Attendees: Gwyn Enright, John Mercurio, Sandra Pesce

1. Approval of minutes from the October 17th meeting (Gwyn)
   Approval tabled until next meeting for lack of a quorum. Draft for review is posted on the Academic Senate web site.

2. 2014 Distance Learning Summit recap (all)
   a. Good showing of attendees, especially from City, including administrators (among them Dean Rob Ewell and VPI Randy Barnes); Grossmont College and Palomar College also had attendees.
   b. Suggestions for improvements included a need for passing time between breakouts; a general session for the showcase; record all sessions so they could be watched later.
   c. Keynote by Online Education Initiative (OEI) Executive Director Pat James was excellent and had valuable information about the OEI’s status and goals. Faculty know how to make good courses, but time and workload issues are huge. Support is vital to help faculty create courses.
   d. Student panel was very articulate about their needs but omitted any references to instruction and learning.

3. Explore interest in a study looking at personality variables and online student retention (Gwyn)
   a. Gwyn suggested we approach campus researcher Xi on the feasibility of a study on personality variables (measured on the Grit scale) and their relationship to student retention in online courses. Per Duckworth et al (2007), “Grit is the tendency to sustain interest in and effort toward very long-term goals.” We could use the resulting information to create instructional interventions to encourage the positive attitude associated with grit. Our hypotheses for the study could be along the lines that students are more likely to stay in online classes if they show grit. Question: Do we look at the entire District or just City College?
   b. Sandra distributed samples of Duckworth’s Grit Scales; the main difference between the two being that Items #1, 3, 10, and 11 from the 12 item scale do not appear on the 8 item scale:
      a. 12 items https://upenn.app.box.com/12itemgrit
      b. 8 items https://upenn.app.box.com/8itemgrit

Next meeting is tentatively set for Friday, December 5th at 11:00 in R212.

Submitted by Sandra