisites enforced via one option only – hard blocking. The senate officers have questioned the chancellor’s decision because it represents a change in current practice, and the senates and the chancellor did not arrive at mutual agreement for the change. See above about “collegial consultation.”

The demographic information presented to the board at the April 19th board meeting provided a scenario that is not encouraging for the district. Enrollments will be flat for the next decade. Flat enrollments do little to justify the spending of Prop R revenues on new buildings. The low enrollment projections, as indicated in district documents, easily contributed to the judge deciding in favor of the district in the county’s lawsuit. The senate is working with every agency that can assist us to motivate the district to reconsider the direction it is headed. We will keep you informed over the summer with monthly emails.

COLLEGE ISSUES

Wave goodbye this month to many of our respected and treasured faculty who retire at the end of this semester. The names again are: Mel Amov, Rick Beach, Willene Harley, Rich Larsen, Les Lawrence, Mike Matherly, Harry McCune, Diane Merlos, Jim Sumich, Tom Tsung, Gene Britt, Cathie Robertson, and Homer Lusk. A few of these teachers will be

joining our part time ranks, so you may still see them on campus. Thank you to each of these faculty for establishing the foundation and tradition of excellence that is Grossmont College. We will do our best to follow your example.