Senate Executive Committee Minutes
October 4, 2012
3:00 – 5:00, Academic Affairs Conference Room

Abstract

Agenda Approved. Minutes delayed. Chair Report. M.A. in Spanish revision approved as Senate consent item. President Report. Posthumous MA degree request for Marcia K. Brown approved for Senate agenda. Questions for the Provost. Vice Chair Report. Proposed GE Experimental Course process and form approved for Senate agenda. MBA revision approved as Senate consent item. Vice President of Administration and Finance Report. EPC Report. Associated Students Report. Senate agenda approved.

Present: Margie Purser, Richard Senghas, Ben Ford, Andy Merrifield, Ruben Armiñana, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Armand Gilinsky, Catherine Nelson, Andrew Rogerson, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Sam Brannen, Terry Lease, Viki Montera, Maria Hess, Karen Thompson

Absent: Deborah Roberts

Guests: Jeffery Reeder, Karin Jaffe, Michael Smith, Anthony Gallino

(*Senate Analyst unexpectedly unable to attend this meeting to record attendance – attendance derived from recording*)

Approval of Agenda – approved

Minutes delayed.

Correspondence – the Chair noted there would be a 30th anniversary celebration for the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Grove at the University and had been asked for $100 donation from the Senate. She noted that Stanislaus had flattered SSU by reproducing verbatim SSU's resolution on the Board of Trustee's Educational Policies Committee Agenda Item (http://www.sonoma.edu/senate/resolutions/OpposeBOTF12.html) as their own. A lively conversation about flattery/plagiarism ensued.

Chair Report – M. Purser

M. Purser asked B. Ford to report on the GMC opening the past weekend. B. Ford said he had attended most of the day and said it was a very good opening, had wonderful concerts and received significant press. He thought the campus still needed to talk about what it means to have this magnificent concert hall at a liberal arts and sciences university. He thought the many of the events that included campus members and members of the philanthropic community gave him hope for broader participation by both groups. He also noted it was great to sing in the Hall. A member noted that it was great to see faculty, staff and students all hanging out together at the Alison Krauss concert and hoped there would be more events that were sponsored so that the SSU community could gather together like that again.

The Chair reported on the ACT meeting that week. They discussed the budget principles from the Senate Budget Subcommittee and SBS would be visiting departments to catalog what people were already doing to cut costs or generate revenue and what they would like to do, but can't. At a minimum, they would be creating a campus wide listserv for department chairs so they can start talking to each other and sharing strategies. There would also be a facilitated event after Thanksgiving that would be an open to the whole campus on Budget issues. The Chair said she would be using the Senate-announce listserv to communicate to faculty about the budget. She reported on the lunchtime conversation during this week and the discussion had gravitated toward leadership at SSU. She said on Oct. 14th conversation, they would have Bruce Berkowitz to talk about intersections between the curriculum and co-curriculum. She reported on the recent President's Diversity Council meeting and praised the new Director of the "Hub," Mark Fabionar.

M.A. in Spanish revision – A. Gilinsky & J. Reeder

A. Gilinsky introduced the item and noted the program was run completely through Extended Education in the summer. They reduced the number of electives, allowing all those to be transferred in from other institutions, and changed the required courses so more could be taken at SSU. There was no change in cost. They had piloted the changes last summer and the students really liked it. The changes had come from program faculty getting feedback from current and prospective students. **Approved as a consent item for the Senate agenda.**

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana reported that the Board of Trustees had appointed Tim White as the new Chancellor. He provided information about the new Chancellor's background and qualifications. There was some discussion about Dr. White.

Time certain reached.

Posthumous MA degree request – K. Jaffe

K. Jaffe said the deceased student, Marcia K. Brown, had received her BA in Iowa and returned to school at SSU and took K. Jaffe Primates class and loved it. She started observing at the SF Zoo for that class and continued her research for two years after that. She gave many presentations on this research and did very well. After she finished her undergraduate degree, she was accepted through ITDS in Biological Anthropology for a Master's Degree. She was "on fire" to continue her research and help save the squirrel monkey population at the Zoo, but passed away before she could finish. The Anthropology department had started undergraduate research opportunities based on the work Marcia started. Marcia had also started a scholarship for students and contributed money for the squirrel monkeys. The Chair noted that they wanted to pursue this so that the family would know how much she had contributed. **Approved to send to the Senate with a positive recommendation**.

