

**Approved 12-13-07**  
**Cañada College Academic Senate Governing Council Minutes**  
**Thursday, November 29, 2007**

**Council Members in Attendance:** Martin Partlan, David Clay, Katie Schertle, Lezlee Ware, Carol Rhodes, Sharon Finn, Monica Malamud, Jenny Castello, Denise Erickson, Dave Patterson

**Senate Members and Guests in Attendance:** Tom Mohr, Ray Lapuz, Yolanda Valenzuela, Elizabeth Terzakis, Linda Hays, Patty Dilko, Ron Trugman, Anne Nichols, Karen Olesen, Anna Budd, Debbie Joy, Robert Hood, Lesli Sachs, Val Goines, Juan Arias, Alicia Aguirre, Anniqua Rana, Jeanne Gross, Katie Townsend-Merino, Ray Lapuz, Aja Butler, Maria Mendez , Leonor Cabrera,

**1. Call to Order:** 2:07 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to move Committee Appointments in front of the Diversity Committee discussion: passed. Motion to adopt the agenda with proposed changes: passed.

**3. Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve 11/08/07 meeting minutes with proposed changes: passed with one vote against. Discussion about identifying who makes and seconds motions and who votes ensued. Questions and Observations: 1) Some committees identify voters by name but not those who make or second motions, 2) Isn't it part of a democratic process to have representatives identified during a vote?, 3) Is there even a precedent about identifying in meeting minutes the people who cast votes or make/second motions?

**4. Public Comment:** Red ribbons are available in the Cafeteria for the Aids Awareness Day event.

**5. New Business:**

**5.1 Diversity Committee & Faculty Participation:**

- A letter from Professor Paul Roscelli was read, and is attached to these minutes.
- Having a Diversity Committee has worked well for the Library when they were informed about November being Native American Month.
- Faculty should participate in an official way because the DC will probably exist anyway and the Faculty should be an official part of it. Race is not the only element of diversity. It has a broader definition, and conversations about all elements of diversity should include the Faculty.
- Simply having a DC doesn't mean it is precisely defined yet. It should be a safe haven for people to express their ideas.
- Why did a group of white people vote down a DC and why wasn't that perceived as problematic? Paul's letter is confusing in its equating a DC with intolerance.
- We have to take the first step to understanding each other, and we should be the models for our students in showing an effort to understand our differences.
- Identifying race and "white people" in regards to the original vote of the ASGC is itself one of the reasons members of the ASGC were concerned about the attitude of the members of the DC. Race isn't the only definition of diversity.
- Other elements of diversity should be addressed.
- The DC isn't just at the "grassroots" level. We haven't begun to define diversity yet. We have to have the committee in order to have the discussion. We have to admit that there's a problem in order to address it.
- Our institutional goal is more than just dealing with race as a component of diversity.

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- People are blind where they are privileged. We're all challenged daily about our own personal beliefs, and we need to be able to discuss those openly on campus.
- The email announcing the ASGC's non-involvement in the DC was discourteous and, therefore, problematic. What gets discussed and decided among the Faculty spreads out to the students and misunderstandings can arise from that.
- It takes a while for students to be comfortable enough to express themselves in an open setting.
- The Library has a section on issues relating to diversity.
- Having a DC doesn't mean it's the only way we'll have a conversation about diversity. That committee could be a start to a conversation which won't ever end. It could present an opportunity for a dialog which would prevent the death of ideas, of perspectives, and of knowledge.
- Historical perspective: In the past, speakers presented to students who would come, sign an attendance sheet, then leave without actually staying to listen to whatever ideas the presenter was there to share. We've come a long way since then, and the possibilities open up with a DC.
- My own realization of my racism dawned on me when I made a comment about whether or not Spanish should be one of the languages used on the steps in front of Building 9. A DC will give people the opportunity to realize things about themselves that they don't yet know regarding diversity.
- The intellectual tradition is one of openness and the desire to talk about things, even those things that are painful. We strive to engage in open, honest practices with integrity so that they are not misinterpreted. Communication underlies this, but it is difficult and takes time. Prejudice is in the fabric of who we are. The only way to get at it is to open the discussion to all. In the Strategic Plan, the number one priority was diversity, but it shouldn't just be the province of the President's office. It has greater stature if it belongs to the Faculty, Staff and students of the college.
- Diversity is a process. The DC could be an effective vehicle for guiding that process. The various "tribes" of our community need a cross-cultural competence, and dialogue is a good means of getting to that. How do you create a circle of compassion where nobody is left out? Letting the DC grow in an organic manner where everybody comes to the meetings would facilitate that.
- Not enough Faculty members are engaged in the discussion because of their overwhelming time constraints.
- We need to learn how to respond to overtly racist remarks that any people at this campus make.
- At the last ASGC meeting, one problem we discussed was that not enough Faculty members were involved in the questions surrounding the DC. Nobody actually wanted to "vote down" a discussion about diversity or some kind of organized approach to diversity issues.
- We have to do something publically. The ASGC should officially vote to support Faculty membership on the DC.
- Is the DC a subcommittee of the College Council? Don't the members simply come from there? (No.)
- We (the ASGC) had approved names in the past, then found out some of the names were incorrect. Then more names were added to the list.
- Something should be added to the record that addresses the concerns of the ASGC members at the last meeting who were troubled by the idea of a DC.
- Suggestion: Call it a Task Force and from now until 2009 the primary goal will be to define its purpose.

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- The DC is there already. It's not within the purview of the ASGC to decide to change the DC's name or function. I don't need the blessing of the ASGC. I and other Faculty members will participate with or without the ASGC's blessing.
- Membership was culled from several constituencies on campus, including students, who have attended regularly. All volunteers have been welcomed to engage in dialogue with the DC. The DC will continue to meet as is has been. It's clear that people have to open their hearts to take part in this discussion.
- Can we readdress the original list of names of Faculty who want to be on the DC? It would be a dangerous move to begin a different or new process.
- One concern is that all of the other issues (number of Faculty members, number of committees, etc.) surrounding the DC shouldn't get glossed over if we take a vote right now about the membership of the DC.
- There are two Faculty members who we (the ASGC) approved two meetings ago and who have been serving on the DC. We should respect that vote with our blessing in order to resolve this issue.
- The College Council decided not to increase the membership of Faculty on the DC to four members specifically because of the constraints Faculty currently experience in terms of being on committees.
- Alicia Aguirre's name wasn't part of the original vote, but it wasn't ignored. There was erroneous information presented in the original list of names. The ASGC didn't ignore anyone. We voted on the names we were given.
- This process may be headed in a problematic direction. We originally moved not to support the "formation" (and that was the wrong term) of a DC. Now we seem to be making the opposite decision with the inclusion of a lot of non Governing Council members' input at this meeting. Will another switch take place at the next meeting?
- Faculty membership was discussed at the College Council last semester
- **Motion to approve Val Goines and Lesli Sachs to the Diversity Committee. Passed with eight in favor and one abstention.**

**5.2 General Discussion of Committee Participation:** There seems to be a problem with a process that involves one group forming a committee which requires the participation of other groups. There is a precedent, however, which makes this kind of process necessary.

## **6. Old Business:**

**6.1 Committee Appointments:** Motion to approve Dave Patterson as a temporary replacement representative from Student Services: passed.

**6.2 Distance Ed Policy:** Postponed until a future meeting.

**6.3 Enrollment Limits:** Proposed alterations to the Class Size Resolution Proposal of 9/28/06 were presented and discussed. Concerns: 1) Faculty will be responsible for proposing and justifying any changes to enrollment limits. How exactly will they do this? It's up to us (the Faculty), but at least it puts the decision back into the hands of the Faculty, 2) Establishing a specific enrollment limit puts into question an individual faculty member's ability to accept more than the limit, 3) There is no documentation that establishes a precedent for having lower enrollment limits for Basic Skills courses, though many feel this is necessary.

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**7. Committee Reports:** Postponed until the next meeting.

**8. Matters of Council Interest:** None.

**9. Motion to Adjourn:** 4:20 p.m.

**10. Upcoming Meetings:** December 13.

*To request that an item be added to the agenda, please contact one of the governing council members no later than one week prior to the next meeting (see above for the dates of upcoming meetings).*

View past minutes at [http://www.canadacollege.edu/inside/academic\\_senate/0607/index.html](http://www.canadacollege.edu/inside/academic_senate/0607/index.html)

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