SCC Academic Senate Minutes – Approved April 21, 2015
Senate Business Meeting March 17, 2015

Senators Present
Leonor Aguilera
Cari Cannon
Phillip Crabill
Shawn Cummins
Steve Deely
Lisa Dela-Cusack
Elizabeth Elchlepp
Matthew Finnerty
Leah Freidenrich
Alicia Frost
Scott Howell
Evangeline Matthews
Mary Mettler
Craig Nance
Andrew Salcido
Jolene Shields
Mike Taylor
Christine Umali Kopp

Absent
Melinda Womack
Eric Hovanitz
Vice President Craig Rutan

Senate Executive Board
President Corinna Evett
CIC Chair Joyce Wagner
Sec/Treas. Michael DeCarbo

ASG Representative
Peter Martin

Guests
Scott James
Bill Jefferies
Theresa Recinos
Barry Resnick

I Welcome

II Approval of Minutes
March 3, (Womack/Freidenrich) approved without dissent

III Public Comments
1 Professor Mettler read the following on behalf of one of the constituents:

Chancellor Rodriguez and Board Members,

After hearing the comments made by Chancellor Rodriguez on March 9th in regards to his contract with the Saudi Arabian government, I felt the need to express my sadness at the lack of integrity, and disbelief at things said to justify these actions.

Chancellor Rodriguez was very concerned with attempting to refute every comment made by faculty and staff who were against the agreement between this district and The Saudi Monarchy. Some of these refutations were lacking in critical thought, some of these refutations were ignorant, and some of these refutations were ethically questionable.

First, Chancellor Rodriguez felt the need to point out that anyone who has visited Israel is offered a separate piece of paper to place in your passport because so many countries do not allow Israeli stamped passports to enter their borders. This is true. You will receive a paper that is not attached to your passport to bear the stamp of Israel.

With this statement, however, Chancellor Rodriguez is implying that if you’ve been to Israel, you can merely remove that piece of paper from your passport in order to do business in Saudi Arabia. In other words, Chancellor Rodriguez is stating that lying by omission is acceptable if there is money to be made. Would you remove your Israel stamp, Chancellor Rodriguez, in order to enter the country for a contract of supposed profit? If your answer is yes, those who stand in unison against this, ask why would you want to?
In addition, for a person who identifies himself as an educator, it was truly shocking to hear Chancellor Rodriguez speak of the opportunity to change an already established, wealthy nation. His response to the human rights violations? Give the Saudi’s time, they’ve only been around for 83 years. Clearly the Chancellor assumes that faculty and staff are unaware of world history, and are unable to comprehend the difference between a nation and a state. If this is what allows the Chancellor morally justify his arrangement with a nation that violates human rights daily, it only begs the question of what else the Chancellor is able to morally justify by assuming the ignorance of his colleagues.

Further, in his pitch “for the good of mankind,” Chancellor Rodriguez positions this as an opportunity to plant a seed of change in a nation. What change? Change to reflect what/whom? Did the Saudi’s ask for change? Was there an international outcry for the RSCC District to come to the aid of a very wealthy nation? This is an ethnocentric statement, and one that echoes the failed policies of attempts to provide change in other places by America.

Last, has the Chancellor asked the question of where the money we will be supposedly earning actually comes from? What has been labored over? Who has been enslaved? What has been sacrificed? Likely, it is the environment for we all know what Saudi Arabia’s cash cow is. On the heels of the Chancellor seeking to hang his hat on the new push for sustainability on both campuses, it seems ironic the Chancellor has no problem accepting oil money, the dirtiest money of all.

Perhaps instead of the time and efforts dedicated to the secret pursuit of a contract with a nation that actually abhors critical thinking and true education, the Chancellor’s time could be better spent seeking to resolve the budget problems that have plagued nearly his entire tenure.

There was more than enough evidence provided by the Academic Senate of SCC, and the faculty members who spoke at the board meeting to justify ending this contract. The refutations offered hold very little water, and are not only baffling in the eyes of the staff and faculty of SCC and SAC, but are ethically questionable as well. This is true not only for the actions taken by the Chancellor, but the approval votes by those that sit on the Foundation.

2 FARSCCD President Resnick reported that FARSCCD is investigating the governance policies of the RSCCD Foundation and asks for faculty to attend the Foundation Board meeting at noon on March 24, 2015 at the District Office.

IV AS Executive Board Reports

A President

1 Thanks were expressed to the to SCC students: Hector Soberano: Associated Student Government President, Erica Floyd: Honors Student, Pegah Mahmoud: Teacher Club Member, and Ricky Clemenz: Veteran Services Student who spoke so articulately and openly about the factors that contribute to their success at SCC to the 375 members of the audience at the ASCCC Academic Academy

2 Student equity dollars funded participation for professors Maureen Roe (who presented on our CROSSroads and other BSI programs), Anne Hauscariauge (who presented the SCC Student Equity Plan with Dean Flores), and Diana Babayan in addition classified and administration. Kudos to Evangeline Matthews who funded her own attendance!

3 The Budget committee will identify available funding for the prioritized list compiled by PIE. PIE will then do a final review and forward recommendations to the College Council.

4 Update on the program with Saudi Arabia:
   The embassy was closed March 15 and 16 and cautions were posted.
   The Chancellor expressed that there is a signed agreement (a binding letter of intent), and they are currently assessing what improvement work needs to be done.
There is currently not an agreed upon contract.
There is a clause that allows the RSCCD Foundation to withdraw without penalty.
There will be two payments a year with reimbursements for cost; there is no projected income.
Two faculty members have been working in a consulting format, Denise Foley (SCC) and
Madeline Grant (SAC).

**B Vice President**
No report

**C Secretary/Treasurer**
No report

**D CIC**
1. The rate at which courses are moving through is leading to a future bottleneck, if any departments have course up for quadrennial review, please start as soon as possible.
2. Training was made available to inform members about what happens to courses after they are approved by the CIC (i.e. Board approval, Chancellor’s Office approval, scheduling, catalog, coding issues).
3. Changes made on shared courses are not occurring in a timely manner.
   If you are working on a shared course, please ensure that you are acting in cooperation with SAC.
4. There is a meeting March 21, 2015 regarding noncredit curriculum.
5. Enrollment management is analyzing a significant amount of data and investigating methods of compilation.

**V ASG Report – Vice President of Senate Peter Martin**
A Shamrock-your-world occurred March 17.
B Townhall March 30-31, from 10:15 to 2:00 will be held at Vazquez Promenade.
C Movie night will be Thursday, March 26, 2015 showing Shutter Island.
D Spring Event will occur April 13, 2015.
E Three members of ASG attended a conference in Washington D.C. regarding student tuitions.
F ASG passed a vote of no confidence in the Student Trustee, the ASG Student Trustee resigned.

**VI Action**

*First Reading:*

**A Resolution S2015.3 (DeCarbo/Cannon)**
*Faculty Adoption of 2015-2016 Distance Education Faculty Handbook*

Discussion:
Professor James presented and discussed the current revisions.
- Substantive changes were on page 4:
  - There are now three ways to be eligible to teach distance education.
  - References to evaluation of faculty were removed.

Revisions made to the handbook were discussed and offered by the faculty and administration.

**B Resolution S2015.4 (Mettler/Taylor)**
*Affirmation of Participatory Governance in All RSCCD Programs.*

President Evett summarized her report given to the board at the last meeting. (Appendix 1)

President Evett expressed that she is not convinced that the Chancellor is communicating effectively the concerns of the Faculty to the Board.

President Evett played a portion of the minutes from the last Board meeting.

Discussion:
The communication with the Chancellor has not been transactional; it has been in the form of brief reports, typically one sentence blurbs.

Faculty have not participated in debate or discussion, in fact most believed that this was an aspect of the
International Student Program as reference to the Saudi Arabia program were made typically as thus:
“We are reaching out to China, and Vietnam and Saudi Arabia.”
The Faculty reject the Chancellor’s assertion that the Faculty have been informed from the outset and take
offense to being accused of getting “involved in the eleventh hour.”
Faculty that were asked to participate were approached in private last December, not in public from the
outset.
The Faculty are concerned at the levels of machination so as to limit exposure; the District will channel
money to the colleges received from the RSCCD Foundation that has created an independent
corporation that will exist outside of the United States so as to do business in Saudi Arabia.
The Faculty do not understand why such lengths are taken for such a “sure return”.
The Faculty do not understand why such risk is taken in order to build the Foundation’s resume.
The Faculty agree that education transcends oppression but are not sure in this instance that a community
college from Orange County should be the vehicle of national change in Saudi Arabia.
The Faculty believe in education and access to education, they further believe that critical thought and
engagement is a core aspect of education; they do not see the opportunities in this relationship to
engage in critical communication and thought.
The Faculty are unsure whether the ethnocentric perspective of our educational paradigm should be
wholesaled for the benefit of the world.
The Faculty pointed out that the Mission of the Foundation is to raise funds, not educate.
A motion to waive the second reading (Womack/Cummins) passes without dissent.
A motion to adopt the resolution by acclamation (Rutan/Sheilds) passes without dissent.

Second Reading:
A Resolution S2015.2 (Rutan/Cannon)
Creation of an Academic Senate Class Schedule Matrix Task Force
Discussion
The Enrollment management committee has been charged with the same task and this would result in
duplicate efforts.
Enrollment management is comprised of administration, faculty and classified and is co-chaired by the
CIC Chair.
Science Faculty would like there to be immediate resolution for evening scheduling.
Faculty expressed that the Fall schedule has already been created and is set for print.
The motion fails (Aguilar/Taylor aye, Sheild/Howell abstain).

VII Summary Reports Discussion

VIII Discussion Items
A SCC Academic Senate Goals AS Secretary/Treasurer DeCarbo and CIC Chair Wagner
Postponed.
B ASCCC Resolutions AS President Evett
Postponed

IX Moved to adjourn (Cummins/Taylor)