

Academic Senate Minutes

December 1, 2011

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Announcement from SAEM. Provost Report. Chair-Elect Report. Revision to the Priority Registration Policy – Approved. Associated Students Report. Statewide Senator Report. Special Report: The Green Music Center and SSU's Academic Mission. Resolution Regarding Suspension of CSU Online Initiative – Approved. CFA Report. FSAC Report. Resolution Regarding Protest at the University – First Reading. EPC Report. SAC Report. Good of the Order.

Present: Ben Ford, Margaret Purser, John Wingard, Terry Lease, Catherine Nelson, Brian Wilson, Rick Luttmann, Sam Brannen, Steve Wilson, Helmut Wautischer, Jim Robison, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Mutombo M'Panya, John Urbanski, Florence Bouvet, Karen Brodsky, Tom Buckley, Jean Chan, Sharon Cabaniss, Matty Mookerjee, Noel Byrne, Laura Watt, Sandra Shand, Marisa Thigpen, Edie Brown, Andrew Rogerson, Andy Merrifield, Paul Ramey, Amanda Burke, Dolores Bainter, Kelly Estrada, Armand Gilinsky, Richard Senghas, Jennifer Mahdavi

Absent: Deborah Roberts, Marco Calavita, Parissa Tadrissi, Janet Hess, Michael Cohen, Don Romesburg, Phil Brownell, Ruben Armiñana, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Emily Hurd

Guests: Anthony Gallino, Elaine Sundberg, Jeff Langley, Robert Cole

Chair Report – B. Ford

B. Ford announced that a call for participants for the poster session at the Faculty Retreat would be going out very soon. The Retreat would be held in the Teaching and Learning Center in the Library. He reported on the committee to write a letter regarding alleged improprieties during the student referendum process. The committee had identified and written letters to three entities and so far had received no response. He said they were working on it and noted that the only affirmative response they had gotten was from a retired ombudsman who would do the work pro bono if expenses were paid. A member asked for the theme of the Retreat. The Chair said the theme was "Collaborating for Tomorrow" as collaboration was the idea that was surfacing in the academic story conversations.

Announcement from SAEM – E. Brown

E. Brown announced that SAEM had hired a new career counselor, Anya Bergman and described her qualifications. They were very happy to have her. She invited everyone to stop by and introduce themselves to her.

Approval of Agenda – motion to add resolution: Resolution regarding Protest and the University – approved. Motion to substitute revised resolution regarding suspension

of CSU Online Initiative – approved as first reading. A member voiced concern about not receiving the agenda 48 hours in advance and having these two business items come directly to the Senate. The Chair said it was his understanding that items could be offered from the floor. **Agenda approved.**

Minutes of 11/10 delayed.

Provost Report – A. Rogerson

A. Rogerson reported that the Director of Institutional Research had moved on and they would begin a search for that position soon. He reported that registration seemed to be moving along well except for the hiccup due to issues with PeopleSoft. He said as of an hour previous the average unit load was 8.05 for all students registered. A member asked about the course University 238 which had been cancelled and asked for the reason. The Provost said the reason it was cancelled was due to money and that they had prioritized offering courses that students needed to graduate. He noted that while they had cancelled the course, they had not cancelled the training. He said the Director of Undergraduate Studies was working on the training and would be asking students what they wanted that 238 had provided. He thought they could do it better as a workshop.

Chair-Elect Report – M. Purser

M. Purser gave an update on the election for search committee positions. She noted which search committee needed more nominations and that the deadline for nomination was the next day.

Revision to the Priority Registration Policy – Second Reading – J. Mahdavi

J. Mahdavi noted a few changes made based on the first reading. No discussion.
Vote on revision to the Priority Registration policy – Approved.

Associated Students Report – P. Ramey

P. Ramey thanked the faculty, staff and administrators who supported the students in their protest prior to Thanksgiving. He discussed two resolutions passed by the AS Senate – one to ask the University to consider composting food scraps and the other was regarding the 16 unit cap. He said a substantial portion of the unit cap resolution had been handled.

Statewide Senators Report – B. Wilson, C. Nelson

B. Wilson reported that they were concerned that the Statewide Academic Senate would not continue due to budget consideration. C. Nelson said the Statewide Senate had a short fall and was looking at reducing assigned time. She noted the disappointment that the Chancellor's office did not see faculty governance as a priority. The CFA rep said this was an outstanding example of the warped priorities of CSU management and their utter and complete contempt for faculty governance. He suggested a resolution was in order condemning the idea that they would underfund the Statewide Senate.

