

## Academic Senate Minutes

October 30, 2008

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

### Abstract

Agenda amended and approved. Minutes of 10/2 and 10/16 approved. Provost Report. Resolution Condemning Hate Crimes. Proposal for New Minor in Jewish Studies – First Reading. Chair-Elect Report. Statewide Senators Report. Special Report: The Athletics Program. Emergency Instructional Funding Resolution (resolution from the floor). CFA President Report. Good of the Order.

**Present:** Susan Moulton, Tim Wandling, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Edith Mendez, Birch Moonwoman, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Kristen Daley, John Sullins, Robert Coleman –Senghor, Brian Wilson, Terry Lease, Kathy Morris, Rick Robison, Tia Watts, Jim Christmann, Rick Luttmann, Wanda Boda, Steve Orlick, Maria Hess, Richard Senghas, John Wingard, James Dean, Lillian Lee, Sandra Shand, Bruce Peterson, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Andy Merrifield, Lane Olson, Art Warmoth, Carmen Works, Karen Thompson, Tristan Kelley

**Absent:** Scott Miller, Ronald Lopez, Steve Cuellar, Cora Neal, Ruben Armiñana, Casey Jones, Whitney McClure

**Proxies:** Debora Roberts for Deb Kindy and Izabella Kanaana for Sam Brannen

**Guests:** Susan McKillop, Barbara Lesch-McCaffry, Elaine Leeder, William Babula, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Steven Winter, Duane Dove, Bill Fusco, Yvonne Burbank, Michael Ezra, Derek Pierre

**Approval of Agenda – Motion to postpone to 12/4 the item concerning change to the by-laws to allow student votes on APC, EPC and SAC and their subcommittees. Second. Discussion. Vote – Approved. Motion to add resolution from the floor: Emergency Instructional Funding. Second. Approved.**

**Minutes of 10/2 and 10/16 – Approved.**

### Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa reported on the progress of the enrollment modifications to limit students in first and second registration to 16 units. During the add / drop period, the limit will return to 20 units. Some specific groups of students will be exempt due to the nature of their programs. Petitions will be required for students wanting to take over 17 units in those programs. During the add / drop period, class sizes will have hard limits. This process is meant to distribute equitably the small number of classes the campus expects to have. He then discussed the political situation, possible mid year cuts and how Spring enrollment would be managed.

## **Resolution Condemning Hate Crimes – C. Nelson**

C. Nelson introduced the resolution. She said the resolution condemns the vandalism of Safe Zone stickers from faculty offices and she discussed the activities that have occurred since the vandalism was reported. She summarized the resolved clauses.

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

**Motion to amend: Resolved that the SSU Academic Senate strongly urges that the Senate Ad Hoc Diversity Committee give this matter its immediate and full attention by holding an open forum on the issue and sharing the results with the Senate. . . Second. Approved.**

**Motion to delete “especially our GLBTQ students” in the third resolved clause. Second. Discussion. Motion to amend the amendment to change “students” to “community.” No second. Motion to amend the amendment and only change “especially” to “including.” Second. Vote on motion to amend. Approved.**

Suggestion to spell out GLBTQ for the historical record.

**Motion that the sixth clause be removed and brought back as separate motion. No second.**

**Motion to change “thanks” to “commend” in the second resolved clause. Second. Approved.**

**Vote on amended resolution with correction of typos – Approved.**

## **Resolution Condemning Hate Crimes Against Members of the Campus Community**

*Submitted by: Scott Miller, Chair of the Faculty, Catherine Nelson, Statewide Senator, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate; Co-sponsored by the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity*

Resolved: That the Sonoma State University (SSU) Academic Senate condemns recent acts of vandalism against faculty colleagues targeted because of their support for issues related to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning community; and be it further

Resolved: That the SSU Academic Senate commends President Armiñana for his October 26, 2008 condemnation of these acts as hate crimes; and be it further

Resolved: That the SSU Academic Senate takes seriously its commitment to a safe campus environment for all members of the campus community, including our GLBTQ students; and be it further

Resolved: That the SSU Academic Senate strongly urges that the President’s Diversity Council and senior campus administrators give this matter their immediate and full

attention, and work together to develop a campus-wide response to these acts; and be it further

Resolved: That the SSU Academic Senate strongly urges that the Senate Ad Hoc Diversity Committee give this matter its full attention by holding a forum on the issue and sharing the results with the Senate, senior campus administrators, and the President's Diversity Council;

Resolved: That the SSU Academic Senate reaffirms its May 2006 "Resolution Regarding the New Gender and Cultures Center;" and be it further

Resolved: That the SSU Academic Senate calls upon the Administration to reinstitute a campus-wide training program for faculty, staff and students on issues related to diversity and to create a campus-wide position with diversity as its primary portfolio.

### **Rationale**

For the last decade, the Sonoma State University Academic Senate has taken a strong stand against discrimination and hate crimes.<sup>1</sup> This resolution continues that tradition. On October 24, 2008, Professor Robert McNamara reported to the campus community via the Academic Senate listserv "Senate-talk," that he had been targeted with acts of anti-gay vandalism, which included the removal from his office door of a "No on Proposition 8" poster (the November 2008 California ballot initiative to create a constitutional amendment that would deprive same sex partners their currently protected constitutional right to marry), and "Safe Zone" stickers expressing support and safe haven for GLBTQ members of the campus community. The stickers were removed a total of five times. Other members of the campus community report similar acts. At its October 23, 2008 meeting, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate charged Chair Miller with preparing a resolution condemning these acts of vandalism. On October 24, 2008, President Armiñana issued a statement expressing his concern about these hate crimes, and urging the Senate Ad Hoc Committee and the President's Diversity Council to turn their attention to this matter. At its initial meeting on October 27, 2008, the newly formed Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity requested that it be added to the resolution as a co-sponsor (pending confirmation). Given that over the past twenty years, Campus Climate Committee reports of surveys of faculty, staff and students have noted a higher level of concern among members of the GLBTQ community than any other underrepresented group on campus in terms of their experience at Sonoma State, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate believes that it is imperative that the Senate take a strong stand condemning these hate crimes, and that immediate and sustained action be taken by the University to create and maintain a safe environment for our GLBTQ students, faculty and staff.

