

Taft College Academic Senate Minutes

Monday, February 5, 2024

Cougar Room

12:10 pm-1:00 pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called at 12:10pm by President Duron.

Attendees

Based on the sign-in sheets, the following faculty members attended: Abbott, Altenhofel, Bogle, Cahoon (M), Cahoon (N), Clark, Eveland, Getty, Gonzalez, Jacobi, Kulzer-Reyes, Nishiyama, Oja, Page, Payne, Polski, Raber, Richards, Rodenhauser, Smith (K), Smith (T), and Travis. J. Lopez also signed-in.

Public Comment

There was no public commentary.

Action Items

Approval of the Minutes

January 12, 2024 Meeting: The Minutes were passed without any corrections.

New Business

- 2024-2026 Academic Senate Vice President/Curriculum Chair Election: There was one nomination (current Vice President Jacobi), so V. Jacobi was elected as Academic Senate Vice President/Curriculum Chair Election for 2024-2026.
- Regional Initiative for Technical Assistance Partnerships (RITAP) to Advance Deployment of Basin-Scale Carbon Transportation and Storage and Community Engagement
 - D. Daugherty introduced this grant opportunity stating CSU-B reached out to us, and that they will be the fiscal agent. They are working with other colleges and with companies, as well. There are three main projects:
 - Certificates in welding, engineering, and geology, with advisory committees filled by professionals in the field.
 - A Carbon Capture Day at Taft College, and then taking those activities for a “road show” across the state.
 - Scholarships and internships for getting a Bachelor degree at two CSU's (CSU-B and Sacramento).
 - There were many questions, with the answers summarized here:

- The Carbon Capture Day may be like the Petroleum Summit, but would also include field trips.
- Since some of these programs don't have full-time faculty hired, we would need to do Extra Duty Assignments for adjunct to fulfill these obligations.
- D. Daugherty has not talked with faculty in any of the fields in this grant opportunity.
- The activities would start in Fall 2025.
- There was some confusion about how the certificates, Associate degrees, and Bachelor's degrees would work together, but it seems like students could earn certificates and not transfer, or could earn certificates that stack to an Associate's degree and then transfer.
 - Once hired, some employers will reimburse workers for continuing education in the field, according to D. Daugherty.
- D. Daugherty did not review our Energy degree due to low enrollment in that area.
- S. Eveland motioned to support this grant opportunity, with a second by K. Bandy. The motion passed with two opposed (J. Altenhofel and M. Oja).
- Faculty Resources: Additional Faculty Resources: [Syllabus Recommendations](#)
 - C. Duron presented possible sample language that could be added to the Syllabus Recommendations document. T. Smith motioned to add the sample language to the Syllabus Recommendations, with a second by R. Polski. The motion passed.

Informational Items

- Budget Report
 - T. Hampton presented on the state budget at this point, and how it may affect Taft College. He noted that the budget is updated in May after taxes are computed ("May revise") and is closer to final in June. The state has a deficit budget, but the community college budgets aren't being affected yet, but trailer language could change this.
 - The Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) had let everyone use their pre-pandemic enrollment numbers, but that will end soon. There is a minimum funding level, though.
 - Taft College is fiscally sound, but we might want to consider easy reductions in cost to avoid layoffs in the future. In past lean budget times, Taft College has not had to layoff any employees. The hope is that we also do not need to use much of our reserves.
 - There were many questions; T. Hampton's answers are summarized here:
 - Our FTES (full-time equivalent students) could help fund the budget's annual cost-of-living updates. We are down 1000 FTES from pre-pandemic years (2,900 to 1,900).
 - We are discussing outreach and support for students that are funded at a higher level through the SCFF, such as high school students. The Dual

Enrollment committee (an Academic Senate sub-committee) is being consulted.

- A hiring freeze might be the best way to save money. Other suggestions were to eliminate travel and reduce conference attendance.
- If you have further questions, please send them to C. Duron and she'll get the answers.

It was motioned by K. Kulzer-Reyes to re-order the agenda so that faculty who have classes at 1:10pm could present on topics before 1pm. This was seconded by V. Jacobi, and passed.

- Open Education Resources (OER) Plan
 - J. Altenhofel presented on two long-term goals of a strategic plan for OER at Taft College that she, K. Kulzer-Reyes, and M. Oja are developing with ZTC (zero-textbook cost) grant funds from the state.
 - The two parts of the plan presented were about faculty needs and about evaluating OER.
 - J. Altenhofel asked Senators to provide feedback and additions on the parts of the plan that were presented, and also asked each Senator to circle which short-term goal was the most important to help prioritize the goals in the plan.
 - At the next meeting, students needs and processes will be shared to ask for feedback, suggestions, and prioritization.
 - She noted that OER is great to use because faculty can customize textbooks, and that students have access every class period.
- [ASCCC 2024 Spring Plenary Session](#): Thu, Apr 18 2024, 8am - Sat, Apr 20 2024, 5pm at San Jose Marriott:
 - C. Duron said that Guided Pathways money will support the officers attending this conference. If you are interested in attending, contact C. Duron.
- Education Master Plan information gathering meeting with Collaborative Brain Trust February 9, 2024 12pm in the Cougar Room
 - C. Duron had specifically invited the Academic Senate Council and all sub-committee chairs, but everyone is welcome. This is a listening session and the consultants want faculty input.
- Student Learning Outcomes - update from SLO Day: S. Eveland, SLO Coordinator, shared that eLumen was able to change the headings so that "Mastery" can be something like "Exceeds." If you see "Mastery" in eLumen, let S. Eveland know and she'll work with eLumen to replace the wording.
- Full Time Faculty Committee Assignment Request Form
 - C. Duron reviewed the changes in the form and explained some of the reasoning for each change. The reasons were generally related to the type of group (work groups versus committees) or were subsumed by other committees, and just to clarify options. She'd like the committee requests to go out in April, and then have decision in May before the semester ends.
- 2022-2025 Student Equity Plan: We did not have time to discuss this.

Senator Comments

(Examples: brief response to statements or questions, ask clarifying questions, make brief announcements, suggest future agenda topics, ask Senate Officers to look into something)

- C. Duron noted that she will discuss the information learned in the Brown Act training in mid-January soon.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1pm.