Special Report: The Green Music Center and SSU's Academic Mission – J. Langley and R. Cole

The Chair introduced J. Langley and noted that it had been seven years since the Senate had a report on the Green Music Center (GMC). J. Langley thanked the Senate for the opportunity to report and introduced Robert Cole who had worked at Berkeley for 23 years building Cal Performances. J. Langley described how R. Cole had come to work for SSU. He noted the handouts that had been passed out which listed the uses of the venue itself, provided a list of how the space could be used academically and outlined a preliminary calendar of the opening season. He discussed the opening season in detail. He talked about the mission of the GMC – Aim High, Reach Wide, Educate All and the on-going events planned so far. He described the recent donors Sanford and Joan Weill whose contribution was completing the main hall of the GMC. He noted they were leading philanthropists and that Sanford Weill was on the Board of Carnegie Hall. The Weills had been excited that the GMC was at a public university. He noted the GMC had new consultants for public relations and marketing. He said that a “Hollywood bowl” style venue was being designed and would be the venue to bring back the SSU summer festival. He noted that the GMC was meant to be a cultural hub for SSU and the community. A member asked if the season would include dance or music from an ethnic group and comment on the tension between Aim High and Reach Wide. J. Langley noted that excellence should never be let go, even when reaching wide. He also noted that excellence was relative. A member asked if the GMC would be working with high school groups or community colleges. J. Langley said the Weill Institute created at Carnegie Hall had visited them and that Institute was created to help underserved students in high schools. He said the Weill Institute was hoping to partner with them for schools in Sonoma County. A member asked about the financial capability of the GMC, if there was any data to support that notion that people would attend and what was needed to make the GMC self-sufficient. R. Cole responded that his goal was to organize the program for the first year and he was certain people would want to come because of the high quality of the artists. He noted it was not about selling tickets, but about writing checks. It was important to have the kind of programming that people wanted to support. He said he had built a strong Board at Cal Performances that helped support that program and he thought that could work for the GMC. A member discussed her role on the Board of the Sonoma County Youth Development organization in Rohnert Park and said the Weill Institute programs would compete with their idea to provide an arts based after school program or camp. She asked how the GMC program would actively reach out to long-standing community groups that serve low income and poor families. She also noted that the city of Rohnert Park is very excited about the opening of the GMC for the benefits to the city. R. Cole responded that reaching out to collaborate with community groups was in their plan. He said that currently they did not have a full staff yet to do all the things they wanted to do. He noted that they wanted the GMC to be a international summer destination. J. Langley said that they wanted to be a model of arts education in a community and he said they had built a magnificent hall that may have the best acoustics in the world. First, they had to get the building built and then the programming and outreach could start. A member commented that he did not think that the mission of SSU was to entertain the community and noted that when he started at SSU he wondered where the school

band was. J. Langley said the campus had a symphonic wind ensemble that had grown from 10 people to 80 people under the leadership of B. Wilson. He said music was not just entertainment. The students studying music were artists and while art and entertainment were not exclusive, creating art was different. He thought this was an important part of an arts and sciences university. R. Cole said he noticed that at SSU the performing arts faculty were very collaborative. A member asked how the staff for the GMC were paid. J. Langley said he did not know specifically how people were being paid and said that L. Furukawa-Schlereth was slowly putting more people on the staff, but they just didn't have enough people at this point to run the Hall for 365 days a year. R. Cole described the staffing currently and noted they were mostly part time. A member asked if she would be able to get tickets for the performances. J. Langley said there would be single tickets for most performances and that subscribers would not fill the Hall at this point. A member asked about the events being affordable for students. R. Cole responded that he wanted to offer half price tickets to students and they wanted to help students get to the performances. J. Langley noted that due to the IRA fees, all music department concerts and plays were free to students and that would not change. J. Langley offered to take any faculty on a tour of the Hall. The Chair thanked the presenters. Applause.

Resolution Regarding Suspension of CSU Online Initiative – First Reading (due to substitution) – K. Estrada

K. Estrada introduced the substitute resolution from APC regarding calling for the suspension of the CSU Online Initiative which was created at the request of the Senate at a previous meeting. APC had approved the substitute. A member asked if the format of the resolution was correct since the Senate had changed to just having resolved clauses and a rationale instead of whereas clauses.

Motion to waive the first reading. Second. There was discussion. The Chair ruled that the vote would be on the two resolved clauses only. **Approved.**

Motion to amend the first sentence of the first resolved clause to be: "Resolved that the Academic Senate of Sonoma State University join other CSU campuses. . ."
Second. There was discussion. **Approved.**

Motion to amend "Statewide Faculty Senate" to "Statewide Academic Senate" in first resolved clause. Second. Approved.

Vote on resolution – Approved.

Resolution Calling for Suspension of the CSU Online Initiative

RESOLVED that the Academic Senate of Sonoma State University to join other CSU campuses in support of suspending the initiative and returning the money to each campus until further consultation involving all campuses and the Statewide Academic Senate;

RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be distributed among CSU Campus Senate Chairs, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate of the California State University, Chancellor Charles B. Reed, Executive Vice Chancellor Ephraim P. Smith,

Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Benjamin F. Quillian, the Technology Steering Committee Presidents (Karen Haynes, Jolene Koester, Rollin Richmond, Richard Rush, John Welty, F. King Alexander, Jeff Armstrong, Millie Garcia, Paul Zingg), and members of the Board of Trustees of the California State University.

CFA Report – A. Merrifield

A. Merrifield said that recently the Chancellor's Office had sent out a chronology of what happened during the week of November 14th and he wanted to correct it and provide an update. He noted the Chancellor's press conference on the 14th where the Chancellor had said that a few faculty would not be teaching classes on Thursday (a labor action day) at Easy Bay and Dominguez Hills and that all classes would be in session. He said 93% of all classes at East and Dominguez Hills were cancelled on November 17th. He said the first strike by CSU faculty ever was overwhelming successful. He spoke about the meeting of the Board of Trustees on the 16th and the demonstration there. Students were not being charged with breaking the glass door as all the photos showed it was broken by the police. He noted that the meeting was moved at the point when the vote on the tuition was upcoming and people were denied access to the meeting after they moved. On November 18th, they had a bargaining session. The CSU had proposed that the President of each campus could raise the parking fees to whatever level they wanted. He said CFA then declared impasse which did not mean they stopped bargaining, but that they wanted a mediator before returning the bargaining table. He said the Board of Trustees had cancelled their meeting for December 5th because of concern about students protesting again. He said one of the issues for that meeting had been Presidential compensation and the CSU had already discussed how to get around the law that said campus presidents could not be given raises in difficult economic times. One of the proposals to do this was to put a surcharge on parking. He pointed out what this said about the priorities of the CSU. He noted that the UAW rep at Long Beach had offered that the Board of Trustees could meet there as the teaching assistants and the police would guarantee the safety of the Trustees. The Board had not responded to that offer. He asked the students who was abandoning them - the Board that puts 65% of money into non-academic units or the faculty who teach the students. A member asked what was successful about the strike. A. Merrifield said that they wanted to demonstrate the faculty dissatisfaction with the CSU to the public and the legislature which was successful given the media attention. It was also successful because of the solidarity shown among the unions.

FSAC Report – R. Senghas

R. Senghas reported that the grading deadline was December 23rd and that this was earlier than usual. He said the next week FSAC would look at what textbooks had been adopted and he encouraged the faculty to notify the bookstore about what textbooks were being adopted, even if faculty were not ordering from the bookstore. He discussed the issues that made this important and referenced the Affordable Learning Initiative and the accessibility considerations. He encouraged faculty who had ordered their books to double check with the bookstore. He noted that a handout was being developed about cheating and plagiarism to let faculty know the options and requirements concerning cheating and plagiarism. FSAC was moving forward on the Sabbatical policy. The student rep underscored the need for

textbooks to be identified for the benefit of students. A member questioned why the grades were due by 5:00pm on the 23rd when the campus was closed between Christmas and the New Year. R. Senghas said he had heard that the campus may need to process the grades before Christmas instead of the Monday when the campus re-opens.

Resolution Regarding Protest at the University – First Reading - M. Purser (offered from the floor)

It was moved and seconded for the Senate to consider this item. The Chair ruled it was a first reading. A member asked about the language in the resolution that related to violent incidents during protests. M. Purser provide a rationale for the resolution to answer that question. She noted that faculty wanted to say how intensely proud they were of SSU students during the campus protest before Thanksgiving and remark how different the SSU protest was from other campuses where there was violence. She said the resolution also called for more communication to highlight what worked well in the recent protest to inform future actions. She noted that students did not have the freedom of speech to break the rules and the protest had abided by the rules as a conscious decision on the part of the leaders of the protest. She said the resolution was saying that part of freedom of speech was breaking the rules and that those making the rules were not doing so in any representative or consultative way. R. Senghas reported that FSAC reviewed the resolution and they had noted that there were policies and procedures in place for these issues and they didn't want that to get lost. A member argued that the resolution should focus on students and thought the definition of protest should be explored. A member requested a rationale be included in the resolution. First Reading completed.

EPC Report – A. Gilinsky

A. Gilinsky reported that EPC approved a four year calendar and would bring it to the Senate as an information item. He noted that the calendar basically remained unchanged.

SAC Report – J. Mahdavi

J. Mahdavi reported that FSAC had approved the proposed Disruptive Student Behavior policy and that would be coming before the Senate soon.

Good of the Oder

K. Brodsky announced music in the Library the next day at noon – The Chamber Wind Ensemble. She said people could bring their lunch and that they could also bring the Library lunch.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström