

Ventura County Community College District

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STUDENT LEARNING

November 30, 2006 (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

Oxnard College – President's Conference Room

MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Glenda Gardner, Pam Eddinger, Jeanette Redding, Andrew Anzalone, Denice Avila, Jeff Ferguson, Lyn MacConnaire, Amy Cook, Kathryn Schoenrock, Mayo de la Rocha, Jeff Baker, Ramiro Sanchez, Letrisha Mai, Kathy Colborn, Susan Cabral, Susan Bricker, Dave Farris, Inajane Nicklas, Leo Orange, Paulette Johnson, and Eva Conrad

**1. Approval of Minutes – September 28, 2006**

The September 28, 2006 minutes were approved as submitted.

**2. DCSL Status**

Pam announced that Chancellor Meznek has asked Dr. Eva Conrad to serve as his designee on DCSL. Kathryn requested that an item be added to the agenda. Members agreed.

Eva explained to the group that her role is temporary, and she serves as a placeholder for an Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Learning position to be staffed in the future.

Eva briefly outlined the Chancellor's concerns: 1) the need for a process that provides a system of checks and balances for technical correctness and regulation compliance regarding curriculum submission, and 2) the need to clearly define the operations of District Councils.

The charge and membership of DCSL was established and approved when the former District Councils on Student Services (DCSS) and Instruction DCI) were combined in 1997-1998. There has been no approved change to the charge of the group or membership since then.

The Chancellor became concerned when DCSL discontinued voting on curriculum last March, thus effectively altering its original charge. This change was neither sanctioned by the Chancellor, nor approved by the Board of Trustees. Further concerns about the operations of District Councils, including DCSL, were noted by the accreditation report and the KH report.

The Chancellor has suspended curriculum submission for Board approval until the DCSL group crafts and documents a review process that would create a check-and-balance system to ensure technical correctness and regulation compliance of proposed curriculum.

Since the Chancellor's moratorium, a brainstorming group met to lay preliminary groundwork for revamping DCSL processes. The brainstorming group included Eva, EVPs Ramiro and Pam, and the Academic Presidents Kathryn, Jeff and Jeannette. Some preliminary ideas were put to paper.

At this juncture, Jeanette Redding distributed a portion of Title 5 that outlined the need for consultation in participatory governance, particularly regarding a District Curriculum Committee. She noted that the Academic Senates were not notified or consulted. There were questions as to whether we actually have a District Curriculum Committee.

Eva distributed a document, "Issues Related to District Review of Curriculum," which was developed by the brainstorming group.

There were back and forth debates as to the effectiveness of the process by which the document was edited and distributed. Kathryn and Jeanette were concerned that adequate time be given for Academic Senate review on their campuses. The MC Academic Senate had not reviewed this document because Jeff was of the understanding that the document would not be reviewed by the Senates until it was vetted by the DCSL.

Kathryn distributed an email from Mark Lieu of the State Academic Senate that describes the role of campus curriculum committees and the inappropriateness of a district curriculum committee.

Mayo stated that it is critical that faculty has a chance for input, and made a motion to table until the next meeting. Paulette seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Eva did not call for the question on this motion even after Jeanette made a second request for the group to vote on the motion to table.

A number of observations were made during the discussions:

- Curriculum was "held hostage" and there is an urgent need to lift the embargo
- Chancellor was confusing the subcommittee on Curriculum with the members of DCSL
- Membership on the committee is a key issue
- Recommendation that until membership is reviewed and confirmed, the existing process be followed
- The Chancellor's need for reassurance that there is a process in place for the technical review of curriculum
- The need for an Associate Vice Chancellor to provide technical oversight

- Concern that without a faculty participating in Chancellor’s Cabinet, and with the Cabinet acting as arbiter of curriculum in cases of doubt, faculty effectively surrenders its primacy over curriculum as defined in AB1725

Eva noted to the group that two issues have been identified: 1) DCSL membership; and 2) the disposition of the current curriculum. She noted that the brainstorming group had spent considerable time on the draft document, and asked the group to consider formulating a temporary compromise so we can continue to work towards a solution on both these issues.

Concerns were raised again as to Eva’s continuing status at the subcommittee. Eva noted once again her temporary role as the Chancellor’s designee and placeholder for an eventual Associate Vice Chancellor.

Eva has requested that the Chancellor to meet with the EVPs, Academic Senate Presidents, and members of the DCSL subcommittee after the adjournment of the meeting, in hopes of crafting a compromise that will allow the curriculum to go forward to the Board of Trustees even as the group finds a solution to the address the Chancellor’s concerns.

Eva asked for agreement to offer the draft document from the brainstorming group to the Chancellor as a start to the revamp process. Jeannette suggested that the DCSL subcommittee continue to meet and edit the document, to ensure that full consultation takes place, and establish a timeline for completion. Jeff stated that the Academic Senate Presidents would want to go back to their respective Academic Senates to secure concurrence.

It is agreed that if the Chancellor accepts the agreement, the DCSL subcommittee will meet ASAP (next morning) to review curriculum to ensure that curriculum is ready for the December Board meeting.

### 3. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

### 4. Post-DCSL Meeting with Chancellor Meznik

A brief meeting was held between the DCSL subcommittee and Chancellor Meznik, during which the Chancellor agreed to the deadline date of April 1, 2007 for the delivery of a revamped curriculum review process that ensures technical compliance. The embargo on curriculum approval by the Board of Trustees will be lifted until April 1, 2007.

Meeting Calendar for DCSL	
09/28/06	MC, Cafeteria Conf. Room
10/26/06	OC <b>CANCELLED</b>
11/30/06	OC President’s Conf. Room
<b>December – DARK</b>	
01/25/07	MC, LMC Room 101
02/22/07	OC, President’s Conf. Room
03/29/07	VC, Campus Center Conf. Room
04/26/07	site TBD