

FACULTY SENATE
Minutes of Meeting
February 5, 2004

Chairperson Brower called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Members present: Brower, A. Stierle, Leland, Melvin, Todd, Solko, J. Metesh, MacLaughlin. Absent: James, Mitman.

Others present: Chancellor Gilmore, Joe Figueira, Doug Coe.

Solko noted that the minutes of the January 22, 2004, meeting had been approved and were posted to the public folder January 28.

Solko gave a brief explanation of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee meeting. Notes had been shared via e-mail. It was specifically noted that the Chancellor spent a good portion of the meeting explaining trust lands and the (in)efficiency with which they are managed. Junk mail and pop-ups still are a problem on campus.

Brower reported on the Budget Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Salary Committee.

-- He discussed some of the uses of the hold-back money that had been released. It took two meetings for the Budget Committee to finalize their funding decisions.

-- For the Strategic Planning Committee, a PowerPoint presentation has been developed by Joe Figueira.

This can be found in the public folders under Research. It describes five initiatives and their related funding requests. The results of the student satisfaction survey that was done last semester are posted in the public folders. Focus groups will be created to identify specific concerns and provide suggested solutions. Follow-up will be done after the focus groups meet. It was noted that there seems to be a trend in younger students feeling more dissatisfaction with institutions of higher education.

-- A good deal of concern has been expressed in the decision to freeze salaries and the inequitable way in which raises have continued to be given. A proposal for a salary plan has been prepared by Doug Coe and Doug Cameron. The Chancellor agreed to distribute copies of the proposal via public folders. The Salary Committee will hold another meeting to follow up on the proposal.

Because of time constraints, the Old/Continuing Business items on the agenda were postponed. Joe Figueira gave the PowerPoint presentation on strategic planning. Members of the Senate stated that few people are aware of what is happening with colleagues within and outside their departments. I was suggested that people share the excitement. Figueira offered the advice that rather than criticizing others' successes that they emulate them.

Chancellor Gilmore offered some explanations regarding Tech's role in the seven-year medical education program recently publicized in the local paper. Doug Coe noted that the pre-professional health program has existed at Tech for over 20 years and the relationship between the medical school in St. Lucia and Tech is best viewed as a new recruiting

avenue rather than an academic partnership. Questions were raised about Tech's obligations to recruiters in China and St. Lucia and the motivations of both. The St. Lucia connection is only one of many that are available to students; students are not obligated to make the transfer to St. Lucia. Any students who may be recruited to attend Tech must meet all of the entrance requirements any other students must meet. Senate members expressed serious concern regarding commitments to the St. Lucia school which was founded by two Butte natives. It was also questioned whether the Chinese contact would recruit quality students. The affiliations are viewed as positive; however, the quality of the program should not be sacrificed to enroll more students.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise E. Solko
Secretary