

Academic Senate Minutes

October 1, 2009

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Agenda Approved. Minutes of 9/30/09 Approved. Chair Report. Update on WASC. Statewide Senators Report. President Report. Associated Students Report. By-Laws Revision: Change to Charge of Structure and Functions amended and approved. Provost Report. Vice President of SAEM Report. EPC Report. Senate Budget Committee Report. Report from the Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee. Resolution recognizing the work of the Senate's Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee offered from the floor – First Reading.

Present: Susan Moulton, John Wingard, Scott Miller, Deb Kindy, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Noel Byrne, Sam Brannen, Edith Mendez, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, John Sullins, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Janet Hess, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Terry Lease, Charles Elster, John Kornfeld, Cora Neal, Nick Geist, Tia Watts, Wanda Boda, Jim Christmann, Karen Jaffe, James Dean, Laura Watt, Sandra Shand, Lillian Lee, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Jenny Tice, Morgan Carvajal, Matt McCarty, Dolores Bainter, Kelly Estrada, Art Warmoth, Carmen Works, Paula Hammett, Derek Girman, Mutombo M'Panya

Proxies: Steve Cuellar for Florence Bouvet, Joe Marquez for Rick Robison, Cynthia Beard for Jacqueline Holley, Matt Benny for Matthew Lopez-Phillips

Absent: Margie Purser, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Andy Merrifield

Guests: Barbara Butler, Timothy Wandling, Rose Bruce, Melinda Barnard, Elaine Leeder, Bruce Peterson, Sharon Cabaniss, Barbara Lesch-McCaffry, Elisa Velasquez-Andrade

The Chair began the meeting asking the body for feedback on the different room set up.

Consent Items:

Agenda - *Approved.*

Minutes of 9/3/09 - *Approved.*

Chair Report – S. Moulton

S. Moulton noted that one of the duties of School Reps according to the Senate by-laws was to attend the Department Chair meetings of their Schools. She encouraged the Deans to put the Senators on their agendas to keep the flow of information going strong this year. She also noted that according to Robert's Rules, all comments should be directed to the Chair and responding

should also be directed to the Chair. She also reminded the body not to personalize comments.

Update on WASC – B. Butler

B. Butler said this was the last update before the WASC visit. She reminded the body of the open meetings during the WASC visit and noted that everyone could attend the exit session. She encouraged everyone to attend the reception and poster session Wednesday evening.

Statewide Senator Reports – R. McNamara & C. Nelson

R. McNamara said he sent out a link about resolutions before the Statewide Senate and asked for feedback. C. Nelson reported on the issues of CourseHero.com and the possible violation of intellectual property rights. She said the Chancellor's office attorney will be sending a cease and desist letter to the website to remove all materials with a CSU logo and they are also working with UC lawyers. There was a discussion about what was on the site and the recommendation that faculty password protect their documents and discourage students from uploading course materials due to intellectual property rights. The Chair asked the Provost for a report on the security of WEBCT materials.

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana reported that the four-day teaching schedule has been dropped due to the Senate recommendation. He noted he would still close the campus on Fridays in the Spring and provided the dates. He said the students requested that the Recreation Center be open on closure days and that the Library be open on May 21st. He then said he did not expect a student fee increase in the Spring, but did expect one in the Fall in the 10% range. He noted it was a Board of Trustee's policy that calls for a division of cost for the tuition costs - 1/3 should be borne by the students and 2/3rds should come from the State. Since students were currently paying approximately 28 – 29% of the cost, there was still some room for fee increases. He said there was some concern about the lawsuit brought by students about fee increases. An additional concern was a mid-year reduction. The State budget next year looks to be 7 billion dollars in deficit. A member asked if the legislators felt there was no more to cut. The President said he did see that and thought the legislature was incapable of taking positive action in reference to the finances of the state. He reminded the body that the cuts to the CSU and the UC were never a subject of concern from the beginning and the reason the cuts weren't more was due to the maintenance of effort and the federal stimulus money.

Associated Students Report – J. Tice

J. Tice reported that on October 13, they will have a "vent tent" with a camera in it and she asked folks to come out and talk about how they feel about the budget cuts. The Club Congress had a good first meeting. She met with them

to talk about H1N1 and class absence policies. She reminded all the clubs about the WASC visit. They created an ad-hoc group to work with the City of Rohnert Park on parking in M section. She said she's been hearing from students there was a need for more bike racks. She then announced the upcoming Homecoming activities.

By-Laws Revision: Change to Charge of Structure and Functions – Second Reading – J. Wingard

J. Wingard reviewed the reasons for the changes. He suggested a small change to the original language – *Membership: Each School, ~~including~~ and the Library shall elect. . .* Motion to change to: *The Academic Schools, ~~including~~ and the Library shall elect. . .* Second. There was discussion. **Vote on amendment – Approved. Vote on entire by-law revision – Approved.**

Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa reported about the transition in the campus Learning Management System (LMS). Currently, several faculty are testing the open source LMS Moodle. He said they needed to make a decision by the end of the semester. He spoke about his work on a statewide task force looking at the future of LMS system-wide and noted their slowdown due to funding. He said SSU needed to make a decision before a system-wide response would be available. The feedback from the faculty using Moodle will go to the Academic Technology Advisory Committee who will make a recommendation to him. He said he hopes to have something to share with the campus in November. He then reported on how the Schools were dealing with the budget cuts. Money had been distributed and some targets had been set. The Schools were digesting the information and sending back to the Provost what they believed they could handle. A member asked about the immediate Past Chair still serving as the co-chair of the President's Diversity Council. She thought the current Chair should be serving on the Council according to the PDC membership roster. The Provost noted that the immediate Past Chair had asked to continue on the Council and he had had a preliminary conversation with the current Chair. There was more discussion about the Learning Management System transition. There was more discussion about the Senate's relationship with the President's Diversity Council.

