

DISTRICT CONSULTATION COUNCIL
October 23, 2023

SUMMARY

MEMBERS PRESENT: Yasmine Andrawis, Byron D. Clift Breland, Jennifer Carey, Treisa Cassens, Jennifer Combs, Damon De La Cruz, Christie Diep, Jean Foster, Martha Gutierrez (for Valentina Purtell), Geoff Hurst, Cherry Li-Bugg, Kathleen McAlister, Cynthia Olivo, Jennifer Oo, Jeremy Peters, Jesus Ramirez Jr., Irma Ramos, Jeanette Rodriguez, Chloe Serrano, Pamela Spence, and Kai Stearns.

VISITORS: Danielle Davy.

Chancellor Byron D. Clift Breland called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Summary: The summary of the September 25, 2023 meeting was approved as submitted.

STRATEGIC GOALS & PLANNING

Winter Intersession: Chancellor Byron D. Clift Breland introduced discussion on the winter intersession in light of the recent discussions and resolutions that have been adopted. He asked members to discuss what the consultation process looks like as the District plans and develops the winter intersession schedule in order to have a shared understanding of how we move forward. He encouraged attendance at the upcoming Focus on the Future Summit where Rob Johnstone will address scheduling and the consultation process, and expressed hope in being able to design a smooth process that makes sense of course offerings and when they are offered that is also in line with the union contract.

During the discussion, members shared the following:

- At Cypress College, the issue is time because some programs will not offer courses with anything short of eight-weeks. With a longer term, there will be more buy-in and more offerings.
- Do we need to have the winter break?
- At Fullerton College, the Faculty Senate votes on the calendar and then it is endorsed by the Senate. That did not occur, and the substantive change caused issues, but mirroring that process would be beneficial.
- United Faculty noted that they negotiate after they have received feedback from the Senates, but they do not take it back to the Senates because it is the union's purview, and that nothing occurred this year that was out of order because the two semesters had already been negotiated and approved.
- Suggested that moving forward, winter intersession be included when negotiating the academic calendar so that faculty have input on student impact.
- Support for winter intersession, but noted its limitations of being exclusively online and occurring during the winter break.

- United Faculty will distribute a faculty survey to ask what they would like (length of winter intersession, the need for a spring break, ending before Memorial Day, etc.) because now that there is a winter intersession people might consider different things.
- Chancellor Cliff Breland stated that it makes sense hiccups will occur because it's a transformational decision for the District that will open up access for students. He encouraged reviewing our options so that processes don't get in the way of what we want, how we have that conversation parallel to negotiations, and how survey results will be shared to ensure that everything is clear.
- Winter intersession affects classified staff as well because the winter break is typically when they take time off and currently there is no break between semesters for them.
- For Cypress College students, it throws off their students schedules and unit cap and adds an extra step because they have to get permission from counselors. Petitioning for classes can also take a while and will those be approved prior to registration dates? What if a winter intersession class is a prerequisite for the spring semester – how will the student be able to register knowing that one depends on the other? (The enrollment cap can be adjusted because it's an agreement by both colleges. Vice Chancellor Cherry Li-Bugg will also be meeting with the registrars to discuss winter intersession and will discuss these concerns.)
- At Cypress College, there is a concern about not having a cap for winter intersession. Will that be monitored?
- Chancellor Cliff Breland asked if all calendar related items can be presented to the Senates in the fall semester for input when trying to calendar for two years? (United Faculty reiterated that it would only be for input, not approval.)
- Moving forward, the winter intersession will be included in academic calendar discussions.
- Encourage faculty to embrace the changing direction of education.
- It would be helpful for the United Faculty survey to include scenarios in order to share what would be changing in order to allow additional changes, and also an option for in-person testing.
- During the summer session, different parts of term are offered which change options and provide more flexibility.
- Is a 15-week calendar possible?
- How are classes scheduled and who gets to decide? (United Faculty stated that the process is in the contract with the dean creating the schedule based on interest and feasibility. The Senate Presidents disagreed, noting that multiple factors are involved including impact on fall and spring enrollment, modality, specialty classes, student demand, waitlists, and consultation with faculty.
- The need to separate the semesters and the intersessions and to understand who is making the decisions because four-week classes are taking place whether or not faculty members pedagogically agree.
- At NOCE, there are scheduling conflicts even without a winter intersession.

POLICY

New BP 3830, Flying of National, State, and Commemorative Flags: Chancellor Byron D. Cliff Breland led a review of proposed BP 3830, Flying of National, State, and Commemorative Flags after having requested constituent group feedback at prior DCC meetings and noted that the Board is interested in receiving a copy of the policy sooner rather than later.

Members reviewed the recommendations provided by the Cypress College President's Advisory Council and the Fullerton College Faculty Senate and during the discussion it was noted that

NOCE students had recently provided feedback and that CSEA would have input soon. Other points that were raised included: the difference between nationally or state recognized flags; the need to reach out to District affinity groups who might not be aware of the current discussions; the raising of the Juneteenth flag which occurs outside of Black History Month; a suggestion to change “months” to “dates” to commemorate groups that occur outside of their designated month; and how flags will be selected. Chancellor Clift Breland requested feedback be shared at the next DCC meeting with a goal of taking proposed BP 3830 to the December 13 Board meeting as a first reading.

Program Discontinuance Workgroup (BP/AP 4021): At the May 22 DCC meeting, Kathleen McAlister and Jennifer Combs presented a proposal to suspend the District program discontinuance policy pending revisions of BP/AP 4021, Program Discontinuance at the request of the Cypress College Academic Senate due to concerns about how the process is invoked and interpreted, and the need for more faculty representation for the special review committee that requires a comprehensive look from a United Faculty perspective. At that time, Chancellor Clift Breland agreed to form a review committee to update the policies and at the September 25 DCC meeting an initial workgroup was formed.

DCC discussed the status of the workgroup, and it was noted that an email had been sent to identify the individuals who could help guide the discussion regarding who should be involved in the workgroup. Members also discussed the following points: 1) what would trigger a review; 2) revitalization and who would be included in the review group and who would vote; 3) consideration of having the same process for program review and revitalization; 4) the need to look at enrollment numbers and other data points in the process; 5) the need to look at programs where the District cannot fulfill the 15-unit obligation for faculty due to change in demand; and 6) inclusion of program review chairs, researchers, instructional/CTE deans and faculty, and curriculum chairs.

Subsequent to the discussion, Chancellor Clift Breland asked for volunteers to lead the workgroup and there were none. In response, Jennifer Combs stated that she would send another call out for participants.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.