

FACULTY SENATE ANNUAL REPORT FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-2014

The Charge

In executing its duty to represent "...the Faculty of the College in academic and professional matters" the Faculty Senate for AY13-14, comprised of: Norman Aguilar (Senator at Large), Troy Lizama (Senator at Large), Jose Munoz (Past President), Anthony Roberto (President-Elect), and Robin Roberson, President.

The senators established these goals for AY13-14:

1. Identify how to address the issue of lost increments.
2. Identify ways to increase completion rates.
3. Assist LOC in creating a more efficient and user-friendly curriculum approval process.
4. Ensure that all committees have the minimum required membership.
5. Foster communication with and outreach to faculty.
6. Provide support and guidance for the Staff Senate.

The Action

Efforts and activities to reach these goals include these highlights:

- The timely submission of the AY13-14 governance committee rosters wherein all committees met the minimum membership requirements per Article VII of the Agreement.
- A series of regularly-scheduled weekly meetings (twenty-one (21) on campus/real time meetings and several electronic meetings) throughout the academic year;
- Three (3) Faculty Gatherings timed to allow participation by all faculty (those with postsecondary and secondary teaching assignments):
 - September 27, 2013 – This meeting included an overview of the governance process, mini-presentations on individual committees' missions and goals; a Q&A session; distribution of thumb drives to all faculty for use in committee work and responsibilities. Fifty (50) faculty signed in for this meeting.
 - December 6, 2013 – At this meeting twenty-three (23) faculty gathered to discuss and ratify the Revised Job Specs that were presented by the Faculty Evaluation and Job Specs Committee.

- May 2, 2014 – Forty-nine (49) faculty participated in this end-of-the academic year meeting during which the faculty engaged in a lengthy, substantive, and serious discussion regarding the TPS Dean, Dr. Juan Flores. The faculty conducted a “no-confidence” vote which showed that 84% (41 of 49 present) expressed “no confidence” in Dr. Juan Flores to continue in his position as TPS Dean. There were six (6) abstentions, one (1) blank ballot, and one (1) “yes confidence” vote.
- Five (5) off-campus outreach meetings during February 2014, one at each of the high schools during which discussion, concerns, and information were exchanged and received by the faculty assigned in the secondary CTE environment;
- Attendance at all scheduled RPF and CGC meetings during which faculty interests and positions were advocated;
- The receipt of two (2) Faculty Ethics Concerns, one that was resolved by the Committee on Faculty Ethics and the other that will be addressed in Fall 2014.
- The forwarding of workplace violence concerns to the Human Resources Administrator;
- The distribution of supplies to all committee chairs to carry out their respective committee activities and goals;
- The reporting of committee goals, participation, and accomplishments through the newly-implemented Committee Accountability Report (CAR);
- Promoting the implementation of chair-elect, chair, and past-chair positions for all governance committees (where permitted by the Agreement) to allow for more leadership opportunities for faculty seeking promotion under the new Job Specs requirements for professorial positions;
- The timely submission of the preliminary AY14-15 governance committee rosters wherein all committees met the minimum membership requirements per Article VII of the Agreement;
- The official implementation of the GenEd subsidiary committee within the Learning Outcomes Committee (LOC);
- Constant collaboration with the Council of Department Chairs (CDC) on all faculty matters and issues;
- Endorsement and/or input on the following: Learning Outcomes Committee (LOC) Grading Standards; Adjunct Hour Policy (increase to 135 contact hours); Professional Development Review Committee (PDRC) Travel Policy; Faculty Tuition Waiver; Distance Education Project Start team visit by Ellucian; proposal to formulate an Anti-Bullying policy;

The Challenge

The only substantive challenge that was encountered early in the academic year was the Faculty Senate President's effort to fill committee membership vacancies. Several faculty accepted the call to serve on a committee. Objections were raised by management that did not allow these faculty members to exercise their participatory governance efforts. It is hoped that in the future the letter and spirit of the Agreement will be followed, specifically the section of Article VII that provides for the Faculty Senate President to fill committee vacancies as required and as requested by committee chairs.

Respectfully submitted:

Robin Roberson