Questions for the Provost

A member asked about enrollment. The Provost said the campus was right on target. A member asked what the enrollment pattern would be for the Spring. The Provost said students would be able to enroll up to 16 units right from the beginning.

Vice Chair Report – R. Senghas

R. Senghas reported that S&F recommended the following appointments: Luis Vega for the Director of Seawolf Services search, Michael Smith for the Copeland Creek committee, James Dean and Michael Cohen for the Campus Planning Committee, and Michelle Goman and Suzanne Rivoire for the Web Advisory Committee. **No objections.** He also noted that one of the lecturer Senators had dropped below the eligibility for service and voting, so a call had gone out for a semester replacement. The Chair noted that this situation with lecturers might come up more often, so Structure and Functions was starting to discuss how to manage that.

Proposed GE Experimental Course form – M. Smith

M. Smith introduced the item and said it was codifying a procedure that had previously been more informal. The GE Subcommittee expressed a desire to know more about the content of these courses and wanted a way to communicate that desire to the faculty bringing these courses forward. The EPC Chair said the form had passed EPC with one objection. There was some discussion. It was suggested that the item be titled "GE Experimental Course process and form" on the Senate agenda. **Approved for the Senate agenda.**

Return to Vice Chair Report

A member asked if there was some way the Lecturer Senator currently serving could still continue. The Vice Chair said the voting and service requirements are in the Constitution, so that was hard to change as well as to "waive the rules." Structure and Functions wanted also to wait to discuss how to manage this until after the budget issue was resolved.

MBA revision – A. Gilinsky

A. Gilinsky turned the floor over to T. Lease. T. Lease introduced the item and noted that the department had been working on this revision for two years. He said that it was a part time program and most of their students took two classes a semester in the evening. They wanted to grow the program and the revision would help that move along smoothly. He described the changes in detail. EPC approved it unanimously. There was some discussion regarding increasing class sizes and faculty workload among other comments. **Approved as a consent item for the Senate.**

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

L. Furukawa-Schlereth began by talking about the structural deficit of about $9 million. He said they were working on this problem and thought they had the deficit down to about $5 million. The campus was making good progress on reducing utility costs through sustainability measures that had been taken for the campus and the residence halls. They were talking about moving to a four-day work week during the summer and taking to bargaining units about this idea. He discussed issues arising on the campus, such as smart classrooms needing to be updated and furniture breaking, that were going unaddressed. He said he hoped by the end of the year they would have identified the last $5 million and noted this had nothing to do with the "trigger." He was proud of everyone on campus that had come together to work on this problem. He said the search for an Artistic Director of the GMC had failed and would have to be re-done. He said he had proposed to the Green Music Center Board of Advisors to change the self-support budget of the GMC, to fund $100,000 toward academic collaboration and the Board supported that. One idea was to have a lecture series of Nobel Laureates. A member asked why the search had failed and L. Furukawa-Schlereth said it was hard to find a person who could run a music hall and work well in an academic environment. The President said the pool was very shallow for this search and many lacked experience and success. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said they would be re-working the job description to include artistic and executive duties.

EPC Report – A. Gilinsky

A. Gilinsky reported upcoming business for EPC including the name change for Extended Education.

Associated Students Report – A. Gallino

A. Gallino reported they had an event on Prop. 30 the past week. They were working on resolutions regarding opposition to the elimination of upper division GE and fostering better neighborly connections with M section in Rohnert Park. He noted that students would be appointed to university committees very soon. He appreciated students being invited to the opening of Green Music Center. A member asked if the AS would be taking on the student's fees that the Board would be voting on next month. A. Gallino said they were waiting to see if CSSA wrote anything on those before they drafted their own.

Senate Agenda

AGENDA

Report of the Chair of the Faculty – Margaret Purser
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes – postponed
Correspondences

Information Items: End of Year reports - emailed

Consent Items: Revision to the MA in Spanish, Revision to the MBA – emailed

Special Report – Annual Report on International Programs – T. Alfaro-Velcamp and M. Thigpen (3:45 TC)

BUSINESS

1. GE Experimental Course Process and Form – M. Smith (3:15 TC)

2. Posthumous degree request for Marcia K. Brown – K. Jaffe (3:30 TC)

Approved.

The Chair noted she would not be at the Senate meeting, as she would be attending the CSU Futures conference.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted (and with much appreciation to R. Senghas for recording this meeting) by Laurel Holmstrom