

Academic Senate of Imperial Valley College

Adopted Minutes

19 February 2014

A. Call to Order—The meeting was called to order by President Lehtonen at 1:31p.m.

Present—Eric Lehtonen, Scott Simpson, Frank Hoppe (proxy for Cathy Zazueta), Dave Drury, David Scott Sheppard, Caroline Bennett, Russell Lavery, Bradford Wright, Ralph Marquez, Norma Nunez, Mike Palacio, Daniel Gilison, Michael Heumann, Allyn Leon, Mary Lofgren, Frank Rapp, Ed Wells, Kevin White, Cassandra Lopez (proxy for Ricardo Ibarra).

Absent—Frank Miranda, Rick Goldsberry, Michael Capeci, Robert Baukholt, Barbara Nilson, Christina Shaner, Kathy Berry.

Excused—Laura Mosier.

Visitors—Tina Aguirre, Marian Bonheim, Carol Hegarty, Victor Jaime.

B. Visitors' Comments—Senator Mary Lofgren, speaking in her role as a faculty union negotiator, informed the Senate that she and other union representatives would speak at the Board meeting of 19 February 2014, providing rebuttal to what they perceive as inaccuracies in the recent letter regarding accreditation received by Imperial Valley College from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges branch of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

C. Consent Agenda

1. M/S/C (Nunez/Drury) to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

D. Reports

1. President—President Lehtonen announced that the Area D meeting for the Spring 2014 semester would be held at Mira Costa College on 22 March 2014 and he encouraged as many IVC Senators as possible to attend, including part-time faculty representatives.

2. Past President—There was no Past President's report.

3. Treasurer—Senate Treasure Caroline Bennett reported that the Senate balance stands at \$4,155.59.

4. Associated Student Government—Proxy for Associated Student Government President Ricardo Ibarra, Cassandra Lopez, reported that the ASG is conducting a survey assessing whether or not to recommend a mascot change for the college's athletic teams; that the IVC Sweethearts shall be announced at the IVC Arab's basketball game Friday, 21 February 2014;

and that a health fair has been and shall continue to be hosted by the ASG during the week of Monday, 17 February 2014, through Thursday, 20 February 2014.

5. Part-Time—There was no Part-Time Faculty Representative report.

6. Curriculum Committee—Curriculum Committee Co-Chairman Michael Heumann reported that the first meeting of the Spring 2014 semester for the Curriculum Committee was held on Thursday, 6 December 2014, at which time changes were made to the deadline for submitting catalog revision proposals; that the next meeting shall be Thursday, 20 February 2014; and that the committee had purchased Currinet Meta software in order to expedite the processes of making course outline, curriculum, and catalog revisions.

7. College Council—College Council Co-Chairman Daniel Gilson reported that the College Council had discussed possible changes to the College Council for the purposes of possible improvements to the committee and/or its procedures and practices.

He further reported that the Curriculum Committee had approved the standing rules for the Campus Hour/Professional Development Committee.

8. Ad Hoc New Faculty Orientation Committee—President Lehtonen reported that the Ad Hoc New Faculty Orientation Committee had held its first meeting on Tuesday, 18 February 2014, and that they had discussed creating a handbook for new faculty as well as proposing that mentoring of new faculty be considered for committee obligations.

E. Update on Previous Discussion and Information Items

1. +/- Grading—Eric Lehtonen

President Lehtonen informed the Senate that the California Education Code does not allow a grade of “C-” and that it does allow a grade of “A+” with the proviso that no student may have a grade point average above 4.0. He further informed the Senate that he had received feedback from several other California community colleges, most notably from Grossmont College, and that each of the other colleges from which he had received replies stated that providing “+” or “-” grades was at the discretion of each faculty member.

Discussion ensued, including concerns involving possible ramifications on faculty members’ grading standards, possible problems with programming of Banner and Degree Works, the length of time needed to make such changes to grading policy, consideration of student viewpoints, questions of pedagogical justification for such changes, and effects either positive or negative on student motivation.

President Lehtonen stated that he would pursue the matter with the Associated Student Government for their input as well as with other interested and affected parties.

2. Academic Senate Election Process—Frank Rapp

Secretary Frank Rapp reported that he had met with Online Services Architect Omar Ramos and that election of IVC Senators could be conducted online using Form software which would both allow for private balloting and for security measures to greatly enhance the possibility that the election process would be uncorrupted by voter fraud; thus the election, to be held the week of Monday, 3 March 2014, through Thursday, 6 March 2014, shall be held on-line.

3. Academic Senate By-Laws Review—Michael Heumann

Ad Hoc Academic Senate for Imperial Valley College By-Laws Review Committee Chairman Michael Heumann reported that the committee is in need of additional members to assist with the review and suggested revisions to the Senate By-Laws to take place this Spring semester.

F. New Discussion and Information Items

1. SB 751—Eric Lehtonen

President Lehtonen informed the IVC Academic Senate and those present that California Senate Bill 751 mandates revisions to the Brown Act, particularly through addition of a requirement that the minutes of all votes by committees and boards governed by the Brown Act indicate specifically how each member of the committee or board voted on action items.

2. Chair/Coordinator Designation Concerns—Daniel Gilison

Vice-President Daniel Gilison reported that, following administrator reorganization, a number of coordinator positions were created which, given the responsibilities and work load of said coordinators, were being reconsidered as to whether or not said coordinator positions should be chair positions.

Discussion ensued, including concerns regarding the need for job descriptions for the coordinator positions and the necessity to recognize the issue of this item being a negotiable item.

Vice-President Gilison agreed to continue to study the issue with assistance.

3. Administrator Evaluations—Eric Lehtonen

President Lehtonen informed the Senate that an on-line version of administrative evaluations would be brought to the Senate for approval no later than Wednesday, 19 March 2014.

President Lehtonen further suggested that the Senate determine specifically how often and precisely when administrator evaluations occur.

4. Associate Dean of Human Resources Hiring Committee—Eric Lehtonen

President Lehtonen informed the Senate that he had appointed Martha O. Garcia and Krista Byrd as members of the Associate Dean of Human Resources Hiring Committee.

G. *"For the Good of the Order"*

Senator Ed Wells informed the Senate that the faculty union shall be hosting a faculty soiree at Juniors Café on Friday, 21 February 2014, from 4:00p.m to 7:00p.m.

I. Adjournment

President Lehtonen adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:44p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the IVC Academic Senate shall take place on 5 March 2014 at 1:30p.m. in the IVC Board Room.