

Academic Senate Minutes
March 11, 2010
3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Approval of Agenda. Minutes of 2/25/10 approved. MSCES curriculum revision – approved. Solano Program – approved. President Report. Provost Report. Update of FSAC portion of the By-Laws approved. Vice President of Administration and Finance Report. Vice President of SAEM Report. Associated Students Report. Periodic Review of Temporary Faculty Policy – First Reading. Resolution Opposing Expansion of WalMart in Rohnert Park – approved. Arts and Humanities GE reform proposal – First Reading. CFA Report. Chair-Elect Report. APC Report. EPC Report. FSAC Report.

Present: Susan Moulton, John Wingard, Scott Miller, Deb Kindy, Sam Brannen, Edith Mendez, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, John Sullins, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Mutombo M'Panya, Terry Lease, Florence Bouvet, Paula Lane, Rick Robison, Tia Watts, Michael Cohen, Karin Jaffe, James Dean, Maria Hess, Margie Purser, Sandra Shand, Lillian Lee, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Andy Merrifield, Jenny Tice, Matt McCarty, Dolores Bainter, Art Warmoth, Carmen Works, Richard Senghas, Derek Girman

Proxies: Ben Ford for Cora Neal, Steve Orlick for Laura Watt, Edie Brown for Jacqueline Holley, Matt Benney for Matthew Lopez-Phillips

Absent: Catherine Nelson, Robert McNamara, Noel Byrne, John Kornfeld, Nick Geist, Wanda Boda

Guests: Isabel Love, Elaine Sundberg, Elaine Leeder, Barbara Butler, Paul Kaplan, Danielle Bruns, Rick Luttmann, Tim Wandling, Ben Bayre

Chair Report – S. Moulton

S. Moulton reported that the Statewide Chairs were talking about diversity, program mergers, eliminations and the structures for enrollment management committees. She noted the predicted increase in student fees at the college level and that 1.2 billion dollars was needed to service all the students wanting admissions to the CSU and UC by 2019. She questioned the Vice President of Administration and Finance about why the cost of Senate meetings had risen about twice as much and no food was being provided. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said that did not sound correct and that he would look into it. She noted the Chair of the Senate Budget Committee had received an anonymous packet of information and she asked the VP of A&F if he could comment on a particular position that appeared to be interim, but received a large salary increase. The VP of A&F agreed to the Chair's request.

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Minutes of 2/25/10 – amended and approved. (please remember to sign in)

The Chair reminded the body to vote in the Senate election.

Consent items:

MSCES curriculum revision – approved.
Solano Program – approved.

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana reported that the campus had received full accreditation from WASC for the full ten years. He noted the report from CPEC that the Chair referred to regarding the student need in the future for higher education. He said there was no news on the budget.

Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa followed up on the WASC accreditation and thought the campus should feel good about the re-accreditation. He noted WASC was asking for an interim report in November of 2012 addressing three topics: undergraduate retention and graduation, progress towards the accountability loop in assessment and program review, and progress in rejuvenating and assessing general education. He reviewed the timeline for the next re-accreditation cycle. He said the accreditation letter echoed the comments from the final report of the team. He noted they were asking the faculty to be explicit about learning outcomes and include them in syllabi. He discussed the graduation initiative and noted that the campus had to send monthly reports on progress to the Chancellors. He thought Dean Rahimi was doing a good job on the next phase of the initiative and was reaching out to more segments of the campus. He noted he had just attended the national meeting for the American Council on Education, the umbrella organization for all higher education organizations in the United States.

(<http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home>) He remarked that the interest in graduation rates and closing the achievement gap was a national conversation. He noted that the United States was losing ground in education. The current generation of college students, for the first time in U. S. history, would be less educated than the preceding generation. He thought the CSU was very in tune with what the rest of the U.S. was doing. The Chair asked if the two-phase re-accreditation was just for SSU or for everyone. The Provost responded that it appeared to come from WASC's experience with the two-phase process. The CFA President criticized aspects of how the CSU was going about the process of improving graduation rates and closing the achievement gap. He argued for quality in education to be explicit rather than implicit. He specifically asked the Provost and the President if they thought faculty were an inherent impediment to increasing the graduation rates of students. The Provost responded no, they did not think that. A member voiced concerned about whether students who have reached 120 units are really as educated as they ought to be. He also noted the power of mentoring to keep students in college until graduation and voiced concerns about the issue of "super seniors" and wanted to know how many students had actually been graduated by

having 120 units. The Provost responded about national conversations about the value of quality vis-à-vis the No Child Left Behind act. He noted all states, except Texas and Alaska, had recently agreed on a baseline standard of preparation for college and that they were focusing on learning outcomes. The President reiterated that the administration did not think the faculty were an impediment to graduation. He thought there were structures in the educational continuum that were impediments, such as transfer work between universities or community colleges.

