

Senate Executive Committee Minutes
December 4, 2014
3:00 – 5:00, Academic Affairs Conference Room

Abstract

Agenda – Approved. Minutes of 11/13 – Approved. Chair Report. Question for the President. Provost Report. Statewide Senator Report. Request for Posthumous Degree for Kayla Chesser approved for the Senate's consent calendar. Vice Chair Report. Global Studies Major and Minor revisions approved for the Senate's consent calendar. Cultural Resources Management revisions approved for the Senate's consent calendar. Vice President of Administration and Finance Report. From FSAC: Interim criteria for implementing article 20.37 approved. Associated Students Report. GMC Director of Popular Programming and Director of Development search committees. EPC Report. FSAC Report. SAC Report. CFA Report. Union protestors invited to the Senate not approved. Ex Com Rep to the SEC Report. Senate agenda approved. Good of the Order: Resolution Expressing Appreciation and Best Wishes to Vice Chair Terry Lease – approved by acclamation

Present: Terry Lease, Margaret Purser, Maria Hess, Catherine Nelson, Melinda Milligan, Richard Whitkus, Julie Shulman, Laura Watt, Ruben Armiñana, Andrew Rogerson, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Elaine Newman

Absent: Richard J. Senghas, Sam Brannen, Matthew Lopez-Phillips

Guests: Christian George, Jason Wenrick, Sandra Feldman, Rheyyna Laney

T. Lease chaired this meeting as the Chair was out of town.

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Minutes of 11/13 – There was discussion whether the potential nomination of Catherine Nelson as Faculty Trustee was a funny or not. C. Nelson was flattered, but did not think she had the qualifications. The presiding Chair asked the Past Chair to talk further with C. Nelson. **Minutes approved.**

Chair Report – T. Lease for R. Senghas

The Senate Analyst noted that R. Senghas had left a letter to be announced about the campus receiving congratulations for having all their majors at 120 units.

Question for the President

The Past Chair asked where the campus request to the Chancellor for a target increase stood. The President said that in their discussions with the Vice Chancellor they were asked what they would like in the 1% range. They said they wanted 2%. The Vice Chancellor said he would put it forward and the Chancellor would make the decision. The Past Chair clarified that they had previously asked for 8%. The

Provost said they had been asked to choose between .5% and 1%, so they asked for 2%.

Provost Report – A. Rogerson

A. Rogerson reported that registration seemed to be going well. The average student load was 12.87, which was right on target. 300 students had not registered yet. On the admissions side, they had a very healthy application rate of 15,172, which was 5.6% up from last year. The transfer applications were at 4,691 up 8.8%. They were doing better than the systemwide averages. He hoped the freshman class would be at 1800 or just a little less. He said they were accepting applications with an eligibility index of 3200. He said he would be slower to bring that down this year. A member asked if the admissions office knew the percentage of applicants that were at the 3200 level. The Provost said he did not know, but thought that number was not really that high, and thought many applicants were at that level.

Statewide Senator Report – C. Nelson

C. Nelson reported that they would have their December meeting virtually via teleconference for the Statewide Standing Committees. She reported that EO 7415 about the General Education requirements for the “golden four” has reverted back to requiring a C in those courses, which is what the Statewide Senate requested. She hoped that would hold. She also reported on the letter about the campuses that had achieved 120 units in all their majors. Two campuses were delayed because they were moving from the quarter system to the semester system. Other exceptions had been approved, so the Chancellor did not think he would need to convene a faculty to committee to help with this process. The Provost noted that the campus had not officially got there yet. They were still seeing if Engineering could go down to 120. He thought there was some error at the Chancellor’s office.

Request for Posthumous Degree for Kayla Chessier – S. Feldman

S. Feldman noted that the Liberal Studies program in Ukiah had about 40 - 50 majors generally. They had lost Kayla on Halloween. They wanted to award her BA degree and she had been nominated for distinction. She was very close to graduating and they had sent letters affirming that her instructors said she was doing “A” work. The students in the program were reeling. They were doing what they could to get them help in terms of psychological services and anything else they could do. The Past Chair noted that the student clearly met the criteria in the Posthumous Degree policy and since the faculty had nominated her for distinction, this could go on the Senate consent calendar. **It was approved as a consent item for the Senate agenda.** S. Feldman noted that Kayla was exactly the kind of student the Ukiah program was set up for. She had grown up in troubled circumstances and was working her way towards being a dance teacher to take herself out of where she started.

Vice Chair Report – T. Lease

T. Lease asked for input from the Ex Com on the issue of finding faculty to serve on search committees for lower level administrators. He noted faculty for the search for

the Development Officer had to be personally recruited. S&F was discussing having a pool of faculty that was willing to serve on search committees instead of putting out a call for every search. A member thought there might be a workload demand on that pool if there were only three faculty and seven searches. T. Lease thought perhaps the pool could be a back up. A member suggested revisiting the policy to see which committees *required* faculty and which *recommended* faculty. A member suggested to structure it more like jury duty and argued that there should be some sense of responsibility on the part of faculty. T. Lease said he would take this feedback to S&F and they would probably bring something forward in the Spring.

