Table Talk
Faculty Contract Negotiations
November 16, 2012
9:00am-12:00pm

Members present: Jillian Daly, Cece Huddleson-Putnam, Rose LaMont, Emily Malsam, Tom Nomof, Diane Wirth, Gina Rose, Michael Sundquist, Gene Womble

Recollections: Gene Womble

This meeting continued our discussions of workload, with a focus on class size.

1. Both teams completed a “Check In” and we approved the Table Talk for the November 2, 2012 meeting with a few amendments.

2. The meeting began by agreeing on the creation of research notebooks containing workload articles (ie. Working Conditions, Class Size, Faculty Responsibility) from all our negotiated cohort districts. We discussed how many faculty contracts separate workload issues into three consistent articles: Workload (describing load and differences between lecture and laboratory loads, etc.); Working Conditions (describing office size, maximum number of preps, etc.); and Faculty Responsibilities (describing office hours, FLEX and other duty days, mandatory meeting attendance, etc.).

3. We then moved to a general discussion of enrollment management, such as the number of FTES on average each class must have to be cost effective and how we can educate faculty on this issue. We discussed ideas about accommodating special programs and Columbia College (also the importance of stacking classes and load balancing) and agreed to review homework at our next meeting that would show maximum class sizes negotiated for small districts, such as Feather River and South Lake Tahoe.

4. We then reviewed YCCD class size by program from 1985 through to the present and noted that some programs had undergone dramatic class size changes over the years—primarily in the last decade. Some classes had maximum class size of 70 students in 1985 but had dropped down to 40 students by 2012. Some classes had 27 students in 1985 but had raised to 35 students by 2012. Furthermore, we noted that maximum class size was not consistent even within the same class offering. For instance, when looking at ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 at MJC, class size ranged inexplicably from 27 to 30 to 35 students.

5. We then agreed to focus on maximum and minimum class size for our next negotiations meeting and to review language in our cohort contracts. We also agreed to complete research charts for ART, ENGLISH (both COMP and LIT), and BBSS programs, tracing the following workload data in our cohorts: number of classes taught annually for a full-time load, max. class size per section, number of units per section.

6. The meeting ended at 12:00pm.

Submitted by Jillian Daly