Update of FSAC portion of the By-Laws – First Reading – R. Senghas

R. Senghas provided an introduction to FSAC's update of their charge and membership in the Senate by-laws.

Motion to waive first reading. Second. Approved.

Motion to amend phrase "Student Affairs" in membership to "Student Services Professionals." Second. Approved.

Vote on FSAC by-laws change – Approved.

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

L. Furukawa-Schlereth reported that J. Wenrick would be interim CIO for the campus since the retirement of S. Scalise. J. Wenrick had been heading up CMS implementation for the last several years. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said he would not back fill J. Wenrick's position and wanted to deploy those resources to the faculty workstation refresh program. He noted S. Zito had been appointed to Director of Payroll and Benefits. He noted that the SSU Chief of Police, N. Johnson, was also leaving to become the Statewide Chief of Police in the CSU. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said he did not know yet how that position would be filled. He then reported on the status of scholarships and the process that still needed to be completed before the final figure for money for scholarships would be known. He reported on his visit with the Students for Quality Education on March 4th. He noted they talked about many points and the one coalescing seemed to be the name of the Customer Service center. He appreciated all the faculty input and noted that the ASI needed to be consulted and he hoped a consensus around a new name would emerge soon.

Vice President of SAEM Report – M. Benny for M. Lopez-Phillips

M. Benny reported on the changes to Seawolf Decision day to tie it to the campus diversity initiatives to help under-represented groups feel more welcome. He welcomed everyone to the event. J. Tice noted that M. Olson, the Conduct Officer and part time coordinator of the CCGS was leaving and wanted to make the Senate aware of that.

Associated Students Report – J. Tice

J. Tice reported that the ASI had a visit by representatives of CSSA. They spoke about public relations initiatives they were undertaking. One was focusing on how

much of the California workforce comes from the CSU. She noted that the ASI was currently having a conversation about whether they can keep funding external programs. She passed around a list of the programs from ASP so the Senators could see what they fund. A member asked how much support ASI gave to the Tutorial Center.

Periodic Review of Temporary Faculty Policy – First Reading - R. Senghas

R. Senghas noted that FSAC had cleaned up the policy to make sure it conformed with the CBA and that it was internally consistent. They also wanted to make the process easier to do. He noted a one page form that was included that would not be required, but would include everything in the policy. He then noted substantive changes such as temporary faculty contributions to the community could be included in an evaluation. There were questions about specifics of the review process at the department level regarding criteria for temporary faculty, department chair review, committee review and timetables.

First reading completed.

Resolution Opposing Expansion of Walmart in Rohnert Park – N. Byrne

N. Byrne introduced the resolution and turned over the floor to R. Luttmann who provided the rationale for the resolution. R. Luttmann put the resolution in the context of town/gown relations and argued for the Senate's authority to take action on such a matter. He argued that a Walmart Super Center would have a detrimental effect on the local economy. He introduced a guest, Danielle Bruns, who was an alumni of SSU and a lifetime resident of Rohnert Park. She discussed the specifics of the probable effect of an expansion of Walmart would have on the Rohnert Park community.

Motion to waive the first reading. Second. Approved.

There was discussion that included Walmart's reputation on human rights, what kind of clientele Walmart would attract, that Santa Rosa communities refused Walmart, that low cost groceries did not exist in Rohnert Park on the same level as a Super Center would, whether studies were done to show that there would be a negative effect on the labor market, how much money goes out of the local community, that there was strong evidence Walmart had made a pact with the devil, what evidence there was that Walmart Super Centers benefited communities, Walmart's reputation as being hostile to unions and workers, that the Senate should not vote until people had more time to research the facts and make a considered decision, that Walmart had supported anti-education measures.

The question was called. Second. No objection.

Vote on the resolution – approved

Resolution Opposing the Expansion of Walmart in Rohnert Park

Be It Resolved:

That the Sonoma State University Academic Senate opposes the expansion of the Rohnert Park Walmart into a SuperCenter because of the adverse effect this expansion will have on the community in which Sonoma State University is located. Furthermore, the Academic Senate strongly urges the Rohnert Park City Council not to approve Walmart's proposal to expand.