Global Studies Major and Minor revisions – M. Milligan, R. Laney

M. Milligan said these revisions were unanimously approved at the School level and at EPC. She asked R. Laney to describe the revisions. R. Laney said the impetus for the revision was to improve the senior thesis in Global Studies and to orient it more towards a group project. She said that process needed to have more front-loading because students came from different disciplines and did not always have the skills to complete the thesis successfully. There was some discussion. **It was approved for the Senate consent calendar.**

Cultural Resources Management revisions – M. Milligan, L. Watt

M. Milligan said the revisions were approved unanimously at the School level and at EPC. L. Watt said that the change was to bring the catalog copy into line with changes made to the graduate handbook last year. She reviewed some of the specific changes. **It was approved for the Senate consent calendar.**

Vice President of Administration and Finance Report – L. Furukawa-Schlereth

L. Furukawa-Schlereth reported on the progress of the statewide task force on a Sustainable Financial future for the CSU. He said they had met twice. The first meeting was mostly organizational and they affirmed guiding principles. At the second meeting they reviewed how the budget process worked in the CSU. A website had been put of for this task force: <http://www.calstate.edu/financial-future/>. At the next meeting, they would be talking about financial aid, particularly the State University Grants. He said the Chancellor had received a resolution to the Task Force from Fullerton that requested the guiding principles include equalized funding of FTE across the system. (*not available online at the time of these minutes*) He discussed the difference between the funding per FTE across campuses. He said the group was working cooperatively. He was also meeting with people from the SSU campus about the topics of the task force. A member noted that the material that was put down for asbestos abatement in her office was coming apart. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said he would follow up on that. He also said he heard that the furniture was here for the Toast area, but unfortunately, and to his chagrin, S. Brannen was not in attendance. A member asked if there would be a yard sale for the old furniture. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said there was a process for that and he would look into it. He thought the old furniture was pretty rickety at this point.

From FSAC: Interim criteria for implementing article 20.37 – R. Whitkus

R. Whitkus introduced the item by noting that the new CFA contract included a new article, which was rewarding faculty for exceptional levels of service to students. It was to be implemented this year, as well as the next two years. The Ex Com had charged FSAC to come up with criteria for this. Because CFA and the CSU had not provided any clarifying language yet, they were proposing interim criteria. He noted that the timeline factor made the creation of criteria imperative due to the campus scheduling timeline. They would have to do two sets, one for this year and one for next year. They recognized several outstanding issues that may or may not prove to require changes to the criteria. He discussed the procedures and criteria proposed in detail. He said the awards were not to be given for overloads, but rather for work above and beyond regular faculty work. They would only have about 12 – 16 WTUs to award. FSAC was recommending that the Executive Committee approve these criteria, so they could get the word out to faculty. It was clarified that lecturers were eligible for the awards. A member asked whether existing programs were eligible for awards. R. Whitkus said they discussed what they would do if an application for an activity came multiple times. They decided that they would look more favorably on those applications that stated they had an on-going issue and, if they just had more time, could find a solution to it. A member argued that such a perspective did not take into account that the School Dean or Provost might not be able to fix an endemic problem in a department or program, so then what happens? R. Whitkus said that since the money was only for three years anyway, FSAC understood that they would get a broad range of applications, and they knew many faculty were doing extraordinary levels of service. They thought it would be difficult to determine these awards, and thought this was one way to categorize them. Members voiced concerns about this approach while still praising FSAC for their attempt. The President stated he was told that the reason for this new part of the contract was to recognize faculty members who, because of their circumstances (an example being minority faculty), do extraordinary service because they are the only ones with the needed expertise. He thought FSAC's perspective was broader than he understood. R. Whitkus said he would have appreciated the contract language to be more specific. The CFA representative read the article to the Ex Com. R. Whitkus said that this article was about service above and beyond what was normally expected and some faculty might learn in this process what was expected. They would not do denials, they would just run out of money. It was clarified that it was a one-time award on a case-by-case basis.

Motion to approve the interim criteria and direct FSAC to proceed. Second. A suggestion was made to delete the third bullet point in the transmission memo.
Approved.

Associated Students Report – C. George

C. George reported on the AS agenda for the week. They were going to start discussing the reorganization of student government. A resolution would be discussed about opposing cyber harassment. Their Sustainability Senator was bringing forward a resolution that asks for SSU to participate in ASHE stars reporting which was a sustainability report card. Another resolution dealt with the

appropriate lighting for pathways. There was another resolution about divesting from fossil fuels in the University Endowment. All these were in draft form and would just be discussed.

GMC Director of Popular Programming and Director of Development search committees – T. Lease

T. Lease noted that Michael Visser and Gregory Roberts were being recommended for the Director of Development search. **No objection**. For the Student Center Advisory Board, S&F was forwarding a recommendation to go to the Senate – Sarah Dove. **No objection**. For the GMC Director of Popular Programming search, they had four names that came forward. S&F's first thought was to send in all four names. One voice on S&F thought they should send three names forward as a statement about aggregate workload. He asked the Ex Com what they wanted to do. The four were Richard Senghas, Lynn Morrow, Amanda Morrison, Richard Campbell. There was some discussion. **The Ex Com agreed to move all four names forward**.

EPC Report – M. Milligan

M. Milligan said EPC had a packed agenda for their last meeting. They would waive the first reading on items where that was appropriate. They would hear a second reading of the revision to the Psychology major and a first reading on the revision to the Human Development BA. They would have a first reading to the revisions to the business concentrations. They would be reviewing the Electrical Engineering proposal to move to 120 units. This had been held back until they found out whether ES 210 would become a GE course.

FSAC Report – R. Whitkus

R. Whitkus said at their last meeting, they would be hearing a report from the SETE task force about the SETE questions. They would be coming up with their plan for re-writing the RTP policy. They planned to get feedback from the wider community and using that to guide their re-writing.

SAC Report – J. Shulman

J. Shulman said their last meeting was a working meeting to put together all their data about Student Affairs professional positions. She would be meeting with M. Lopez-Phillips over the break to finish that work. The rest of the meeting was a discussion about the reservation process at the new Student Center had become problematic. They were still trying to determine who made those decisions.

CFA Report – E. Newman

E. Newman said her current work was to help implement a campus based equity program. She would probably know more the next week.

Union protestors invited to the Senate?

R. Senghas who was not present put this item on the Ex Com agenda. T. Lease, who was chairing the meeting, argued that it was not appropriate to invite the union that was protesting in front of campus to the Senate as they had not asked to visit and were not protesting SSU. He thought this set a bad precedent. The CFA representative brought it up at the Senate because she had been asked many questions by faculty. It was clarified that CFA had not had any communication with them. There was more discussion. The President said they have asked them and they had no information. He thought they were subcontractors, and the protest was not just happening at SSU. He said he thought it had something to do with which carpenters' union Sundt construction was using, but it was not really clear. The CFA rep offered to go talk to them.

Ex Com Rep to the SEC Report – M. Purser

M. Purser reported that SEC heard a report from J. Baldwin, who had taken two students to a conference about sustainability in higher education. She said they talked about a complicated and exciting process that would help the campus tell how it was doing in terms of sustainability. There was a lot of opportunity for student involvement, for cross campus involvement and the SEC got very excited about the possibility. She thought more information would come through in the Spring.

Senate agenda

AGENDA

Report of the Chair of the Faculty – Richard J. Senghas
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes

Consent Items: Global Studies Major and minor revisions;
Cultural Resources Management MA program revisions
– emailed. Posthumous Degree request for Kayla Chesser –
attached

Information Item: Resolution Expressing Appreciation
and Best Wishes to Vice Chair Terry Lease - attached

BUSINESS

1. Student Center Advisory Board recommendation – S&F rep

There was some discussion about the posthumous degree process.

Approved.

Good of the Order

The past Chair moved that the gavel be given to her for an item that might be a conflict of interest for the Chair. Second. Approved.

Resolution Expressing Appreciation and Best Wishes to Vice Chair Terry Lease

Whereas Dr. Terry Lease has been a valued member of the Sonoma State University faculty since his arrival in 2002, and

Whereas he entered SSU's faculty governance in that very same year, and has served as a member of the Senate (since 2007), a member of the Academic Planning Committee, and the Executive Committee (08-09, 12-13, and 12-14), and

Whereas Dr. Lease has expanded his faculty governance role significantly over the years, and has also served as Chair of the Professional Development Subcommittee, the Graduate Studies Subcommittee, as Secretary of the Senate, and as Vice-Chair of the Senate, and

Whereas in the course of this extensive service Dr. Lease has unfailingly rendered thoughtful commentary and timely procedural advice, all in terms that reflect both a deep respect for the process of governance, and a dry humor at the verbal gymnastics occasionally required to achieve that process, and

Whereas Dr. Lease has successfully transferred his uncanny abilities to manage flocks and herds of various birds and beasts, developed while husbanding his domestic homestead, to the shepherding of an even more unruly species (to wit, faculty)—all without resorting to physical “persuasion,” (yet!)—Therefore be it

Resolved: That the Academic Senate express its deepest gratitude to Dr. Terry Lease for his exemplary service and genuine collegiality, and be it further

Resolved: That the Academic Senate wish Dr. Lease every success in his continuing adventures of imposing order on chaos, academic and otherwise, regardless of venue.

Approved by acclamation and applause.

The Past Chair added the resolution to the Senate agenda. No objection.

Adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Laurel Holmstrom-Keyes