

Lansing Community College

Academic Senate

MINUTES

10/18/13

Senator Attendees: James Allen, Kaila Arnett, Marcy Bauman, Matt Boeve, Ed Bryant, Kevin Bubb, Christine Conner, Willie Davis, Darrell DeMartino, Curlada Eure-Harris, Dale Franks, Richard Freedberg, Ann French, Catherine Griffin, Tammy Grossbauer, Jeff Haynes, Dan Holt, Dedria Humphries, Melissa Kamai-Arambula, Terrence King, Jon Liebold, Peter MacFadden, Heather McAlpin, Rafeeq McGiveron, Jerry Onofryton, Elaine Pogoncheff, Richard Prystowsky, Terrill Putman, Kelly Sakkinen, Suzanne Sawyer, Hananiel Setiawan, Kathy Shaffer, Eric Snider, James Swain, Ed Thomas, Marc Thomas, Joe Werner, Cathy Wilhm

Senators Absent: Alex Azima, Pamela Erramuzpe, Judy Goth-Owens, Jeff Janowick, George Pena, Tracy Price.

Call to Order

Vice President Werner called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Roll Call

Clerk Blundy called the roll. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Vice President Werner asked if there were any additions/corrections/deletions to the minutes of the October 4, 2013 meeting. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Public Comments (also permitted during the meeting with the approval of the Senators) and Announcements

Senator Humphries announced the flyer regarding the LAND contest she referred to at the last Senate meeting was sent via email to the Academic Senate email distribution list and hard copies are available for senators to take back and give to students.

Secretary Conner reminded the group about the "Conversations with Richard" today at 1:00 at West Campus.

Vice President Werner asked what senators thought about the working session of the Task Forces at the last meeting. There was positive feedback that the sessions were helpful, but also comments that suggested task force meetings should take place outside the Senate meeting. Vice President Werner indicated this will not be an on-going agenda item, but is an opportunity to help the Task Forces get started.

Clerk Blundy asked that co-chairs and chairs of any Senate task forces and subcommittees please keep attendance at all subcommittee meetings, and submit via email to her the meeting name, date, time, and attendees so she may submit this information to divisions for adjuncts to be paid.

There was further discussion from the Senate regarding the LSJ article in last week's paper and its comments about the Senate having a good relationship w/administration. Senator Griffin once again recommended that the Senate and college administration attend a joint retreat to help promote communication and trust building. There was support and also discussion regarding the administrator representation on the Senate, interest from the group in hearing more from administrators during Senate meetings. Feedback from a few administrative reps included some frustration in trying to figure out the administrator's role in the Senate because it is a faculty senate. We are all on the same team and want the same things, so it is frustrating to hear talk of "sides." We come to the Senate meetings not as administrators, but as senators, ready to get things done. The student representatives spoke of their concern of the tension between faculty and administration and wanted to know what they could do as students to help. It was recommended by Senator Griffin that this issue of trust and communication between faculty and administration be addressed by the taskforce for Leadership, Culture & Communication. Senator Pogoncheff responded as the co-chair that this could be an action plan for the taskforce.

Vice President Werner asked Secretary Conner to make this an agenda item for a future senate meeting for further discussion. We have to keep in mind what type of senate we are - we are an academic senate not a MAHE senate. A lot of the unrest between faculty and administration is MAHE business. We need to look at our charter and let our actions speak.

It was also suggested it may be helpful for the Board of Trustees to hear a regular update from the Senate, if not on their agenda, then by public comment. Senators were encouraged to attend board meetings, the next of which is Monday evening, October 21.

There was discussion regarding Senate meetings and how to keep meetings focused on agenda items and conducting business. Vice President Werner indicated that specific motions/resolutions and agenda items should be submitted to Secretary Conner to review with the executive committee. If an item is brought up at a meeting, it would go as an agenda item to the next meeting. We want people to have notice so they can come prepared to discuss.

The Provost spoke to the Senate regarding the LSJ article. He commented on an underplayed line in the article where President Azima indicated we are moving forward. He encouraged folks to relax and have patience. Everyone is committed. He and President Azima are working with the Executive Leadership Team on a possible retreat. Regarding the confusion between Senate issues and MAHE issues – he indicated MAHE issues concern money and working conditions, the Senate deals with everything else--academic policy, curriculum, etc .

On behalf of Cindy Storie, MAHE President, President Azima, and himself, the Provost asked the Senate for feedback on the operating plans and professional activities and duties process that faculty recently went through. He indicated they get anecdotal information, but they want continuous improvement and a more formal evaluation. He asked the senate for ideas on how we can best get input. Questions that arose were: What happens next? Plans and duties were submitted, but how are they being used? What happens if duties submitted change? Provost Prystowsky indicated this is a new process, a MAHE mental shift and we are all trying to figure it out. He will put this on the Provost's Cabinet agenda on what next steps are in this process, and get a sense from the Deans on where they are at. The ultimate goal is to be transparent and publish the operating plans. Vice President Werner recommended this be on a future Senate agenda to discuss further.

The Provost also indicated he is working with the President and Senior Vice President Sharpe, to put in front of the Board of Trustees, highlights of our good work. He wants to showcase what faculty and students are doing.

Academic Master Plan Task Forces Work Session

Vice President Werner moved that the senators break into work sessions. There were no objections.

Adjournment

Task Forces worked up to the end of the meeting and adjourned at 11:00 a.m.