PAC Meeting Notes
January 7, 2020

FREE SPEECH AND CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS

- Safety of students is tantamount, especially students of color and underrepresented populations.
- The events on Nov. 19 were a learning opportunity and what we might expect in 2020. Important to find ways to engage with students while keeping them safe. Our campus is working on how to be more effective in this regard, especially with campus wide communications.
- Timing of communicating specific is key. We need to take care to not accidentally build false narratives.
- During spring 2020, University Communications will develop a strategy for addressing some of the political/societal challenges that may come up. This will include an official denouncement of white supremacy while enforcing our campus core values.
- We must remain vigilant of those looking for opportunities to undermine our campus.
- Hutchinson urged PAC to look ahead in thinking of ways to respond to periods of unrest and how we can stimulate a more inclusive learning environment and better engage our students.
- Student Life and Leadership, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, and the Cross Cultural Leadership Center are all working on various initiatives to help underrepresented students through difficult situations, including specialized Adulting 101 sessions, the Our Democracy website, and free speech education.
- Tipping Point will have a session on supporting students in turbulent times.
- Areas where PAC can have an impact include educating students, faculty, and staff on differentiating good and bad information, talking about inherent racism/sexism in the academy, and stifling bad ideas before they can take root. In-classroom leadership can strengthen this messaging and help promote diversity and inclusion.
- As we continue to experience trying events (the Australian fires or recent events in Iran), how can we best help affected students, faculty, and staff, particularly those directly affected?
- Larson suggested we develop tactics to formalize responses about these issues as it relates to Academic Affairs. Some topics could include determining actionable or reportable situations, as well as a better understanding of a teachable moment.
- A positive example of a college handling a difficult event was BSS and the unfortunate suicide from 2018 – the college’s messaging and actions were effective and calming.
- Part of the challenge is the potential of going too far on a response.
- Social media is a concern as it has a tendency to help blow an event out of proportion – the library incident in 2019 is an example of this.
- Another concern is that students of color have opted to use social media to discuss hate crimes or other offenses versus utilizing institutional reporting mechanisms.
- An area PAC can improve upon is developing better communication strategies for PAC Leaders, balancing that need with accidentally spilling information too soon about a particular event. Larson asked for everyone to brainstorm solutions for bridging the gap.
- PAC will learn how Student Conduct operates so everyone can better handle situations similar to the one in November. This will include better educating faculty on policies, confidentiality, and the safety of students affected.
- Attending interactive sessions with Student Conduct and CARE was recommended.
- Hutchinson mentioned there will be a conference called Speech Matters 2020 on February 27, 2020 put on by Student Affairs, and urged everyone to attend.
- It was suggested that this topic should be a standing agenda item for future PAC meetings.
• A book was recommended – “Love Your Enemies.”
• Another concern was the current political model of leadership and the many objectionable policies and statements that make this issue even more difficult to mitigate.
• Should the City of Chico be a consideration in these discussions?

CURRICULUM TIMELINE
• There were some Academic Senate curriculum changes to the catalog that were not submitted in time for 2019-20.
• Gray and Ferguson shared a curriculum timeline they had developed to try to help departments better prepare for making curricular changes. It is still in the drafting phase and they are seeking suggestions and additional opportunities for feedback.

OPTIMIZER/SCHEDULING UPDATE
• 500 RDs were recorded before today’s PAC meeting.
• Please promote, now and often, that the spring 2020 grading deadline is May 22nd, 2020.
• With Butte Hall renovation in the near future, a scheduling task force will assist with dealing with the loss of classrooms. Transitional guidelines are being developed that will go to EPPC/FASP on Jan. 23, with the Executive Committee reviewing them on 2/7, and Academic Senate on 2/13.
• Astra Optimizer will be used to help place classes in rooms based on the needs specified in the program.
• Michael Allen (registrar) asked that class caps be more realistic and deans reexamine all non-standard meeting patterns and times.
• The CO has always paid attention to space usage, especially when assessing new/renovated space needs. Be sure to maximize space availability on this schedule.
• Some scheduling options being considered during the transition are to extend class offerings into the evenings and on Saturdays.
• Is research time in lab spaces being taken into account?
• PAC would like to be kept in the loop on further developments.

COLLEGE MESSAGING
• Please remember to copy Deb on your college communications.

STEM-NET
• Due in late February
• $20,000 research seed money

LINE OF SUCCESSION
• If you have not submitted your unit’s memo, please do so and copy Fuentes.

STUDENT CONCERNS/GRADING
• Students are acutely aware of grading deadlines and are letting the Registrar’s Office and the Provost’s Office know when grades are not up. We need to reinforce the importance of these deadlines to our faculty.

SSP HIRES
• Some SSP IIs are going to be promoted to SSP III’s, and new SSP II hires budgeted for … evidently, the new money will be rolled into an ABC model within the $/major allocation.