

NVCC Faculty Senate

Thursday, October 13, 2016

Minutes

Attended: Susan Anderson, Jenna Barry, David Clough, Althea Coleman, Del Cummings, Melanie Majeski, Nikki McGary, Hien Nguyen, Kate Pelletier, Karen Rotella, Kathy Taylor, Sandy Wood

Absent: John Harding, Jason Seabury, Sandra Valente, Jane Wampler

1. Called to order: 1:02 pm
2. D. Clough began discussion on the previous meeting's minutes (September 16, 2016).
 - 2.1 The following amendments were discussed:
Change the time of the holiday party from 2-4 pm to 3-5 pm.
K. Rotella made a motion to approve the minutes with changes in place.
K. Taylor seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.
3. Discussion of Governance Structure of Faculty Senate and Office of President
 - A. Continue discussion of extension of President's term to two years
Senators were emailed copies of the Constitution with potential changes in place. Senators should review this moving forward so that changes discussed can be clear and accurate.
 - B. D. Clough will act as de facto Parliamentarian. K. Taylor suggested that the role of the Parliamentarian could be clearly defined in Constitutional amendments, specifically under Article XIII-Officers-Duties, as well as Article X-Officers, where it is already under review.
 - C. S. Wood will serve as Elections Officer.
 - D. Faculty Senate's Role in Curricular Development and Academic Standards
A discussion centered on whether several committees on campus, such as CEAC, GEACC, and Academic Standards should report to the Senate. D. Clough has approached representatives from both GEACC and CEAC, who expressed their support. K. Taylor stated that Article XX-Committees and Article II-Purpose of the Constitution support such change as well.
S. Anderson stated that the Senate's role at NVCC has not been clearly defined for years; she and A. Coleman support this change. K. Taylor believes this change may help define and guide the Senate, giving it an influential voice, now and into the future. The question of whether other faculty and the committees involved would be supportive of this was brought up by K. Rotella. D. Clough clarified that any change in reporting would not fundamentally change the business of committees themselves and that this issue would be voted on at an All-College meeting.
This led to a discussion of voting at All-College Meetings. S. Anderson explained that previously, only faculty voted on issues like these, whereas now, everyone in attendance at these meetings can vote.
In regards to Senate purpose, D. Cummings stated that the Senate used to be responsible for the staffing of many college committees. This was to ensure new faculty voices were heard and faculty with myriad perspectives could serve on committees together to strengthen initiatives and ideas. This was done away with.
The idea of Senate representation on the IPC was also discussed. D. Clough and K. Taylor will approach Associate Dean Picard and the Academic Standards Committee about this.
This change will likely be brought to a vote during the upcoming spring semester.
4. Finalize Discussion on Guest Speaker
D. Clough reported that the President welcomes Dr. Elsa Nuñez as a speaker, for no/minimal cost to the college. Dr. Nuñez will be invited to speak in February/March 2017.
S. Wood suggested Dr. Steven Pearlman and his expertise in teaching critical thinking would be very helpful to faculty in any discipline, as both a presentation and workshop. Dr. Pearlman will be publishing a book on this topic in January; a book discussion group to dovetail with the presentation was also discussed. The Senate will aim to bring Dr. Pearlman to campus in April 2017.
5. LABBS Request to Change Article IV of Constitution

A. Coleman, along with K. Pelletier, M. Majeski, and N. McGary, reported that the LABBS division took a vote in favor of proportional representation. A host of trickle-down issues was discussed, such as Adjunct Faculty becoming the largest “division” and gaining the largest representation. K. Pelletier will talk to the Division about potential issues with this change and report back to the Senate.

6. S. Anderson reported the following issues from the CCGA meeting held on September 30, 2016 in Hartford: Should we request an increase in community college representation on the BOR-FAC (faculty advisory committee)?
 - a. Current representation includes 3 faculty from the community colleges and 3 faculty from the CSUs.
 - b. Composition of the FAC was a legislative act, therefore the CCGA has requested that the FAC WebEx all meetings to the CSCU campuses.

The CCGA will invite the new system provost, Dr. Jane Gates, to the December meeting.

The CCGA requested each CC report on their campus initiatives regarding the use of OER – open education resources. K. Pelletier, who attended the OER conference at Middlesex, reported that several math faculty at NVCC are working with OER, but there is no formal committee or task force as of yet. H. Nguyen and S. Wood expressed concerns about the experiences they have had with OER thus far. J. Barry is beginning to work with this and will find out who is on the task force for this initiative.

7. Report on Enrollment and Retention Initiative by President Ojakian

D. Cummings reported that there is a focus group consisting of himself, D. Clough, B. Goulet, and K. Taylor regarding this initiative at NVCC. It is unclear exactly what its charge will be although an email from Dr. Nuñez is forthcoming. There will be a meeting on November 10th from 2-4 pm in Hartford and any Senator who can come is welcome as K. Taylor cannot attend.

8. Update on December 6, 2016 Holiday Meeting/Gathering

D. Clough reported that Provost Troup has approved the inclusion of wine, along with food pairings from various regions, as part of the festivities. P. Cisek and K. Rotella will facilitate this.

9. A possible new date for the next meeting was discussed, as many Senators have conflicts with the current date of November 11th at 10:00 am. D. Clough will send out a Doodle poll to find a better date and common meeting time moving forward.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by S. Anderson

Seconded by M. Majeski

The motion passed unanimously.

11. Meeting adjourned: 2:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Pelletier

