MEMBERS PRESENT:
Susan Cody, Michael Diebert, Elizabeth Lathrop, Erin Morrey, Paula Porto, Sally Robertson, Matthew Robison, Doug Ruch, Shyam Sriram, Ingrid Thompson-Sellers, Emily Whaley

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:
Sarah Jennings, Vincent June, Ted Wadley, Robin Winston

ALTERNATES PRESENT:
Elizabeth Thornton for Ted Wadley

I Call to order
Brad Tucker called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

II Approval of minutes of 9/17/13
In the third line on page 5, the word “if” should be “is”. The minutes were approved with that amendment.

III Old Business

Report on PPAB policy decisions

The PPAB considered the AAPC’s response to the requirement for students to be members of the Council. Mr. Tucker had informed the PPAB that students had been removed from the AAPC, and asked if the Council was in violation of Policy 221 (Students’ Role in Decision Making) and needed to reinstate them. Faculty Senate Chair, Sally Robertson, said she pointed out at the PPAB meeting that (1) students don’t always do anything on the AAPC, and (2) it might not be comfortable for a faculty member to discuss matters deeply with a student from his/her class sitting across the table. She said that while the PPAB members understood the situation, they decided to pass Policy 221 but would not police it. The PPAB would honor the fact that the AAPC bylaws exclude students from membership on the Council.

The PPAB tabled the GPC Volunteer Program policy from the Financial and Administrative Affairs Policy Council. It had been discussed at the Faculty Senate and Ms. Robertson reported that faculty had great concerns, for example regarding the age
threshold. According to the policy, only persons over 18 could volunteer. It was felt that younger persons should be accommodated as well. The President wanted more information.

IV Old Business

Policy 137 - Religious Holidays
Opinions of constituents and Council members which were discussed included the following:

- What we do for students should be similar to what we do for employees; we should accommodate them unless to do so would create a hardship.
- Religious holidays should be treated like any other absence, such as an illness.
- The Religious Holidays policy should be consistent with the Attendance policy, in which each discipline sets its own policy.
- It should not be left to the discretion of the instructor—there should be a policy to back up the instructor’s decision.
- Because of the separation of church and state, there should be no accommodation for religious holidays.

On the last point, Mr. Sriram explained that separation of church and state is not in the first amendment. There is an establishment clause and a free exercise clause, whereby, as a public institution we cannot endorse one religious practice over another, and by the same token we have to respect everyone’s religious practices. The notion of not respecting anyone’s religious practice is not an option for us as a two-year state college. While the Council was dealing with religious holidays at present, Mr. Sriram felt that the AAPC should address the matter of religious practice in the future, citing the example of a Muslim student he once had who needed two weeks off for a religious trip. He could have accommodated the student for some of the assignments but not all and the student ended up dropping the course.

The following policy statement emerged from the discussions:

Students are responsible for negotiating their needs regarding religious holidays with each instructor at the beginning of the term. Accommodations will be made at the discretion of the instructor and should be consistent with the instructor’s attendance policy.

All AAPC members, except Dr. Robison, voted to approve the policy. The draft will go on to the other policy councils for comment.
V New Business

Student theft of intellectual property

Sarah Jennings had brought a case to Mr. Tucker’s attention about a student’s misuse of material that an instructor had created for his online class. The student went to a site where one can buy papers (a cheat site) and posted the instructor’s material to gain access to the site. Dr. Thompson-Sellers added there was an exchange of money involved as the student gained from posting the material in the first place, and then persons had to pay a fee for downloading it. When GPC contacted the company, they removed the paper from the site.

The instructor had a clause in the syllabus that said that the material contained in the course should only be used for purposes within the course, and should be in no way downloaded or passed to a third party. It was, therefore, clearly a violation of the instructor’s policy. The question at hand was whether the situation was covered by any of the college’s current policies. The policy on Intellectual Property only concerns the ownership of material created by employees of the college, on college time, using college equipment. It has nothing to do with students, therefore the case was not covered by this policy. It was also not covered by the Academic Honesty policy because the student did not use it to get a better grade. In considering if a student could be taken to student court for stealing intellectual property if it was not stated in the syllabus, Mr. Tucker had looked at the student code of conduct about theft of property and concluded that while it could include intellectual property, that would not be clear to a student. He said that the AAPC could write up an academic policy to address the issue, or draft something to be added to the Student Code of Conduct. It was decided to do an academic policy using a draft that Mr. Tucker had created as a starting point. Members are to send their edits to Mr. Tucker.

Reconsidering policies recently passed

There have been instances where faculty members have expressed dissatisfaction with policies soon after they have passed and want them to be revised. Mr. Tucker asked whether there should be something in the bylaws that sets a timeframe for reopening policies. He suggested that two-thirds of the Council should vote to reopen a policy in extenuating circumstances; otherwise policies will not be reconsidered until the following academic year. Mr. Tucker will write up an addendum to the bylaws for review by Council members.

VI Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19.