**Porterville College Academic Senate APPROVED**

**Minutes: April 24, 2020**

I. Miles Vega called the meeting to order at 8:05.

II. Roll Call:

Voting Members: Miles Vega, President; Matthew Flummer, Secretary-Treasurer; Past-President, Jeff Keele; Kathryn Benander, Vice-President, Sarah Rector, Rickelle Syrdahl, David Kavern, James Carson, Patty Serrato, Miguel Ruelas

Non Voting Members: Joel Weins

Guests: Richard Goode

III. The agenda was approved \*(M-S-P, David Kavern, Miguel Ruelas).

IV. The approval of the minutes was tabled

V. Discussion/Action Items:

1. Budget - support for teaching remotely is being supported from various sources.
   1. The student centered funding formula is very different - there’s a lot of uncertainty. But it seems that the district wide committee seems to be handling it.
2. Graduation Ceremony
   1. Medals - the committee has given the faculty/senate control, but we need to come up with a procedure. One per discipline seems reasonable. We also need a process for when there are multiple students in the same discipline who are all outstanding.
      1. Subcommittee that will come up with a policy: Rickelle, Kathryn, Patty, Jeff
   2. Scholar of the year - Brandon Wallace
3. Drop Date: end of the semester - May 15. There’s a concern that this degrades the integrity of our courses. We need more clarification about the policy regarding EW.
   1. Communication issue: the policy went out to the students before it was communicated to faculty.
   2. A resolution was presented concerning the lack of consultation with the faculty senate in the crafting of the drop policy during the pandemic. The president and vice president already agreed that the senate should have been consulted first. The resolution is attached below.
   3. Motion to postpone the resolution for further discussion in future senate meetings but include it in the minutes \*(M-S-P, Miguel Ruelas, Kathryn Benander)
4. Mail room and print - If you need to go on campus you must contact your dean, the VP, security, and John Word and then you’ll be given access.
5. Golden Handshakes - are they a possibility? If you want more info contact a union rep
6. Summer and fall schedules - labs and other hands-on type classes are very difficult to pull off virtually
   1. We’re down on enrollment and budgets might be cut
   2. If you want to move your classes online you must complete the training to teach online. If you are forced to move your classes online because of the pandemic, then you don’t have to complete the training.

7. Finals schedule: What is the expectation regarding the final exam scheduling? If you are doing a scheduled final exam, then you need to schedule it during the regularly scheduled final exam time. Miles will consult with the union and put together something to send out to the faculty.

8. Faculty videos: for medals of distinction

9. Richard has been meeting with admin: the emergency blanket addendum for DE covers summer and fall. However, both the chancellor and ACCJC are recommending adding language for DE policy during an emergency.

VIII. Adjourn: 9:45

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Flummer, Secretary-Treasurer

*\*In consideration of the Brown Act, Items considered to be part of routine procedural business or that incur a unanimous vote have been determined to not require delineation of votes.*

Porterville College Academic Senate Resolution Regarding Collegial Consultation

**WHEREAS**: The Academic Senate of Porterville College holds responsibility at Porterville College to represent the faculty at Porterville College on the 10+1 areas of academic and professional matters as identified in Title V of California’s education code, and

**WHEREAS**: In compliance with Title V in California Education Code the Kern Community College District has agreed to “Rely Primarily Upon” the Academic Senate in policy relating to the 10+1 areas of academic and professional matters, and

**WHEREAS**: Among the 10+1 responsibilities of the Academic Senate, the following are included: #2. Degree and certificate requirements. #3. Grading policies. #4. Educational program development. #5. Standards or policies regarding student preparation and success, and

**WHEREAS**: Policies regarding student withdrawal beyond the 60% date of any course and the consequences of those policies significantly impact numbers 2 through 5 of the 10+1 responsibilities of the Academic Senate, and

**WHEREAS**: Porterville College administration announced to students on April 21, 2020 a dramatic change in withdrawal policy, amounting to blanket no-fault withdrawals from class regardless of circumstances, and

**WHEREAS**: The new policy on withdrawals was announced after multiple weeks under the pandemic-induced transition to online operation and need not have been developed either in secret or in such haste as to preclude collegial consultation with the Academic Senate, and

**WHEREAS**: Porterville College faculty were not officially notified of a change in withdrawal policy even though the policy was publicly announced to students, and

**WHEREAS**: The change in withdrawal policy was enacted and announced without any consultation with the Porterville College Academic Senate or even with the Academic Senate’s Executive Committee, and

**WHEREAS**: The Academic Senate is meeting regularly through virtual online means and the Senate’s president is in regular contact with Porterville College administration even during the extenuating circumstances of pandemic-related transition to online-operation of Porterville College;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Porterville College Academic Senate calls on the President of Porterville College and her administrative team to recognize their legal responsibility to not only consult collegially, but to “rely primarily upon” the guidance of the Porterville College Academic Senate on matters that significantly impact the academic and professional outlined in 10+1 list.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Academic Senate requests the President of Porterville College and her administrative team to significantly increase their consultation with and reliance primarily upon the advice of the Academic Senate in key matters of policy that impact the 10+1 roles of the Academic Senate, and refrain to the greatest extent possible from making policy changes, even in challenging circumstances, without such consultation.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Academic Senate respectfully requests that the President of Porterville College and her administrative staff extend the courtesy to the Academic Senate and to the Porterville College Faculty at large of formally announcing any changes in policy that will impact key academic integrity and student success to the full faculty before, or at a minimum at the same time as, the announcement goes to students.