

Academic Senate Minutes

November 13, 2008

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Correspondences. Agenda approved. Minutes of 10/30/08 approved. Learning Outcomes for Area B of the GE program approved. New minor in Jewish Studies approved. President Report. Provost Report. CFA Chapter President Report. Chair Report from Executive Committee and SAEM. Financial report on Athletics. Report from the Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee. Emergency Instructional Funding Resolution – Second Reading. Third WASC Discussion: Closing the Loop on Assessment. Good of the Order.

Present: Scott Miller, Susan Moulton, Tim Wandling, Deb Kindy, Sam Brannen, Noel Byrne, Birch Moonwomon, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Kristen Daley, Ronald Lopez, John Sullins, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Terry Lease, Rick Robison, Tia Watts, Jim Christmann, Cora Neal, Rick Luttmann, Maria Hess, Richard Senghas, John Wingard, James Dean, Lillian Lee, Sandra Shand, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Andy Merrifield, Tristan Kelley, Casey Jones, Whitney McClure, Lane Olson, Art Warmoth, Carmen Works, Sunil Tiwari

Absent: Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Edith Mendez, Brian Wilson, Steve Cuellar, Kathy Morris, Karen Grady, Wanda Boda, Bruce Peterson, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Karen Thompson

Proxies: Susan McKillop for Steve Orlick

Guests: William Babula, Elaine Leeder, Elaine Sundberg, Saeid Rahimi, Barbara Lesch-McCaffry, Elisa Velasquez-Andrade, Nathan Rank, Eva Oliver

Chair Report – S. Miller

S. Miller reported on the first Town Hall Budget meeting for the campus.

Correspondences

S. Miller reported that Statewide Senators are gathering “poignant” anecdotes about the budget impacts on student learning and development. He said he thought stories had power and encouraged everyone to participate. He then turned over the floor to N. Byrne to discuss an “Open Letter to the Senate” from emeritus faculty and Chronicles XI. N. Byrne commended the letter and chronicle to the Senate for serious attention. He noted that the letter requests action from the Academic Senate.

Consent Items

Approval of Agenda – time certain added. *Approved.*

Minutes of 10/30/08 – *Approved.*

Learning Outcomes for GE Area B – *Approved.*

New Minor in Jewish Studies – Second Reading - C. Works, M. Ezra, E. Leeder

C. Works reviewed the questions from the first reading at the Senate and turned the floor over to M. Ezra to answer the questions. M. Ezra addressed issues of academic freedom; clerical support and director support; lecturers designing courses, but not curriculum; and not asking for GE status at this time. E. Leeder spoke to questions of the two schools working together and how the funding will be managed. There was further discussion and comment about the nature of the program and the qualifications of faculty to teach in it. C. Works reminded the body of the motion that passed in EPC regarding the minor – “to approve Jewish Studies as a permanent minor, with condition that it will go through deactivation process if there is not sufficient endowment by the end of the 3-year period that is already funded.”

Vote on New Minor in Jewish Studies – *Approved.*

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana reported on the special session of the legislature called by the Governor about the state budget. They will be considering the Governor’s plan to deal with the state deficit. The proposal, which attempts to balance the state budget, includes about half in budget cuts and half in taxes. He discussed the budget cuts to the CSU and what the figures were for the campus. He discussed the political situation in Sacramento and the LAO’s response to the Governor’s proposal. He noted that the LAO recommends a 5% student fee increase which is above the 10% that is already proposed. He also reported that the Board of Trustees would be discussing system-wide impact for next year. A member asked for clarification about the President’s no lay off of permanent employees policy and whether certain divisions might have less cuts than others. The President responded that he did not plan to lay off permanent employees. He said the campus would have to adjust to that and having less students will help.

Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa reported on the first meeting of the President’s Diversity Council. He reported on the development of an academic technology plan. He asked B. Butler, B. Christie and G. Spear to spearhead this effort and described their work so far. He reported on the ARSC committee and its continuing efforts on accreditation. They plan to have a poster session at WASC’s next visit and have already begun planning for that. He noted perspectives on the accreditation and the importance of campus buy-in for the process. He reported on the last JCAP meeting and its current work. He updated the Senate on the progress of the University Strategic Plan and announced a public campus forum on November 24th. A member asked the Provost about the directive to run shadow courses as the chair of his department was not aware of it. The Provost said courses should be mounted with the money that can be counted on and the shadow sections be opened if the resources are available.

