



Academic Senate Standing Report District Governance Senate

Date of District Governance Senate Report: May 11th, 2021

Date(s) Academic Senate Met: April 28th, 2021

Standing Report:

First, a late update. Following the Academic Senate March 10th meeting, Academic Senate Executive Board Members discussed and subsequently approved amending the structure of the Academic Senate agenda structure. The new structure includes an “Information Item(s)” component. Academic Senate Agenda Information Item(s) allows for the reporting out of information to Senators that will enable them to remain abreast of issues/matters important to their constituent faculty.

The April 28th meeting began with the following Information Item(s) were shared:

- A. Plenary Report: Landon Spencer, Academic Senate State Delegate, issued a report on the Spring 2021 Plenary. Landon highlighted several resolutions that were passed, as well as a synopsis of the day two keynote speaker, Dr. Roberto Hernandez (San Diego State University Chicana/o Studies).
- B. Student Senate: Noor Ali presented a brief report.
- C. DEI Survey: Juan Arzola presented a brief report on a DEI Survey requested by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC). Survey brought together a group of 16 BIPOC and Equity Champion faculty who shared their perspectives on the equity efforts the District have been engaged in since last year. Feedback was gathered and submitted to ASCCC by the Academic Senate President and Vice-President.

Academic Senate took action on the following:

- A. Approved previous meeting minutes.
- B. Approved curriculum.
- C. Approved faculty appointment to the Equivalency Committee.

The following items were discussed:

- A. Equity for Ethnic Studies Resolution: Social Sciences Division Senator Alicia Crumpler presented the resolution, but subsequently introduced Octavio Barajas (Ethnic Studies)

to lead the presentation and discussion on the resolution. Dr. LaSerna raised concern with the inclusion of the Superintendent/President and Board of Trustees in the three Resolved statements that have more to do with faculty matters than governance. Dr. LaSerna suggested that a fourth Resolve statement be created that specifically refers to the Superintendent/President and Board of Trustees to support the efforts that faculty will engage in, with respect to strengthening the Ethnic Studies Department. Octavio Barajas agreed to take Dr. LaSerna's suggestion to the Ethnic Studies Resolution Workgroup for their consideration.

Another concern was brought forth by Lisa Hott. Lisa Hott stated her concern with the teaching of decolonization inherent in Ethnic Studies curriculum, as it appears to her that decolonization teaching is "Anti-democratic, Anti-capitalism, Anti-Christian, Anti-American, and Anti-Constitutional." Octavio Barajas and Randy Villegas (Political Science) responded to the concerns of Lisa Hott by informing the Senate that the views shared about Ethnic Studies reflect a limited understanding of the curriculum. Ethnic Studies offers students the opportunity to be exposed to different perspectives on democracy, capitalism, religion, and the Constitution, particularly from historically marginalized and oppressed peoples, which will enable students to have a more complete picture of the world.

The Ethnic Studies resolution will be brought back at the next meeting as an action item.

- B. AP 7211 (Equivalency): Due to limited time, Juan Arzola (Equivalency Committee Chair) presented substantial changes to the AP 7211, which includes a new Letter Requesting Equivalency for Disciplines requiring a Master's Degree, as well as a Letter Requesting Equivalency for Disciplines not requiring a Master's Degree. Senators were asked to solicit feedback from their constituents. AP 7211 will be brought back at the next meeting as an action item.
- C. Remaining BPs/APs: Due to limited time, a brief presentation was made and Senators were asked to solicit feedback from their constituents. These BPs/APs will be brought back at the next meeting as action items.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.