

**Academic Senate Minutes**  
April 14, 2011  
3:00 – 5:00, Commons

**Abstract**

Chair Report. Agenda approved. Minutes of 3/24/11 approved. Nursing BSN revision – approved. Kinesiology Physical Education revision – approved. Intellectual Property Policy – First reading completed. Revision to the Course Repeat Policy amended and approved. Report: Waitlist on CMS. Revision to Class Attendance Policy – Second Reading, motion on the floor. FSAC Report. President Report. Provost Report. Good of the Order: Remembering Bob Coleman-Senghor.

**Present:** John Wingard, Ben Ford, Susan Moulton, Maria Hess, Catherine Nelson, Brian Wilson, Michaela Grobbel, Sam Brannen, Deborah Roberts, Steve Wilson, Helmut Wautischer, Sarah Baker, John Sullins, Barbara Lesch McCaffry, Ed Beebout, Mutombo M'Panya, Terry Lease, Florence Bouvet, Kathy Morris, Sharon Cabaniss, Matty Mookerjee, Karin Jaffe, Tom Buckley, Noel Byrne, Laura Watt, Margaret Purser, Phil Brownell, Sandra Shand, Marisa Thigpen, Edie Brown, Ruben Armiñana, Andy Merrifield, Alex Boyar, Collin Yballa, Dolores Bainter, Kelly Estrada, Elaine Newman, Richard Senghas, Jennifer Mahdavi

**Proxies:** Richard Whitkus for Michael Cohen, Murali Pillai for Nick Geist, Karen Brodsky for Rick Robison.

**Absent:** Chip McAuley, Don Romesburg, Saeid Rahimi, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Nicolas Carjuzaa

**Guests:** Julia Arno, Barbara Butler, Michelle Jolly, Elaine Leeder, Melinda Barnard, Ross Stivison

Students doing a video project on the Student Center and asked to film the Senate. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the filming of the Senate. A concern was raised about the filming and if it was going to be edited. The Chair asked if he could review the final product before it was public and the students agreed.

The Chair announced the Barbara Lesch-McCaffry would be replacing Janet Hess until the end of her term.

**Chair Report – J. Wingard**

J. Wingard noted the death of Robert Coleman-Senghor during the past week and brought to the Senate's attention that the last 15 minutes of the meeting would be devoted to remembering Bob. He said the Fall schedule was available online. He called attention to the memo from the Provost asking for faculty help in reducing textbook costs. He reported on the Statewide Chairs meeting he had attended the past week. The CSU CFO spoke at the meeting, but there was no new information or

a clear plan about the budget cuts. He reminded the body that there were only two more Senate meetings.

A member praised and congratulated the people who got the Fall schedule ready before Spring break.

**Approval of the Agenda – Approved.**

**Minutes of 3/24/11 – Approved.**

**Consent items:**

**Nursing BSN revision – approved.**

**Kinesiology Physical Education revision – approved.**

**Intellectual Property Policy – First Reading – R. Senghas, J. Arno**

R. Senghas noted that the policy started in the Sponsored Programs subcommittee and had been seen by FSAC and AFS. The campus did not have an intellectual property policy per se, only one on copyright. He introduced Julia Arno to give a presentation of the policy and noted that the policy was helping faculty gain protection and rights. J. Arno said she found that questions she was getting in her office lead her to ask if the campus had an intellectual property policy. She found the campus didn't and so took the idea for a policy to FSSP. It was worked on for many hours in FSSP and then was sent on to FSAC. She said the each campus was responsible for creating their own intellectual property policy per EO order. She discussed the current copyright policy and said that the campus did not have a patent or trademark policy. She noted that much of the language in the proposed policy came from San Francisco State and some from San Diego State. She said the policy would describe how the determination of ownership for patent or trademark would be made as the issues came up. She then discussed the main points of the policy concerning patents (inventions), updating the copyright policy and trademark. She discussed the policy's creation of an ad-hoc committee that would determine ownership issues that are not easily clarified by the policy and help faculty take their work to the next level. She provided an example. She thought the policy was very fluid and noted that intellectual property law was constantly changing. She then answered questions. First reading completed.

**Revision to the Course Repeat Policy – First Reading – E. Newman, M. Jolly**

E. Newman gave the floor to M. Jolly. M. Jolly reminded the body about the reason for the last revision and that during that time some procedures were put in the policy and the procedures had changed. She said the current revisions were to procedure due to what CMS baseline was able to do. She then discussed each change in detail. She introduced a new form for repeating a course for a grade.

