



## Faculty Senate

### Minutes

January 20, 2023

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. via Zoom: 3027027391

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Dr. Linda Robertson-Schule at 12:34 pm

Senators absent: Bruce Davis

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#### I. Approval of December Minutes –

- Motion made by Senator Robyn McGilloway; motion seconded by Senator Luis Rodriguez. The minutes were approved.

#### II. Reports –Board of Trustees Meeting

- Senators McGilloway and Cabalu reported on the District Meeting of the Whole: Renamed the board meeting room, *Dr. Bruce Leslie Board and Community Room*. A new name was suggested for the District: *Alamo College Success* or *Alamo Colleges Off-Broadway*. No action was taken at this time. It was recommended to hire a consultant to assist. Ravan Roshas, Chair of the Student District Council shared 3 goals: (1) to learn why students are leaving colleges (2) how we can engage more with middle schools and high schools and (3) increase awareness of resources that are available to students. Concerns were made about expanding the Alamo Promises and how to fund it. It was noted that SAC will build a new Empowerment Center costing \$9 million and should be completed by Spring 2024. Also, 3.1 million will be used for cyber security improvements. Shaune West from District gave a presentation on the budget. A plan is in the work to establish a student emergency fund for students that sometimes need assistance. Funds should be available by June 2023.

#### III. Report of Officers

- Senate President Robertson-Schule: The Faculty Senate Leadership is scheduled to meet with the new President, Dr. Naydeen on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The Senate Leadership plans to share some of the faculty concerns with her. Items of discussion include the need for shared governance when establishing new initiatives, LEI, the students' drop policy, academic freedom policy & procedures, MYC (multi-year contract), additional funds for TCCTA, and sabbaticals for faculty.
- During the discussion, a request was made to have access to the November 2022 LEI Town Hall recording with Dr. Solis last November. It was agreed that the Senate secretary will obtain the recording and will make it available to the Senate President for release. Dr. Portales also agreed to provide the PowerPoint slides presented during the Town-Hall Meeting. The Senate President announced that senate leadership and committee chair will hold its pre-planning meeting on the Tuesday before the monthly senate meeting at

1:30 pm via zoom. If you are not able to attend or send a representative, you can email information to the secretary.

- Senate Vice-President Mailai Eng: No Report
- Senate Secretary Knotts: No Report

**IV. Adjunct Council Report:** Senator Amanda Martin reported that the council plans to have a meeting next week and they should complete their handbook very soon.

**V. Committee Reports**

- **Curriculum and Instruction** – Senator Catherine Smithpeter, Chair: No report
- **Communication** – Senators Isabel Garcia and Ruby Martinez, Co-Chairs: Senator Martinez recommended an improvement in communication between Faculty Senate and CET. During the discussion it was suggested that during the monthly Senate Leadership meeting with the College President at least one additional senator should also attend. This might help leadership to be a little more accountable. This would also be a return to former Senate President Lennie Irvin’s policy. In addition, Senator Hochmeister would like to create a Coordinator Council to discuss working conditions. President Robertson-Schule stated she would bring it up at the next Leadership meeting. Senator Martinez stated that if CET says no, we can create a recourse. After discussion, it was decided to continue with current practices but have the new President attend the April Faculty Senate. The Senate has a small amount of funds for faculty to attend TCCTA conference that can cover some of the registration cost. It was also mentioned that we need to partner with TCCTA so that our faculty don’t have to pay the registration out of their pocket and get reimbursed later. If we partner with TCCTA, faculty can go online to register and their registration can be paid directly from our college’s account.
- **Policy & Procedures** – Karen Douglas, Chair: No report
- **Research** – Senator Kim Hochmeister, Co-chair: If you have any subject you want to research, please send it to the committee.
- **Surveys and Elections** – Anahita Lorestani, Chair, announced that it’s time to prepare for Faculty Senate elections. If you are interested in running for an officer position, you will need to have your chair’s permission because you are expected to have release time to manage your Senate duties. We will need to elect 3 PTE and 5 Academics Senators in February or March. Senator Lorestani will create a list of the outgoing Senators and distribute it through an email or on the Senate website.

**VI. Topical Items**

- **New Academic Dishonesty Policy**– Senator Alba shared that she had an academic integrity issue with a student which she gave a failing grade for the course after they cheating on 3 tests. However, she was informed by her department coordinator that her grading policy was too restricting. During a meeting with her department coordinator, Deans Jonathan Lee and Clare Iannelli they informed her that the college has a new policy. The new policy requires the faculty not to fail students for cheating but to give the student a zero on the test. In addition, all faculty need to change the verbiage of their syllabi to accommodate this new policy. No written document of the policy was given.
- According to District policy F4.2.2. (Page 2 of 7) states “The faculty may impose any of the following sanctions 1. Dismiss the charge of a violation..... 4. Reduce the final grade for the

class.” Senator Alba also stated that after the student had been caught cheating for the third time, he plead guilty and signed the appropriate papers. Other Senators also shared similar stories. Senate Schule-Robertson will share this concern during the meeting with Dr. Naydeen.

- Ethics hotline Info-Senate Smithpeter announced that there is an ethics hotline number for students, employees, and the community to use to anonymously report any issue or concern. This resource has been around for a long time. The link is <https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/47239/index.html>
- Faculty Senate meeting format for the Spring: A poll was launched to determine Senators’ preference for holding the monthly meeting. However, because of technical difficulties, a show of hands was taken to determine if the meeting will take place in person and in hybrid (in person and zoom). Vote results: 20 for hybrid and zoom formats there were no abstain because the question was not asked. Therefore, the remaining 4 meetings will take place in a hybrid form. The Senate secretary will secure a location for the hybrid meetings. Senator Jamie Powell volunteered NAHC room 112 to hold the meetings. The secretary will work with her to secure the room.

**VII. Executive Session**

**VIII. Adjournment** - The Faculty Senate Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Report out: Board Meeting Jan 17 - Mercedes Alba and Committee of the Whole Jan 24 – Mercedes Alba and Mahmud Yusuf

Next Board Meeting Feb 14 – Karen Douglas and Committee of the Whole February 21- Karen Douglas

Submitted by,  
*Barbara Knotts*  
Dr. Barbara Knotts  
Faculty Senate Secretary