*Approved by the Senate October 23, 2008*

<sup>1</sup>. See, for example:

4/24/08 Reaffirmation of University Policy on Non-Discrimination and Recommended Action Regarding Blood Banks

4/24/08 Combating Hate Crimes at Sonoma State University

10/25/07 Reaffirmation of University Policy on Discrimination Regarding Military Advertising

5/11/06 Resolution Regarding New Gender and Cultures Center

12/16/04 Resolution in Support of Boycotting Holt, Reinhart and Winston and Glencoe/McGraw-Hill Publishers  
5/20/04 Endorsement of Campus Climate Committee Statement on Same-Sex Marriage  
9/18/03 Resolution Opposing Proposition 54, the Racial Privacy Initiative  
3/12/99 Resolution Regarding Military Recruiters on Campus

### **Proposal for New Minor in Jewish Studies – First Reading – C. Works**

C. Works introduced the proposal from the AMCS department and M. Ezra for a new minor in Jewish Studies. She described it as a multidisciplinary program and noted it was unusual for a minor as it will be funded by external sources. EPC approved the minor in Jewish Studies as a permanent minor with the stipulation that it be deactivated if the endowment was not sufficient within three years. She noted the concerns raised in EPC and described the details of the budget. There were questions and discussion. First reading completed.

### **Chair Elect Report – S. Moulton**

S. Moulton reported that Structure and Functions recommended Scott Severson and Michael Visser to the Campus Planning Committee and asked for the Senate's approval. **Moved, seconded and approved.**

### **Statewide Senators Report – C. Nelson and R. McNamara**

R. McNamara reported that the Faculty Standards committee of the Statewide Senate is bringing forward a resolution about MPP hires versus faculty hires and protecting instruction in times of economic restraints. He also reported that he researched all the campuses and no one is doing faculty exit surveys. They will be working on implementing such a program CSU wide. C. Nelson reported the CSU will be sending a report to the legislature about how the budget cuts are affecting the CSU and the Statewide Fiscal and Governmental Affairs committee is seeking detailed narratives, particularly from Department Chairs, about how the budget cuts are impacting specific departments. She asked Senators to send their emails to her and she will pass them along to the committee. T. Wandling offered to also receive the emails to give to the local Senate Budget Committee.

### **Return to Provost Report questions**

Questions continued regarding the 16-unit cap on students and more details were provided about the budget cuts. A Senator asked for a definition of hard limits on class sizes. The Provost provided background to the question and said the limits would drive students to the course with open seats. A Senator asked about students being advised into University courses. The Provost said they had revisited University courses and decided they do not need to be offered for credit which cleared up a lot of issues.

### **Special Report: The Athletics Program – D. Dove, B. Fusco, Y. Burbank. L. Furukawa-Schlereth**

L. Furukawa-Schlereth introduced all the presenters. B. Fusco, the Athletics Director; Y. Burbank, the Senior Women's Administrator; and D. Dove, the Faculty

Representative required under the NCAA regulations. B. Fusco expressed his appreciation to present to the Senate. D. Dove explained his role as the faculty academic representative for the NCAA. He described the rigorous academic requirements for student athletes before and after entrance to college. He noted the academic achievements of student athletes. B. Fusco and Y. Burbank discussed the three things they focus on in Athletics – Academic Achievement, Competitive Excellence and Community Service. They discussed the nature of the NCAA Division II and their California Conference. They described the intercollegiate teams, the number of students participating and scholarship opportunities for athletes. They highlighted particular student athletes and their academic and athletic achievements. The financial report from L. Furukawa-Schlereth was postponed. Questions and comments were offered from the Senators. It was clarified that students should not be missing class for athletic practice.

**Emergency Instructional Funding Resolution (resolution from the floor) - B. Moonwomon**

B. Moonwomon introduced the resolution and reviewed the whereases and resolved clauses. It was noted by a member that the Senate is an advisory body for fiscal matters and cannot direct monies specifically. The Senate leadership can take the message to the administration if the Senate approves the resolution. A source was requested for the second example provided in the resolution. It was questioned what Student Affairs positions were “essential.” Examples were requested for the term “poor fiscal management.”

Time certain reached.

**CFA President Report – A. Merrifield**

A. Merrifield provided evidence that the Chancellor sent \$31.3 million voluntarily to the Department of Finance. He referred Senators to <http://www.calfac.org/Oct08cuts.html>. He reported on current concerns in CFA. He reported on the schedule for the re-opener bargaining meetings. He reported on CFA’s Affirmative Action committee Diversity Workshop. He updated the Senators about the PPI program implementation.

Further comments were offered on the Emergency Instructional Funding Resolution.

**Good of the Order**

S. Moulton announced an art gallery opening that evening and invited the Senators to attend.

***Adjourned.***

*Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström*