Porterville College Academic Senate

Minutes: March 8, 2013

I. Joel called the meeting to order at 8:08am.

II. Roll Call: The following were in attendance: Joel Wiens, President; Stewart Hathaway, Past President; Buzz Piersol, President Elect; David Hensley, Secretary; Kathryn Benander, Tim Brown, Dave Chamberlain, Jeff Gervasi, Dave Kavern, Vira Lozano and Carmen Martin.

III. The agenda was approved as amended (M-S-P, Brown/Hathaway).

IV. The Minutes of the February 8th meeting were approved as corrected (M-S-P, Chamberlain/Martin).

V. Reports:

A. Dr. Wiens’ report was submitted in writing. It was noted that “Achieving the Dream” is not a fete a complete… Taft College has withdrawn from the consortium, leaving the three KCCD schools each bearing a $50,000 annual cost for participation in this program. Lengthy discussion centered on the relative need for this program at this time, given that all three colleges had received full accreditation just last fall and that this seems inequitable, given the relative size of BC compared to Porterville College (or Cero Coso College) – perhaps a sliding scale, based on campus size, should be utilized. Dr. Wiens lamented the frequent cancellation of Consultation Cabinet meetings, making communication between Senates and the chancellor difficult at best. He also forwarded faculty concerns about the frequent library closures to CLC for discussion.

B. Ms. Martin, representing Student Services, noted that the new law requires more face-to-face time between students and counselors but as is currently slated, we will be losing at least two counselors (due to retirements). Admissions and Records takes up to several semesters to evaluate transcripts. The Library is so severely understaffed as to have to close its doors when there is even one staff member absent. Consensus was that the inability to replace retiring faculty and staff with like positions is hurting Student Services (further discussion added that this is a problem faced by other divisions as well, while administrative positions are quickly filled and both district level and site administration has expanded greatly over the past few years while faculty and staff have been decreased).

C. Curriculum reports that a user-friendly guide to Curricunet is their current project.

D. The Distance Education Committee report was submitted in writing, highlighting their sections that correlate to accreditation.
VI. New Business:  

A. Equivalency procedures were discussed, with more discussion forthcoming.

VII. Adjourn: 9:42am

Respectfully Submitted,

David Hensley, Secretary/Treasurer