The Academic Senate reviewed and approved recommendations from the Faculty Development Committee to fund professional development activities totaling $7,128 leaving a balance in the allocated fund of $8,110. Committee Chair Kerry Mayer sent out a third call for proposals March 4 that will be due April 5.

Enrollment Management Committee Faculty Co-Chair Bruce Wagner, reported that current projections are 189 TLU’s short of projected growth and 89 TLU’s short of budgeted revenue causing a possible loss in funding of $405,555. Reasons given for the shortfall were: planned Fall allocations may have been overly conservative based on fears of Prop 30 not passing. Accompanied by downward pressures CA: decreased enrollment, the repeat rule kicking in, unit caps, the de-registration process, and an improving economy (enrollment goes down when the economy improves). He reported on plans to improve enrollment and better allocate TLU’s.

The senate formed an ad hoc Distance Education Committee comprised of: Mark Winter; Chair, Mark Renner, Toby Green, Sydney Larson, Clyde Johnson, Mike Butler, Mike Dennis, Marla Gleave, Brie Day, and Wendy Riggs. The committee was formed to address growing faculty concerns regarding Distance Education. The initial goals for the committee are as follows:

Facilitate a method (e.g., curriculum stoplight) to monitor online course compliance with curriculum approval

Create a draft of "regular effective contact" to be considered by the Curriculum Committee for approval of online class proposals

Consider a revision of the online course proposal form for Curriculum Committee use

Provide support to improve the DE website

Revise the DE Quality Standards (this document is central to the ACCJC Substantive Change request and is not fully implemented)

Follow-up on Sakai survey

Address issues of student authentication and fraud prevention

Liaison with administration, support staff, and faculty regarding distance education issues

Consider standards for faculty readiness for online instruction

Consider guidelines for online faculty evaluation
Other faculty-related issues as directed by the Academic Senate

Co-president Brown presented a Budget Planning Committee update and latest summary from last Friday’s workshop. He indicated that there is a preliminary estimate of a budget deficit of 1.7 to 2 million dollars. Senators questioned some of the projections such as a mid-year adjustment of $600K with no rationale given and the $700K projected reassigned time allocation that appears much higher than faculty estimates. From that deficit a list of 4 options presented to the BPC were discussed by the senate. Concerns were expressed about the prescriptive nature of some of the budget solutions possibly impacting the collective bargaining process.

In a follow up report on the bookstore outsourcing concerns expressed at the previous meeting Co-presidents Richards and Brown were pleased to report that after meeting with President Smith and a subsequent meeting with Sue Alton and Lee Lindsey many of the core issues related to packets being printed incorrectly and arriving late have been identified and plans are underway to avoid future occurrences. Also, rental options will be presented to faculty as possible means to reduce the cost of textbooks to students; an estimated 38% of the textbooks are available through rental and rentals are available at about 50% of the cost of new titles. We are still working on copyright concerns and proposed third party copyright training seminars are being explored as well as making the Keenan and Associates online copyright webinar available to faculty.