Arts and Humanities GE reform proposal – First Reading - C. Works, T. Wandling, T. Stearns

C. Works noted the memo in the packet from EPC that pointed out the three things that would be voted on - 1) waiving the 3 unit standard for all Arts and Humanities GE courses; 2) take the seven areas in Areas A and C, and combine them into five areas; 3) reduce all GE units from 51 to 50. She noted that there was one objection in the GE subcommittee and that EPC had approved it unanimously. She suggested waiving the first reading. She then gave the floor to T. Wandling who was leading the proposed change from A&H. He noted that A&H was interested in improving the first year experience. He said that this general proposal needed to be approved first and then the GE subcommittee would re-work the learning outcomes and then new course proposals could start to come through EPC.

Highlights of the discussion; arguments against waiving the first reading due to the complexity of the proposal, concerns that the proposal may be motivated by the budget situation, concerns that students will not have the breadth of offerings if A1 is eliminated, and implementation questions. T. Wandling spoke about the various bodies that has worked on the proposal and approved it. Other specific questions were asked about the potential affect of the changes and articulation issues. T. Stearns encouraged the Senators to give the proposal close scrutiny and thought the document answered many of the concerns expressed.

First reading completed.

CFA Report – A. Merrifield

A. Merrifield reported on the Walk-Out rally on March 4th that was part of a nationwide movement. He thought it was one of the largest rallies on campus he'd seen. He described some of the media coverage. He also noted sympathetic rallies outside the U.S. He thanked all the faculty and students who worked so hard. He then reported on the collective bargaining re-opener, lobbying activities of CFA and the process of fact-finding currently on-going. He noted that CFA was watching the graduation initiative closely and that March 4th was just the beginning of actions for higher education.

Chair-Elect Report – J. Wingard

J. Wingard encouraged all faculty to vote in the election. He noted there were several contested races. He hoped to have the Diversity Committee issue brought back to the Senate very soon. A member asked about S&F's deliberations about JCAP. J. Wingard noted they sent a memo to the Provost asking that the Chairs of Standing Committees be on the invitation list for JCAP to attend when issues concerning their committees came up and that they could also extend an invitation to subcommittee Chairs, if appropriate. The member further asked for clarification on authority in JCAP. J. Wingard deferred to A. Warmoth, Chair of APC.

APC Report – A. Warmoth

A. Warmoth provided a brief history of the joint relationship between APC and JCAP. He said initially the Provost asked APC to join with himself and the Dean's Council to work on planning issues. The main item on the table at that time was a revision to the Academic Affairs Strategic plan. The APC functioned as a consultative relationship between faculty and administration. He thought most of the members had felt the conversation was constructive. When something comes out of JCAP, it would go to APC to be formally considered and then APC would then recommend (or not) to the Senate. Currently, the improving graduation rates initiative was at the forefront of JCAP. JCAP had constituted a curricular planning and innovation workgroup to look at the 6 year planning process from the perspective of faculty governance and Academic Affairs. He described other activities of JCAP related to the graduation initiative and the need for buy-in for various initiatives. A member noted that the initiative for JCAP actually came from a WASC comment that SSU had too many planning committees. He asked who had the authority to make planning decisions and noted that APC was charged with bringing decisions to the Senate. There was further discussion about JCAP and the graduation initiative. A. Warmoth discussed the charge of APC regarding decision-making authority. There was a call for S&F to create a written structure for joint faculty governance and administrative committees. There was comment that APC was dealing with crises all the time and had never been able to get to real academic planning issues.

EPC Report – C. Works

C. Works encouraged everyone to read carefully the A&H proposal and noted how much time had been spent on the proposal in the GE subcommittee and in EPC.

FSAC Report – R. Senghas

R. Senghas reported that during a discussion of the Moodle transition, FSAC noted that SSU did not have a blended/online course policy and would be talking to the Executive Committee about how to proceed with that. They were looking at the Time/Place/Manner policy and reported that the Academic Freedom subcommittee had finally been brought into the discussion. He said FSAC wanted to know why AFS had not been contacted sooner. He also said they had become aware of a proposal for interim administrators to be moved into permanent appointments and

noted the various issues with appointments versus a search from a faculty perspective. There was further discussion about the Time/Place/Manner policy.

The parliamentarian noted that the body had only approved the resolved clauses in the Walmart resolution

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega