

**Taft College Academic Senate Minutes (DRAFT)**

Monday, February 3, 2025

Cougar Room

12:10 pm - 2:00 pm

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Duron at 12:11pm.

**Attendees**

The following faculty members attended: Abbott, Bandy, Beasley, Bledsoe, Bogle, Cahoon (M), Cahoon (N), Cotto, Clark, Devine, Duron, Getty, Kerr, Kulzer-Reyes, Mendenhall, Oja, Payne (R), Rangel-Escobedo, Reynolds (J), Rodenhauer, Smith (K), Smith (T), Travis.

Guests include Acting VP of Administrative Services Giacomini, L. Minor, ASO President Acosta

**Public Comment**

L. Minor introduced Acting VP of Administrative Services Mike Giacomini.

ASO (Associated Student Organization) President Acosta shared that student government is running a student wellness survey that will close at the end of the semester.

**Action Items****Approval of the Minutes**

November 04, 2024 Meeting: With no corrects, the Minutes were approved by consent.

**New Business**

- Board Policies and Administrative Procedures for review and revision: AP 2510  
Participation in Local Decision-Making
  - C. Duron shared that there were no volunteers for an ad hoc committee on this AP, so the Academic Senate (AS) Council reviewed it. She noted that this is the policy that details what areas are “rely primarily” on AS and which are “mutually agree upon” with AS.
  - Secretary Oja noted the only change was to make Title V written out as Title 5, which is essentially a typographical error. With that correction, B. Devine motioned and A. Abbott seconded to accept this AP. The motion passed with one abstention (K. Kulzer-Reyes).
- [IEPI request](#) in collaboration with IR: alignment with [ACCJC Standards](#)
  - C. Duron shared that faculty were interested in the college submitting an IEPI request, especially in the areas of curriculum tracking. C. Duron also shared that X. Li would like to work with AS to submit a request based on the new accreditation standards. Of most relevance, might be student learning outcomes,

distance education, and governance. AS Council is also interested in topics related to finance and governance.

- C. Duron also noted that the president of the college is the one who write the letter of intent.
- M. Oja, who has been on IEPI Partnership Resource Teams (PRTs) shared that the team visits three times, with the first visit to gather information. The second visit is to share some options or solutions, and the third visit is to check in. After the second visit, the college receives money to help with the options/solutions.
- A. Abbott motioned for the AS President to work with the college president to develop a letter of interest to request an IEPI team, which was seconded by B. Devine. This motion passed.
- ASCCC Fall 2024 Resolution [105.02](#) Encouraging Funding for Printing Lab Manuals to Achieve Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Status
  - M. Oja, as OER Coordinator read the “resolved” statements. She requested that you let her know if you use a lab manual so she can bring estimated costs back to the Senate of the Whole.
- 2025-2027 Academic Senate President and Secretary:
  - C. Duron accepted the nomination for AS President. No other nominations were submitted, so C. Duron continues as AS President for two more years!
  - M. Beasley accepted the nomination for AS Secretary. No other nominations were submitted, so M. Beasley will begin her two-year term as AS Secretary the day after graduation.
- Full-time Faculty Priority Ranking: Replacement & New
  - C. Duron shared that no divisions submitted proposed positions.
  - The Communications instructor was previously ranked highly and hired, but that instructor resigned before the semester began. There were no objections to keeping this position as our top priority.
  - We also have a retirement (EOPS counselor), but the division did not request a replacement. The union may discuss if there is a need or if that position may become a manager.

## Discussion

- ADC: Short-term class descriptor for the class schedule
  - C. Duron shared that this committee has discussed ways to let students know when classes are short-term, and what that means. Ideas included an alert in their schedule.
  - D. Kerr added that students sometimes think that shorter classes must be easier.
  - The committee will write up some language. L. Travis suggests the word “accelerated” as it’s not too scary but may make them aware.
  - D. Kerr noted that understanding short-term classes could be added as an Action Item for students to accept before they register? C. Duron wondered if there was a Note area? K. Kulzer-Reyes suggested an icon.
- ASCCC Fall 2024 Resolution [105.03](#) Encouraging Transparency and Eliminating Automatic Billing Practices in Course Material Access

- M. Oja, as OER Coordinator, read the “resolved”. While the college doesn’t have any automatic billing practices (sometimes called “inclusive access”), she wanted everyone to be aware that this practice costs students money since they may be paying for books that they do not use or that are already free.
- ESL Tutor
  - C. Duron followed up on the support needs that non-English speaking students have. There is currently temporary funding, which may be used to hire someone to gauge student usage.
  - L. Sundgren shared that we have two bilingual student tutors. K. Kulzer-Reyes will train them. We also can refer students to WKAEN (West Kern Adult Education Network), which has course for English-language learners. She also noted that aides are in the classroom, but that tutors are outside of the classroom. She suggested that an ESL (English as a Second Language) tutor might not need to be bilingual.
  - M. Beasley shared how there used to be a bilingual instructional aide in some of her courses who translated information during class, but was also educated in the discipline. She also shared that other colleges offer courses in Spanish.
  - K. Kulzer-Reyes notes that an ESL tutor can help with reading and writing, but won’t be able to tutor in each discipline.
  - L. Travis added that the support should be in more languages than Spanish.

### **Informational Items**

- The following items were to inform faculty of resources and upcoming events:
  - Artificial Intelligence: [library guide](#) created by Alison Gurganus, librarian at San Diego Mesa Community College and the current president of the Council of Chief Librarians
  - Education Master Plan: Thursday February 13th in lieu of Governance Council

### **Senator Comments**

There were no Senator Comments.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by C. Duron at 1:01pm.