The meeting was called to order by President Steve Gold at 3:07 p.m.

I. M/S/U (Llanos/Dickey) to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2007, meeting, as corrected.
II. Public Commentary: (Public commentary is time made available for issues to be brought before the Senate. No action will be taken at the time of the commentary and statements do not reflect the Senate position absent any action.)

No public commentary.

III. President’s Report  

Steve Gold

A. “Senate Rostrum”

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges newsletter, “Senate Rostrum,” provides informational articles and updates on what is happening at the State level. Copies had been mailed to Division Senators and additional copies were distributed, as needed. Steve called the Senate’s attention to the article “Underage Students”; this article references a paper, Minors on Campus: Underage Students at Community Colleges, which was adopted at the Fall 2006 Plenary Session.

B. Academic Freedom

Steve had emailed to Senators the latest Senate Presidents’ proposal, annotated with comments from both the Chancellor’s staff and the Senate Presidents. Senate agreed to support the latest version proposed by the Senate Presidents.

C. Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Spring Plenary Session

The Senate usually sponsors participation for two Senators. The dates this year are April 19-21, Thursday through Saturday, in the San Francisco area. Participants usually need to arrive Wednesday evening. Voting on resolutions takes place on Saturday. President-Elect Cherie Dickey was approved to attend. Senators should contact Steve Gold if they are interested in attending.

D. DPC/Board of Trustees Meeting

At the last DPC meeting, District plans for increasing ongoing spending by nearly $2 million annually were presented as information items: $800,000 for SCE and $1.1 million for additional classified staff. There was little discussion as it was clear that the decisions to implement these plans had already been made. The following evening, at the Board of Trustees meeting, Dale Craig, UF President, Joumana McGovern, FC Senate President, and Steve Gold, CC Senate President, each expressed concern and asked the Board to not approve major spending decisions that had not gone through the shared governance process. One of the Trustees asked if it was not true that the Trustees had to mutually agree with the Senates on the budgeting process, but not the budgets themselves. Steve responded to this question by email and forwarded copies to all Senators on Monday, February 19, 2007. He outlined the reasons that the Senate Presidents “believe that, when decisions are made to allocate millions of dollars for specific purposes, faculty (as
well as staff and students) are entitled to, at a minimum, an opportunity to ask questions, to provide input, and even to attempt to achieve consensus among the various District constituencies on a recommendation to the Board.” Steve has not received a reply at this point but anticipates it will be a point of discussion at the DPC meeting next week.

During discussion, there was interest in knowing at what level and in what forum the decision was made and who participated in the process. Dale Craig concurred with Steve that having a decision of this magnitude made without shared governance was unusual.

After discussion, Senate agreed that Steve should pursue obtaining a complete explanation of the process, which constitutes a request for transparency. It was agreed that this incident should not go unchallenged, but the main concern is not so much this particular decision, but rather the process involved.

E. Planning and Budget

One-time funding requests are due next week. Regarding the Humanities building remodel, the need for an additional $150,000 for furniture, equipment and security has been identified; these costs are not covered in the remodeling budget. P & B approved an emergency M & O request to repair a leaking gas line.

F. PAC

Work has been completed on the document on shared governance committees. As part of this effort, they had looked at and modified the composition of the Matriculation Committee. The faculty representatives on the Matriculation Committee will be:

- Counseling: Sharon Easton
- ESL: Kathy Llanos
- Reading: Susan Klein
- Math: David Nusbaum

G. Educational Master Plan

The Senate had previously approved the Educational Master Plan, with reservations. Steve Gold’s concern had been that the Educational Master Plan was more a collection of individual plans rather than an overarching master plan. Steve had posed some questions which he felt should be answered by a master plan, and these questions were included in the section on Implementing the Educational Master Plan. Dr. Lewis would like the Senate to take the lead on improving the plan and in determining how best to answer these questions. After discussion, Senate was in favor of holding a colloquium off-campus to try to address these “big issue,” visionary items. Those who had attended such colloquia in the past indicated that these had been tremendous team-building experiences. Discussion will continue at the next Senate meeting. Steve suggested that Senators take time between the Senate meetings to consider additional questions that the EMP should answer.
H. Graduation Speaker

Selection of the graduation speaker rotates among the Administration, the Faculty, and students. This year the Administration has selected Rudy Hanley, President and CEO of the Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union, to speak at graduation. The Administration would like to have four faculty members selected to lead the rest of the faculty in at graduation. Senate agreed that a good choice would be the three winners of the Academic Senate awards plus the Orange County Teacher of the Year nominee.