CFA Chapter President – A. Merrifield

A. Merrifield noted an Alliance rally that will take place on Wednesday in the Quad to fax the Governor about the budget cuts to the CSU. The Alliance did this last year and faxed a thousand faxes. He updated the Senate on the Post Promotion Increase program. He also updated the Senate on the re-opening bargaining between the CSU and CFA.

Chair Report from Executive Committee and SAEM

The Chair noted that at the last Executive Committee meeting, the members voted to include the Vice President of SAEM and the CFA Chapter President on the regular report calendar for the Executive Committee and the Senate. He then read a written report from the VP of SAEM that updated the members on events in SAEM.

Financial Report on Athletics – L. Furukawa-Schlereth

L. Furukawa-Schlereth thanked the body for its interest in the Athletics program. He gave a historical overview of how Athletics had been funded. Largely, it had been funded by the general fund. During the early 90's, the general fund was seriously compromised and the students voted to raise their fees to fund Athletics through the Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) program. Later, the students agreed that 67% of the IRA fund would go to Athletics. Eventually, Athletics funding became more difficult for three primary reasons: the increased cost of travel, salary increases and health care costs, and increased regulations associated with the NCAA. These combined to create a deficit in the program of approximately \$600,000. Another challenge is the scholarships that are mandated by the NCAA. That money must be obtained through fundraising as it cannot come from the general fund or student fees. All the coaches are actually fundraising for the scholarships. A long-term strategy they are considering is to allocate the marginal cost formula dollars from growth money that would come, eventually, to administration and finance to SAEM to administer for Athletics. In the meantime, he said Administration and Finance will fund Athletics as they can through salary savings, etc. He then talked about building an endowment for the scholarships portion of the Athletics program. There were a few questions.

Motion to change agenda move time certain for last item by 10 minutes. Second. No objection.

Report from the Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee – B. Lesch-McCaffry and E. Velasquez-Andrade

B. Lesch-McCaffry announced that the committee would hold their first open forum for students on diversity next week. L. Furukawa-Schlereth came to their last meeting to ask for input on where the Center for Gender, Culture and Sexuality should go. They plan to discuss that further at their next meeting. E. Velasquez-Andrade discussed the three diversity committees currently functioning on campus, shared her analysis of what aspects of the charges were shared by the committees and how they can avoid duplicating effort. There were comments from the body.

Emergency Instructional Funding Resolution – Second Reading – B. Moonwomon

B. Moonwomon articulated the changes to the resolution since the first reading and argued its importance. A member voiced his dissent for the resolution. A member asked if it was feasible to reduce the salaries of administrators earning over \$100,000 a year. The President said no, he did not think so and offered legal reasons. A member suggested that a lecturer representative attend the Senate Budget Committee and that the resolution be re-worked to offer solutions everyone can agree on. Time certain reached.

Third WASC Discussion: Closing the Loop on Assessment – S. Miller

S. Miller read from the WASC report regarding assessment activities on campus and how they inform the development of the curriculum. He further discussed his understanding of WASC's concern. He introduced E. Sundberg, C. Works and N. Rank who would all be speaking to this issue. C. Works spoke about the evolution of Program Reviews and described the process for departments, EPC and her understanding of what happens once the letter from EPC goes to the Provost's office. She noted that departments are frustrated about what happens next after the program review. She described common needs among departments who have completed program reviews: faculty, space, computers, more smart classrooms and different aspects of technology. E. Sundberg spoke about the agreements between the Provost, the Deans and the Departments directed towards "closing the loop." She spoke about department annual assessments. She described the meaning and process of creating the categories for "stage of program assessment" - beginning, developing, competent. She thought updating this data would show WASC what departments have moved and where Academic Affairs can offer assistance for departments struggling with certain elements. She noted the program reviews could help departments make rational decisions on the future of their departments. There was substantial discussion. *(Please listen to the digital recording for this discussion – LH)*

Good of the Order

The Chair requested a moment of silence for Mel Graves, a long time faculty member of the Music Department, who passed away the previous Saturday.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström