



District Academic Senate Minutes

Tuesday, April 9th 2024 (held in the Mishra Conference Room in the Evergreen Valley College library)

Present:

Heidi Kozlowski (SJCC District Academic Senate President & SJCC Acting Senate President)

Garry Johnson (EVC Academic Senate President and District Academic Senate VP)

Tina Iniguez (EVC Academic Senate VP and District Academic Senate Treasurer)

Emily Banh (EVC Treasurer)

Charlie Kahn-Lomax (EVC)

Fabio Gonzalez (SJCC Academic Senate VP)

John Banks (SJCC Treasurer)

Guest: Michael Divinia (SJCC), Steve Mentor (EVC and AFT), and Henry Estrada (EVC)

I. **Call to Order:** Meeting began at 4:10 PM

II. **Agenda for 4/9/2024 and Minutes for 3/12/2024** unanimously approved: 1stJohn, 2nd Tina

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (Each public comment is limited to two minutes)** None

IV. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

1. NIA updates:

Heidi reported concern and frustration that the SJCC Academic Senate is completely in the dark regarding the District NIA Task Force.

A concern is that there may be an assumption that SJCC and EVC operate NIAs in the same manner, and we do not. Another concern is lack of faculty SJCC involvement and lack of Senate appointees to the Task Force.

Garry reported that SJCC has a structure for appointing NIAs in place, but EVC does not. There are three ways NIAs work at EVC: 1) dean appointment, 2) appointment by the Office of Academic Affairs for college-wide and 3) appointment on Department Chairs, which are selected by the Academic Senate.

Heidi reported she had spoken with Phil Hu and Steve Mentor from the AFT. Mentor and Hu said that the committee is just in its early stages, and nothing has really happened yet. It was confirmed Beth Pratt, former Academic Affairs VP at SJCC, and Victoria Simmons, Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, are both involved in the Task Force.

Fabio mentioned seven years ago, SJCC Senate was in charge of NIAs and that the Senate helped create and approve NIA job descriptions. Heidi recalled that selecting NIAs was once done with two appointees of the SJCC Academic Senate and the Vice President of Academic Affairs, a process in which she had participated in a past SJCC Senate term. The processes have changed

over the years to become more college administration-centered decisions and fewer Academic Senate-centered decisions.

Garry suggested more oversight by the Senates could improve the current processes.

Heidi expressed concern that the issues, procedures, and problems with NIAs differ between SJCC and EVC, and that a district policy on NIAs may 1) take the local Senate involvement in the process away 2) doesn't seem to address SJCC's unique manner of addressing NIAs and the role and history of the SJCC Senate in the process.

The Senates will continue to ask for involvement and disclosure on matters, plans, and procedures that affect faculty, budget, professional development, and programs, all part of the 10+1. NIAs being cut or being assigned in a manner that is neither fair nor in the best interest of the college is a concern to all faculty leadership concerned, and we hope to move forward in a collaborative manner with the AFT and District Office, and that there be transparency in the process of making policy regarding NIAs.

2. Budget cuts:

Garry reported miscommunication and lack of consistency in reporting what faculty positions will go through at EVC, and which will be part of a hiring freeze. Heidi said that at SJCC there does not appear to be faculty freezing/cuts.

Tina discussed the importance of our faculty prioritization list.

Charlie made the point we should be looking at how we came to be in this position of budget freezes/cuts.

Garry discussed fraudulent enrollment and the bad debt issues. Steve Mentor said we need to see those numbers for fraudulent enrollment. Charlie said she experienced fraudulent enrollment in one of her classes. She said there are hundreds of fraudulent enrollments, and it is a bigger problem than some may believe. Heidi said there are hundreds and hundreds of cases of fraudulent enrollment at SJCC, and those are just the cases that were caught. Garry said that is *not* the source of the five million dollars in budget cuts.

Our colleges are expected to solve the problem, yet we aren't clear what the problem is or why it happened in the first place. Emily is curious about where the mismanagement occurred—at the college level or at the district level? Fabio and Garry discussed the role of bad debt in the budget deficit. Where is the money recovered from bad debt? How is it that we have a 4 million deficit? How are we expected to find it and give it back?

There are silent layoffs; those positions that are not filled.

3. Spring Plenary 2024:

Heidi reported that with help from the District Office and Johnathan Camacho, that there were funds for ASCCC Plenary in San Jose, and that the District Office was prepared to pre-pay for registration for five District Academic Senate members: Heidi, Charlie, Garry, Emily, and John.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