I. PAC

Concern has been raised about rampant violations of the rule that prohibits smoking within twenty feet of the entrance to a building on campus. Signage does not seem to help; when signs were posted, they were either removed or defaced. Senators mentioned the need for trash containers and it was suggested that trash containers be placed at the twenty foot mark as soon as possible. The question was raised as to where the containers are that used to be on the piazza prior to renovation.

J. A Checklist of Information Competencies for College Students

Steve distributed copies of a handout (on file) from Dr. Carol Welsh, LLRC Dean, regarding a “Checklist of Information Competencies for College Students.” The checklist is a “collaborative work by a team of California State University and California community college librarians.” Dr. Welsh would like to disseminate this information on campus, but asked for Senate input prior to doing this. Senate reaction was positive; discussion included the value of having these competencies in a clearly stated form that faculty can easily use in the classroom and provide to students as a reference.

K. Reassigned Time Task Force

The work of the Task Force is continuing. It has been a challenge to separate coordinator duties and responsibilities from those shared by other faculty in their disciplines.

L. IQA

There is still no IQA faculty representative from Social Science or Counseling. Currently, the Dean of Social Science sits on the committee as an Administrative representative. There still needs to be a Social Science faculty representative on the committee. Steve noted that one of the purposes of the IQA committee is to facilitate discussion on how IQA should function. Thus, dissatisfaction with the current process should be all the more reason to participate actively on the committee.
M. Committee Appointments

Senate confirmed the appointment of Michael Byrdges and Elizabeth Hamman to serve on the PAL Coordinator hiring committee.

IV. Faculty Issues

A. Counseling Services  Daniel Pelletier

Dan asked to have this item removed from the agenda.

B. Learning Communities  Michael Brydges

Michael announced that he will be taking on the role of Learning Communities Coordinator soon and encouraged faculty to read emails announcing Learning Community Training for Fall 2007. Michael also emphasized that the opportunity for Learning Communities on campus is a way for faculty to "get back into the classroom" and to keep their focused energy on the importance of quality instruction.

C. Local Awards

Nominations were due today and the selection process will begin. Since this is the first time through with the new nomination and selection process, Senators should be evaluating the process so that suggestions for improvement can be considered for next year.

D. Compressed Calendar (16-week semester)

Postponed.

E. Constitution Update

Discussion began on updates to the Academic Senate constitution and will continue at the next Senate meeting.

V. Special Reports:

A. Associate Students  Josh Luna

Josh announced the following events: Senior Day -- March 22nd; A.S. elections -- April 18-19; World Fest – April 25th.

B. Staff Development  Nancy Deutsch

Nancy distributed a chart (on file) showing how Staff Development funds have been spent this academic year. Senators requested that she annotate the chart,
including for each event the additional amount funded by Staff Development fundraising efforts.

C. United Faculty  Dale Craig

At the last UF Board meeting, they made the decision to make a movement on their offer. They voted to reduce the salary request from 8% on regular, overload, and summer classes to 7½%; maintain the requested increase in fringe; keep the requested step, but have it applied starting next fiscal year. They also voted that if the Board of Trustees at the next meeting does not come back with any response, then UF will to go to impasse. The District has filed impasse on the calendar. UF wants to close out the successor agreement and leave the four issues that remain on the contract for next time. Dale encouraged faculty to make their voice heard by attending the public commentary portion of the Board of Trustees Meeting this Tuesday, February 27, 2007. Public commentary is near the beginning of the meeting, which starts at 5:30 p.m.

VI. Resolutions

VII. Announcements

Beth Piburn announced that the Professional Growth and Development Committee approved sabbaticals for two Cypress College faculty.

VIII. Adjournment of the meeting at 5:17 p.m. M/S/U (Boettger/Piburn).

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Watson, Secretary