

Lansing Community College

Academic Senate

MINUTES

10/31/14

Senator Attendees: James Allen, Marvin Argersinger, Alex Azima, Matt Boeve, Ed Bryant, Kevin Bubb, Willie Davis, Nancy Dietrich, Matthew Dunham, Rob Edwards, Curlada Eure-Harris, Ann French, Judy Goth-Owens, Catherine Griffin, Tammy Grossbauer, Greg Hammond, Dan Holt, Leslie Johnson, Melissa Kamai-Arambula, Terrence King, Judy Leventhal, Jon Liebold, Peter MacFadden, Tim Periard, Elaine Pogoncheff, Terrill Putman, Anita Reyes, Kelly Sakkinen, Suzanne Sawyer, Eric Snider, Cindy Storie, James Swain,

Senators Absent: Marcy Bauman, Christine Conner, Vicki Deketelaere, Darrell DeMartino, Pamela Erramuzpe, Matthew Fall, Jeff Janowick, Jim Luke, Richard Prystowsky, Kathy Shaffer, Ed Thomas, Joe Werner, Veronica Wilkerson-Johnson

Call to Order

President Azima called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Roll Call

Clerk Blundy called the roll. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

President Azima asked if there were any additions/corrections/deletions to the minutes of the October 17, 2014 meeting. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Public Comments

None

President's Report

President Azima indicated today's meeting is to discuss further Operation 100% and how we can, within our Committees, move the plan forward.

Provost's Report

None

Discussion Items

- a. Recommendation regarding deadline for textbook changes in cases where a new instructor is assigned to a course:

Discussion included:

- It should be at the student's convenience not the instructors. If the student has already purchased the book, instructor should go with it.
- How accommodating is the bookstore?
- A lot of students don't buy the book until the first class anyway, in case the class is cancelled.
- Cost of the book should be a factor in the decision.
- There may be a regulatory issue with textbook selection – prior to the start of registration?
- Why are instructors of the same course using different books? Pedagogical viewpoints, different strengths by instructors.

Senator Sawyer let the group know there is a Textbook Committee, chaired by Don Wilske, currently looking at textbook costs and other textbook issues. There are federal regulations regarding being up front to students on the total cost of a course, including the cost of textbooks that need to be considered. Senator Grossbauer suggested LCC consult with attorney regarding legal interpretation of the federal regulation language.

Senator Sawyer also mentioned that the library has a faculty-reserved section for textbooks to be available for students to photocopy sections of a book or check out in a limited way rather than purchase it. There is an RFP for a virtual bookstore and the Textbook Committee is currently gathering from divisions and programs, information on how textbooks are chosen.

President Azima asked the senators to be pro-active and check with their divisions and programs on the status of the request for information to the divisions and programs and get this information to the Textbook Committee/Don Wilske.

- b. Strategic Communications Director:

President Azima had asked Matt Davis to attend a Senate meeting to talk to senators about his work as the new Strategic Communications Director. Matt oversees Marketing and Public Relations, which are both closely linked to enrollment and recruitment. He gave a brief professional background history, which included being a journalist for 12 years, working for the Department of Corrections, receiving law degree from Cooley, where he also taught, and his desire to get back to communications, which led him to this position.

He reminded folks about The Star newsletter and encouraged senators to submit to him any information for this weekly communication. The goal is to celebrate faculty by spotlighting articles that are published, community work, unique courses at LCC, etc.

c. Withdrawal Policy:

President Azima called for Senate input regarding the Withdrawal Policy that the Academic Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) is currently reviewing. The idea is to remove the 1.0 grade requirement in order to withdraw for the ninth through fourteenth week. Comments and discussion included:

- What are the ramifications for financial aid and GPA?
- If a student wants to pay and retake the class, shouldn't a student have the choice? If student withdraws and never returns, that is a problem.
- A "W" counts for completion ratio. It counts in attempted credits, but does not count in the GPA. A "W" stays on the transcript however. The best grade counts if a student retakes the class.
- For every course a student withdraws, they need to understand it will affect the amount of financial aid they will receive for their overall degree.
- Policy needs to be made more clear for students and faculty to follow. There are too many pieces.

Any further comments can be sent to President Azima, the Provost, or any other member of the APAC team.

d. Continue the discussion of Operation 100% and define specific ways in which each Academic Senate Standing Committee will be contributing to the success of the Operation:

The senators broke out into Standing Committee groups at 9:50 a.m. for further discussion of how their work can be integrated into Operation 100%, for the remainder of the meeting.