Vice President of SAEM – M. Benny

M. Benny reported SAEM was starting a series of monthly Town Hall meetings to better communicate with staff in the Division. He thanked all the faculty members that were mentors to the McNair Scholars. He said about 35 students in that program were now in graduate school or getting ready to enter graduate school. He noted the recent enrollment numbers. He reported that the CCGS had 7 interns and were working on a Latino student welcome. They were forming an advisory board for the CCGS.

EPC Report – C. Works

C. Works reported that GE had finished their program review and it had come to EPC. EPC had decided to treat it a bit differently than other program reviews and would have first and second readings and approve the review. EPC also endorsed the GE assessment plan that came out of the recommendations in the program review and that would be given to WASC.

Senate Budget Committee Report – T. Wandling

T. Wandling described the SBC to the body since they had not reported for awhile. He encouraged anyone who had relevant information to bring it to anyone on the committee. He noted that the SBC was working on transparency in SSU budget processes and talked about their ideas for a website that would aggregate much of the budget data that has been prepared by faculty and others over the past few years. He also spoke about the “mini-compact” and their concerns about the internal distribution of resources. SBC voted unanimously last week to ask the Provost to remove the letter on the WASC site that talks about the “mini-compact” because it was their understanding that it was off the table due to the budget contraction. He noted SBC wanted to show the trail of requests for priorities from faculty. They will be bringing forward a resolution in the Spring about Academic Affairs percentage of the budget. He then spoke about the problematic nature of the SBC in the campus budget process. He said they want to be proactive, now, and engage the administration in constructive dialogue about budget processes and put that out for the community to look at. He said faculty do not really have real input into the budget process. They will continue to negotiate their role in the budget process.

The Chair asked if a statistical dashboard had been created. R. Bruce said that the information had been collected, that it was from the '07 –'08 year and had not been done this year. She offered to send it to anyone who wanted it. A. Warmouth spoke about working on making this information regularly available for department chairs. A member stated that if faculty did not know the numbers, they cannot really advise. It was suggested that the statistical dashboard be posted on the Senate website. *(it is now posted as of the preparation of these minutes: <http://www.sonoma.edu/Senate/Currentinfo.html>)* A member talked about his frustrating experience when he was a department chair trying to track data in the department and finding that his numbers did not match the university numbers. The Provost noted that the reports generated for the Chancellor's office were not useful for local planning and that he had been asking for the data to be presented in different ways and was open for more suggestions.

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

The Chair reminded the body about the constitution of the Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee and noted their full reports were on the Senate website (<http://www.sonoma.edu/Senate/AdHocDiversity.html>)

B. Lesch-McCaffry began the report. She praised the passionate commitment of members of the committee and noted she hoped the university would respond to their recommendations. She said the committee agreed that the campus needed a Diversity Coordinator to coordinate all diversity efforts. E. Velasquez- Andrade discussed a limited number of recommendations from the Open Forums sub-group and referred the body to the full report for more information. S. Cabaniss presented the recommendations from the sub-group on Student Data. B. Lesch-McCaffry reported on the recommendations from the sub-group on Faculty and Staff. She also said they were asking the Senate for an extension for part of their report as they had not been able to analyze the data fully yet. S. Cabaniss also reported on the history of diversity efforts at SSU. She said they wanted to make it available to the campus community for review and input and asked for feedback by October 31st. She asked the Senate for permission to send out the document to Senate-Announce and Stafflink for people to comment. B. Lesch-McCaffry also noted the committee's delight that the CCGS was moved back to Student Affairs and that they remain concerned about its staffing and resource allocation. She asked the Senate to keep track of that program. E. Velasquez- Andrade voiced the committee's concern about action being taken on the recommendations by the campus. She wanted the Senate to think in terms of the chain migration concept and that by helping diverse students thrive at Sonoma State, more will come.

Motion to extend the work of the committee until the end of the semester and putting history report online for response. Second. *Approved.*

Resolution recognizing the work of the Senate's Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee – S. Miller

S. Miller introduced this resolution from the floor by reading the resolution. He also passed out copies. There was a second. There was discussion. Concern was raised that the reports were not completely finished yet. The Open Forums group of the Ad-Hoc Committee said they were finished. B. Lesch-McCaffry said only a small sub-group needed more time to finish their work. A member asked for a short report from the President's Diversity Council which S. Miller provided. There was discussion about how the PDC could use the Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee's recommendations. A member argued that the resolution was just taking the recommendations from the one committee to another. She thought the Ad-Hoc Committee role was to give guidance to the Senate. It was noted that the resolution offered appreciation for the Ad-Hoc committee. There was more discussion about how the Senate might work with the recommendations and whether there could be a ranking of the recommendations. First Reading completed.

The floor was opened for general questions and discussion about the Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee's report.

A member asked why the campus did not have a Diversity Coordinator yet and why it was in the WASC report. The Provost said they are postponing action on the Diversity Coordinator while they digest the impacts of the budget cuts on the Schools ability to deliver their core mission. A member said she thought diversity was part of the core mission of the university.

The Chair thanked the members of the Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee and the body applauded.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega