



**ACADEMIC SENATE
APPROVED MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2011**

Senators Present: Mike Adams, Kevin Alavezos, Dan Alcantra, Bruce Anders, Marlies Boyd, Paul Cripe, Ellen Dambrosio, Bob Droual, Catherine Greene, Jennifer Hamilton, Jim Howen, Lee Kooler, Debbie Laffranchini, Allan McKissick, Eva Mo, Estella Nanez, Jeff Netto, Adrienne Peek, Sam Pierstorff, Belen Robinson, Burt Shook, Travis Silvers, Brian Sinclair, Rob Stevenson, Theresa Stovall, Barbara Wells, Layla Yousif

Senators Absent: Lisa Riggs, Jim Stevens

Guests: Becky Crow (Director of Campus Safety), Doug Dyrsson (ASMJC Senator), Laura Dyrsson (MJC student), Laura Paull (Arts/Humanities/Communications), Mike Sharif (ASMJC), Daniela Torres (ASMJC), Karen Walters Dunlap (Vice President of Instruction), Adam Webber (ASMJC President), Vincent Wood (Freedom Forum), Sandra Woodside (BBSS)

I. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

It was proposed that Item IV.B., Budget Cut Alternatives Discussion, be moved up on the agenda to immediately follow Item II., Approval of the Minutes. The agenda was approved as amended.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 17, 2011 senate meeting were approved as corrected without objection.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Equivalency Process Adjustments

M/S/U (Kevin Alavezos/Burt Shook) to postpone the Equivalency Process Adjustments item definitely for discussion at the March 8, 2011 senate meeting.

The Consent Agenda was approved without objection.

IV. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. New Business

Budget Cut Alternatives Discussion

President Adams began the discussion of Resolution SP11-C: Budget Cut Alternatives which was being proposed by the MJC Academic Senate Executive Board. The amended resolution reads as follows:

- “Whereas: Modesto Junior College is anticipating a severe reduction in funding for the 2011-12 academic year, the potential extent of which only became clear during the current semester, and
- Whereas: The MJC Academic Senate responded to the need for prompt action by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the college president in part to give the Senate Planning and Budget Committee an opportunity to vote on the president’s plan for budget reduction since the president’s plan was not conceived in collaboration with the Planning and Budget Committee, and
- Whereas: In MJC Academic Senate Resolution SP11-B, the Senate clearly stated that a responsible plan for spending reduction should include prioritization of affected academic programs so that they could be retained or restored should funding become available, and
- Whereas: Despite the proposal to eliminate viable academic programs and eliminate the positions of tenured instructors at MJC, the hiring of new full-time instructors for permanent positions at our college is still moving forward, and
- Whereas: The proposal would substantially change the MJC curriculum in ways the Academic Senate believes would undermine achieving the college mission and create a severe and unjustifiable hardship for a significant number of students enrolled in those programs, and
- Whereas: The Academic Senate is mindful of its responsibilities as primarily relied upon for decisions relating to curriculum and for mutual agreement on matters relating to institutional planning and budget development, and
- Whereas: The Academic Senate has identified modifications of the budget proposal that would achieve overall budget reductions equal to those proposed, without the attendant damage to our college caused by eliminating viable academic programs and teaching positions, thus eliminating any “substantial fiscal hardship” caused by not adopting the current proposal, and
- Whereas: The continued success of our college, including its financial health, may depend on maintaining the viability of the academic programs we offer,
- Therefore: Be it resolved, that the MJC Academic Senate endorses and proposes the attached alternative budgetary solutions as revision to the college president’s proposal, to the extent that they are practical and capable of meeting the budget shortfall; and

Therefore: Be it further resolved, that the MJC Academic Senate insists that in the event that funding is restored by the state or other money becomes available through careful district-wide planning and budget review processes, restoration of academic programs be given a very high priority in the use of that funding, and that the YCCD and the Academic Senate of Modesto Junior College work collegially, under the provisions of YCCD Board Policy 4103, toward the continuation of academic excellence at Modesto Junior College.

Therefore: Be it finally resolved, that the MJC Academic Senate will develop a method of using program review information to automatically trigger the use of the Program Viability Process in cases where it is warranted.”

Resolution SP11-C: Budget Cut Alternatives Attachment:

The elimination and reduction of academic programs outlined in the President’s proposal provides a total savings of about \$1,500,000. That amount of budget savings can be achieved without eliminating or reducing programs, by making use of some or all of the following suggestions:

1. Begin the Program Viability Process for every single program identified in the President’s recommendation. Determining if a program should be discontinued or not is a very difficult question to answer in a short time period. While we agree in principle that some programs may appropriately need to be eliminated or reduced, we do not believe that it is possible to make that determination accurately without a significant investment of time. We will respond to the President’s proposal by performing the detailed investigation necessary for us to agree or disagree with his recommendations.
2. Do not open the new buildings under construction from Measure E. In a time when the college is facing a dangerously tight budget, ‘expanding’ to fill new buildings is uncalled for. Not immediately occupying the new buildings will buy time for the Program Viability Process to be enacted as mentioned above. The buildings will be opened once enough time to assess program viability has been taken.
3. Look at the PTOL budget for more reductions. In the current proposal, PTOL is only being cut 10%, which is LESS than the overall percent of the college budget cut. It is vital that adjunct be reduced more significantly than this if we are considering elimination of tenured faculty and academic programs.
4. Even in the case that cuts must be made immediately, the Art, Anthropology, and Library positions do not meet the criteria. A set of criteria for evaluating these cuts was developed at the February 4 Planning and Budget meeting. The proposed cuts of one faculty each in Art, Anthropology, and Library do not appear to meet those criteria, so they should not go forward. That savings of about \$300,000 should be found elsewhere, through the alternative suggestions being made here or otherwise.
5. Freeze all hiring this year. If money is so tight that we must eliminate academic programs and positions, and break the honored and necessary bond of tenure, then

money cannot be available to hire new faculty members. Not hiring the two faculty positions under consideration immediately saves the majority of the budget needed to protect the three positions where cuts seem least justified.

6. Adjust more contracts to fit the compressed calendar. Especially considering the proposal to reduce the classified support for the Senate to a 10-month contract, a much broader look at beyond-the-semester contracts should be undertaken. The Senate business of shared governance does NOT stop over the summer, so it does not appear reasonable to reduce in that area but not others that DO stop over the summer.

M/S/C (Theresa Stovall/Jennifer Hamilton) to approve Resolution SP11-C: Budget Cut Alternatives for a first reading.

B. Continuing Business

Resolution SP11-A: Grant Approval Work Group

The senate continued discussion of Resolution SP11-A: Grant Approval Work Group proposed by the MJC Academic Senate Executive Board. The resolution reads as follows:

“Whereas: The difficulties created by the shrinking state budget allocation to community colleges may be somewhat mitigated by an increased reliance on grant funding; and

Whereas: Applying for grants requires a very rapid timeline, often needing as little as four weeks from announcement to closing; and

Whereas: Grant applications require the signature of the Senate President before they may be submitted to a grantor for consideration; and

Whereas: For many years this very rapid pace has not allowed sufficient time for the Senate to review the application and authorize the Senate President’s signature before the deadline; and

Whereas: A Senate committee of faculty could meet the needs for faculty oversight of grant applications while accommodating the timeline of the grant application process.

Therefore: Be it resolved, that the Modesto Junior College Academic Senate form and convene a Grant Approval Work Group; and

Therefore: Be it further resolved, that this work group be composed of the Senate President and three tenured faculty members. The work group would meet as needed to evaluate grant applications in order to approve or deny the Senate President’s signature. The decisions of this committee would be brought before the Senate for ratification. Should an approval not be ratified, the grant application would be withdrawn from consideration, even if it may already have been submitted to a grantor.”

M/S/U (Rob Stevenson/Allan McKissick) to approve Resolution SP11-A: Grant Approval Work Group for a final reading.

V. REPORTS

ASMJC

Adam Webber, ASMJC President, reported on some of the events and activities that ASMJC is working on:

- Student leaders have met with many of the faculty who have been affected by the budget reductions proposed by MJC President Loewenstein and are organizing their support for these faculty members.
- The March in March is scheduled at the State Capitol Building in Sacramento on Monday, March 14. Advisors are still needed for this event.
- An Interfaith Film Festival will be held on Friday, March 11. Three films will be shown: "The Mission", "The Chosen", and "Inside Mecca".

College Council / Professional Development Committee

Barbara Wells reported that the next College Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 7.

Barbara Wells also reported that the Professional Development Committee is currently working on plans for Fall 2011 Institute Day. Accreditation will be one of the main areas that will be highlighted in the program at that event. Completed plans for Fall Institute Day will be brought before the Academic Senate for discussion and approval before the end of the spring semester.

Faculty Consultant to the Board

Sam Pierstorff reported that he has met with YCCD Board of Trustees Chair Linda Flores as well as with board member Mike Riley, both of whom have expressed that they are open to hearing different points of view with regard to the budget cuts proposed for MJC. Staff and faculty are encouraged to come to the March 9 YCCD Board of Trustees meeting to speak on behalf of their programs, their colleagues, and their positions.

President's Report

President Adams reported that the YCCD Board of Trustees had approved moving the March 9 board meeting from Columbia College to the MJC East Campus Auditorium.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.