



## **Academic Senate**

College of the Siskiyous

800 College Avenue, Weed, CA 96094

<https://www.siskiyous.edu/academicsenate/>

## **Academic Senate Executive Council Minutes**

Friday, September 20, 2024

10:00 am – 11:00 am in DLC Rm #3

### **Attendance:**

Ron Slabbinck, Andrea Craddock, Ann Womack, Karen Zeigler, Carly Zeller, Tyler Knudsen, Sarah Kirby, Maria Fernandez

**Convened at:** 10:03 am

### **1. OPEN SESSION**

### **2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ron Slabbinck moved to approve. Tyler Knudsen seconded.

### **4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

#### **a) Information on SensusAccess – Maria Fernandez**

SensusAccess is a document conversation tool that helps with remediating documents for accessibility. It has been added as a plug in for Canvas. The cost is subsidized by the Chancellor's office. The plug in can also read Canvas pages. Currently, only instructors can see the software icons in Canvas. The original intention of the software creators was for students to have access to it to remediate materials themselves instead of waiting for instructors to remediate materials. Multiple formats available after conversion including audio and braille.

Do we want to enable student access to the software? If we want to give students access, where would we want access available? Are there scenarios where we wouldn't want students to be able to convert content?

This will be a discussion item at the next Senate meeting. Maria will provide list of materials that we can give students access to.

If students have access to the Files area of Canvas, they get access to everything in there. Students could convert documents linked on pages without having access to all files.

The cost is the same regardless of how we choose to use the software.

b) SAS Academic Accommodations – Karen Zeigler

A few faculty members have questions about accommodations including mnemonic aids on notecards, late work, etc.

Only 5 students have mnemonic aid notecard as an accommodation. This accommodation has been offered since the 1980s. The notecard must be approved by the instructor prior to exam. The SAS office will work on descriptions of what is allowable to give faculty a better understanding of how the notecards are intended to be used.

Students who have an accommodation that provides for late submission for work are told that it should be used rarely and in collaboration with the instructor. It is up to the student to contact the instructor and ask for extra time. They are encouraged to only ask for small extensions and keep up on the work.

This will be an information item at the November 8 Senate meeting.

c) Instructional Program Review

The taskforce met yesterday and made revisions to the sections on responsibilities and SLO assessment. The revisions are being cleaned up. Andrea will send around a new draft once it is ready for Exec to review.

d) Anonymous Faculty Survey

Proposed questions for the survey were reviewed. Suggested changes included adding more granular questions about culture and feelings of safety speaking up in different spheres (among peers, with direct supervisors, in committees, etc.). There was a suggestion to rephrase the questions to be more neutral to not intentionally encourage people to share negative, rather than positive, experiences. Andrea will add a question asking about positive experiences and incorporate the other suggestions.

e) Revisiting Courses under each COSGE category

Michelle Knudsen and Emaly Brann went through all the courses in our GE areas and compared them to CalGETC and other GE patterns. Their work will be a resource as we move forward with revising our GE areas.

f) Tone of Academic Senate Meetings

The tone of Academic Senate meetings needs to be improved to foster a more inclusive environment where people feel more comfortable participating. We want to have an environment that helps grow diverse future leadership. One suggestion was to use

guidelines similar to those used in SJEDI meetings. Ron will send guidelines to Andrea, and we will explore how to integrate them into Senate meetings.

It's important that we still encourage people to be authentic when they speak up.

It is time to move to being a representative Senate rather than a Senate of the whole? Could we get more accomplished with fewer people in the space? Many Senators currently don't seem to be investing time in reviewing actions items before voting.

We can request a visit from statewide Academic Senate for support.

## 5. OFFICER REPORTS

### a) President

i) IEPI visit on October 4, 2024

ii) 2024 ASCCC Fall Plenary Session – Thursday November 7 – Saturday, November 9 in Visalia, CA

iii) Resuming BoardDocs for Academic Senate meetings

iv) Updating Academic Senate Constitution

### b) Vice-President

### c) Secretary

### d) At-Large

**Adjourned at:** 11:14 am

### **Academic Senate Officers:**

President: Andrea Craddock

Secretary: Ann Womack

At Large: Sarah Kirby

Vice-President: Tyler Knudsen

At-Large: Carly Zeller

Past President: Ron Slabbinck

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