

Geography & Political Science Dept. Minutes 3-11-14

- I. Approval of Minutes was delayed due to the fact that faculty failed to open the email sent to them by James at the end of the fall semester. James resent the email containing the minutes on 3-12-14. Approval of the minutes is pending faculty response to James' 3-12-14 email.
- II. Faculty Association Report
 - a. Tyler announced that his new schedule will allow him to attend FA meetings as departmental representative for the foreseeable future.
- III. Senate Report
 - a. Curtis announced that Academic Senate Outstanding Award nominations are open.
 - b. Curtis explained that, according to new academic guidelines adopted by the Senate, students cannot lose resident classification if enrollment or attendance is disrupted by military service.
 - c. Curtis stated that Mt. SAC has received a grant for Title V and there is an effort to connect counseling to Title II.
 - d. Curtis reported that certain courses can be considered gatekeeper courses that are necessary to continue in a program. He stated that Mt. SAC is working to make sure that enough such courses are offered to meet student demand so that bottle necks preventing students from transferring or graduating on time are avoided.
 - e. Curtis explained that the Syllabus Task Force made a number of recommendations to faculty for items to include in their syllabi, such as: 1) measurable objectives, 2) SLOs, 3) registration and withdrawal procedures, 4) attendance policy, etc.
 - f. Curtis mentioned that the Senate Exec Board proposed a resolution opposing the construction of dorms designated for International Students.
 - g. Curtis reported that there was a Senate discussion about the need to avoid the development of stand-alone courses.
 - h. Curtis stated that there is a proposal from the Distance Learning Committee to modify the form for amending Distance Learning Courses.
 - i. Curtis reported that President Scroggins proposed new hires in the following departments: 1) Chemistry, 2) Business Administration, 3) Business Management, 4) Speech, 5) Mathematics, and 6) Business Law
- IV. Division Report
 - a. Elizabeth reported that POLI 5 is up for a 4 year review. The recommended due date is 5-31-14.

- b. Elizabeth reported that the Division is saying that we need to assess courses for SLOs
- c. The department approved revisions to GEOG 10 in the COR
- d. Elizabeth explained that the Division office has stated that Mt. SAC has come out of a period of cutting courses and will be adding courses back into the curriculum for the foreseeable future, but in a targeted way. She reported that they will give priority to courses that are GE requirements, courses that are degree requirements, basic skills courses, and courses that are popular. She added that courses that are not 80% of their minimum enrollment cap two weeks before the beginning of the semester will be cancelled. She also reported that the Division wants us to think about the way we schedule classes and the way that impacts enrollment. Elizabeth also mentioned that the Division has repeatedly expressed concerns about POLI 2 enrollment.
 - i. Curtis said that he is considering revision the minimum enrollment for the course in WebCMS
- e. Elizabeth stated that the State Assembly is considering allowing B.A. programs like nursing at some community colleges.

V. Adjunct Faculty Evaluations

- a. Elizabeth reported that she spoke with Richard Santillan about grade inflation in his classes. She distributed a copy of his syllabus and everyone in the Political Science department agreed that professor Santillan is teaching a Mexican-American history class rather than an Introduction to American Government class focused on the Mexican-American experience. Elizabeth also expressed concerns about professor Santillan's practice of giving students exam questions in advance of exams and allowing them to rewrite incorrect answers. All members of the political science faculty agreed that the concerns she expressed are cause for disciplinary action.
- b. Elizabeth reported that Randy is a new adjunct in the department who wants to bring Jean Schroedel from Claremont to speak at Mt. SAC. Faculty expressed interest in supporting Randy's efforts.