



Districtwide Coordinating Educational Council

Anticipate and serve the educational needs of the students in the District by reviewing, facilitating, and recommending educational initiatives and programs districtwide, consistent with existing District and College planning processes and Board Policies 2410 and 2510.

“The effectiveness of leadership is determined by the extent to which people take responsibility for participating in leadership-“ (Wilfred Drath)

Meeting Notes

February 8, 2008 - 1:00 p.m.

District Office South Conference Room

Present: M. Czerwinski; C. Chiriboga; J. Colson; J. Ford; S. Gonda; C. Hammond;
B. Hertel, C. Hill; W. Hutson; M. Wangler; P. Wright

Absent: S. Farhan; J. Marron; T. Pitt

Recorder: L. Davidson

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Plus/Minus Grading

B. Hertel stated the Academic Senates of Grossmont College and Cuyamaca College passed a resolution to allow plus/minus grading.

Members discussed students choose the use of plus/minus grading when it is to their advantage to raise their GPA. Faculty members make the decision on whether they allow plus/minus grading. Universities have used plus/minus grading for a long time. If approved, plus/minus grading will begin fall 2008.

W. Hutson stated students will use *Rate My Prof* to pick classes based on whether an instructor allows plus/minus grading. C. Hill stated other colleges have raised this concern and found there was no effect once implemented.

Members agreed to forward to DEC the DCEC recommendation for plus/minus grading.

Discipline Equivalencies

C. Hill and J. Ford described the State's list of minimum qualifications and stated faculty at both colleges are working together to identify faculty from each campus to look at files. The goal is to

evaluate instructors by minimum requirements per discipline, and not each class. Members described our process as similar to University systems where 85% of courses require the minimum qualification of a Master's Degree in the subject taught.

C. Chiriboga stated her experience has shown there are few people with master's degrees in Italian, but many Italian instructors have a Master's Degree in Drama. She explained some subjects, such as Automotives, require an AA degree, ASE certification, or an equivalency based on experience. Members discussed degrees from accredited colleges and universities, and several recognized institutes that determine equivalencies of international degrees or certificates.

B. Hertel asked how often files are reviewed for discipline equivalencies.

J. Ford stated we do not look at part time instructors because their evaluation process does not move them up on the pay scale based on their degrees. Employment Services staff looks at full-time instructors and asks them if they now meet minimum qualifications for advancement. Once the minimum qualifications are met, there is no need to review again.

Distance Learning Summit

J. Ford stated faculty members are comparing equivalencies of distance education to regular classes and looking at the technology. Discussions might lead to work conditions. Dr. Suarez, B. Hertel, and the Senate Presidents are discussing these issues in the monthly Academic Senate Leadership Meeting. They will talk to other groups to coordinate and identify funds. They are also looking to identify six individuals to look at distance education issues this semester and to brainstorm new ideas.

C. Chiriboga suggested scheduling a summit to bring people together as a starting place for discussing distance education best practice, and to look for resources to share.

J. Colson stated the accreditation people have suggested the degrees offered through distance learning should also be offered to students in regular classes. He suggested we develop new methods of providing student services information to distance education students.

S. Gonda suggested inviting website personnel knowledgeable in Blackboard and other technical issues to the meetings to answer student questions.

B. Hertel stated members have talked before about a place to post frequently asked questions.

W. Hutson suggested we encourage online students to attend black history month and other events to feed students into ASGC and give them the opportunity to be engaged with the campus.

Members discussed the encouraging enrollment numbers at both colleges. They speculated the increases are due to the start date placement on the calendar compared to the holiday and calling campaign as well as a beginning date after SDSU's. J. Colson stated the numbers would be more firm by next Monday. S. Rearic and B. Tiffany will make projections on where we stand, possibly 3% over in units resulting in 1% over base.

C. Chiriboga stated Cuyamaca's numbers are up even after making up and giving back summer. We have learned in the past to be cautious because unit increases may not result in an FTES increase.

Update AP/BP 4010, 4020, 4021, 4022, 4025, 4050, 4100, 4101, 4102, 4103, 4105, 4222, 4225, 4226, 4230, 4231, 4240, 4260

B. Hertel asked C. Hill and J. Ford for names of the people who are reviewing the first batch of AP/BP packets. Members discussed a process for sending out the second batch. Members agreed B. Hertel, J. Ford, and C. Hill would meet to determine the most likely reviewers from each college. This process worked well the first time. B. Hertel stated the 60-day clock starts when the AP/BP documents have been reviewed and the recommended changes are brought to DCEC. Members discussed the time line and agreed to wait to see when the first batch is finished. C. Chiriboga suggested setting a work date to assist the reviewers to begin the work together rather than working independently.

C. Hill asked how much work is involved and how long will it take. Members discussed some of the new AP's will take more work; others are technical changes with little or no changes and will take little time. The CCLC suggested language is similar to language in our catalogs. Both are based on the Education Code. CCLC has done an exceptional job with their recommendations.

J. Ford asked that a copy of the AP/BP Grid be sent electronically to DCEC members.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next DCEC meeting will be March 14, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the Heritage of the Americas Museum.