**Motion to waive the first reading. Second. Approved.**

There were more specific questions.

**Motion to amend: Item 3, second bullet point: For students who need a “higher grade” in order to enter. . . Second.** There was discussion.

**Question called. Second. Approved.**

**Vote on amendment above: Approved.**

There was continued discussion focusing on the rules about grade replacement.

**Motion to amend: last bullet point under #3 – The grades will be averaged for a repeated course. Second.** There was discussion.

**Motion to amend amendment: remove the previous amendment and replace with “a course repeated under this provision will be subject to grade averaging as described below.” Second.**

**Vote on amendment to amendment – Approved.**

Discussion of amended amendment. **Motion to extend for 5 minutes. Second. Approved.**

**Question called. Second. Approved.**

**Vote on amended amendment. Approved.**

**Question called. Second. Approved.**

**Vote on amended Course Repeat Policy. Approved.**

**Report: Waitlist on CMS– M. Barnard, R. Stivison**

M. Barnard introduced R. Stivison as the CMS guru for the waitlist. She said she wanted to update the Senate on the waitlist functionality in CMS. At this point she said all of Science and Technology, all of Social Sciences and Business and Economics and about half of the departments in Arts and Humanities had opted in for waitlists. She noted that she and R. Stivison had met with Schools who would be managing the waitlists and given them a detailed training. FAQ's were posted for students and she was asking departments to send the FAQ's to their majors. She said the students themselves would get savvy about how to use it. She noted that during the second pass of registration, the waitlist will open and students can waitlist 12 units. She said they would be doing hour-long meetings with Department Chairs after Spring Break. R. Stivison provided the details about when the waitlist would be on during registration and what reports were available to departments. He recommended the FAQ's for faculty as well.

(<http://www.sonoma.edu/ar/records/waitlist.shtml>) There were some specific questions. There was a request to have an update after the waitlist functionality had been used.

## **Revision to Class Attendance Policy – Second Reading – J. Mahdavi**

J. Mahdavi noted that SAC had revised the policy based on feedback from the Senate. She described the new additions.

**Motion to amend:** Put the following sentence “Faculty have the primary authority to set attendance policy according to discipline standards.” Between at “officially approved University activities. . . . Students should be cautioned.” Second. There was discussion which included balancing faculty rights with student rights in the policy, helping students understand that they do have rights to class attendance, that faculty should not be judging whether a absence is valid while clearly spelling out the consequences for absences, that the amendment favored the rights of the faculty.

**Question called. Second. Approved.**

**Vote on amendment above: Approved.**

It was clarified that the list of valid reasons for absence was very specific and mirrored the valid reasons for absence for employees. A member asked for a justification about making the policy “university” policy instead of catalog policy.

**Motion to amend: delete the word “valid.” Second.**

Time certain reached. Motion will be on the floor at next meeting.

## **FSAC Report – R. Senghas**

R. Senghas said that if there were any departments had not submitted their RTP criteria for FSAC’s review to do so immediately, as the opportunity to change it would not be available for another year.

## **President Report – R. Armiñana**

R. Armiñana said the CSU did not know where they were going or how they would get there. He passed out a handout about SSU compared to the CSU based on audited statements last year. He discussed the handout and noted that at the end of ‘11/’12 the numbers would be drastically different.

## **Provost Report – M. Barnard for S. Rahimi**

M. Barnard reported that all the University courses had been moved over to Academic Affairs from SAEM and will be under John Kornfeld, the Director of Undergraduate Studies. There was a question about the faculty teaching University 150 having to meet at the same time that CFA meets. M. Barnard referred the question to Tim Wandling, who was coordinating the 150 course.

## **Good of the Order – Remembering Robert Coleman-Senghor**

The Chair began the reflecting by noting how important R. Coleman-Senghor had been to him personally and to the institution. He gave the floor to R. Senghas who offered the following resolution honoring R. Coleman-Senghor.

### **Resolution in Honor of Professor Robert Coleman-Senghor (1940-2011)**

**Whereas**, Professor Robert Coleman-Senghor died suddenly on April 9, 2011, while a current member of our Senate; and

**Whereas**, given Professor Robert Coleman-Senghor's preference for political engagement and explicit argumentation over the potential ambiguities implicit in any public moment of silence, we offer this resolution as the least this body could do to honor a colleague who has passed away even while still actively serving in his capacity as a member of our faculty; and

**Whereas**, Professor Robert Coleman-Senghor dedicated almost four decades of his life to Sonoma State University as our respected Professor of English and creator of the unique California Cultural Studies Program; and

**Whereas**, Professor Coleman-Senghor faithfully and energetically served SSU students at every level, with passionate rigor, with a keen sense of the high seriousness and import of intellectual engagement, and with a spirit of democratic service through the art of teaching, by developing and offering a wide variety of courses, including several in African American literature and the arts, writing, and 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century literature in English; and

**Whereas**, our colleague was a model faculty governor, devoting the benefits of his tremendous energy and time as well as his prodigious wisdom of experience to positions such as the chair of EPC during some of its most contentious debates; member and chair of APC as it drafted and refined its *Long Range Academic Plan* for the University; Academic Senator and Executive Committee member during years of dedicated work; and invaluable member of the Humanities Council of Department Chairs; and

**Whereas**, Professor Coleman-Senghor was known as a man of high principle and integrity and widely respected as a dedicated champion of the rights of students and faculty alike, applying to his service at Sonoma State University his core belief carried forth from his distinguished service as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, that "he would never allow men under his command to jump out of an airplane unless there was a detailed plan in place for what they would do when their feet hit the ground"; and

**Whereas**, Professor Coleman-Senghor extended this selfless service to the larger community by serving as Mayor and Councilmember of the City of Cotati, where he was again celebrated for his renowned integrity and adherence to personal principle while maintaining respect for all points of view, no matter how difficult the conversation, often meeting with community members, faculty, and students at his surrogate office, a table in the Redwood Café in Cotati;

**THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY**

**RESOLVED**, that the Academic Senate of Sonoma State University henceforth hold in high regard the memory of our colleague, Professor Robert Coleman-Senghor, in recognition of his extraordinary and dedicated service to this university and its community; and furthermore,

**RESOLVED**, that we in the Academic Senate, in the spirit of Professor Coleman-Senghor's unwavering efforts to improve universal access to higher education—particularly for students of under-represented minorities—all while maintaining the high caliber of that very same education to make it worthy of pursuit, rededicate ourselves to do our best to increase both access to and the quality of higher education at Sonoma State University; and finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Academic Senate extend its deepest condolences to all those who will miss Professor Coleman-Senghor's irreplaceable presence, including his students past and present, his colleagues in the faculty and staff of Sonoma State University, and most especially his wife Gabi Schmitz, his children, Akai and Kenya Senghor, Michael Gora-Senghor and Drew Jacoby-Senghor, family, and close friends.

The resolution was approved by acclamation.

*The following is a brief highlighting of the remarks made at the Senate. Readers of these minutes are strongly encouraged to listen to the recording of this section of the meeting to hear the remarks in their entirety. (LH)*

The Chair of the English Department offered personal remarks and noted that a memorial for Bob would be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. The department was still working on the plans. The CFA President offered remarks about Bob as member of CFA and not a member of CFA. Colleagues remarks included that even while disagreeing with Bob, one always felt "he had your back," he was passionate about the history of SSU, he had class and compassion, he was constantly learning and moving forward, he as a prodigious reader and one colleague said that after hearing him speak, it seemed like he had read everything. His student's remarks about his teaching were mentioned and the memorial that was being created at his door in Nicolas Hall was noted to be very moving with testimonials from students. The AS representative offered his experience with Bob during an recent APC meeting and said they he and Bob shared the same vision of what was important to the university and noted his love for the university community, his students and the larger community. A colleague noted the breadth of Bob's learning by sharing his intellectual friendship with Bob around a specific philosopher and his work with Bob on APC as well as Bob's interest in the developmental psychology of young adults. A colleague noted Bob's on-going interest in under-represented groups and access to higher education. Bob was a mentor to many of the advisors in the EOP program and cared about them very much as well as diverse students. He was very inspirational and meant so much to so many students. A colleague spoke to his playful side with many examples. A colleague noted that Bob was the first person to visit him in his office outside of his department when he was first hired, that he loved philosophy and was the most Socratic person he'd ever met. A colleague spoke to a project that was near and dear to Bob's heart – the California Cultural Studies program and how visionary it was. A colleague remarked on Bob's ability to

speak as though it was a prepared speech, but was improvised. The staff rep spoke about her experience with Bob as a professor and the respect and collegiality she felt from him. The Chair said it was no doubt that Bob was a tremendous presence on the Senate and on campus and left a great void.

Applause.

**Adjourned.**

*Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström*