

## Academic Senate Minutes

May 21, 2009

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

### Abstract

Agenda approved. Chair Report. Approval of Minutes of 4/23/09. Bioengineering concentration and Management streamline curriculum proposals approved. Candidates for Graduation approved. Special Report: Academic Council on International Programs. Revision to Withdrawal from Courses policy – Approved. Revision to Course Repeat policy – Approved. Revisions to the Academic Probation, Disqualification and Probation policy. Approved. University Strategic Plan endorsed. Nominations to the Executive Committee. Resolution extending the work of the Senate's Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee to October 1, 2009 approved. Resolution congratulating Dr. Jeffrey Reeder for being named Bike Commuter of 2009 approved. President Report. Changing of the Guard

**Present:** Scott Miller, Susan Moulton, Tim Wandling, Deb Kindy, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Sam Brannen, Edith Mendez, Noel Byrne, Birch Moonwoman, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Kristen Daley, Ronald Lopez, John Sullins, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Terry Lease, John Kornfeld, Tia Watts, Nick Giest, Cora Neal, Rick Luttmann, Wanda Boda, Margaret Purser, John Wingard, James Dean, Lillian Lee, Sandra Shand, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Andy Merrifield, Lane Olson, Art Warmoth, Thaine Stearns, Karen Thompson

**Absent:** Brian Wilson, Steve Cuellar, Rick Robison, Derek Pierre, Casey Jones, Whitney McClure, Sunil Tiwari

**Proxies:** Peter Phillips for Steve Orlick, Cynthia Beard for Jacqueline Holley, Kelly Estrada for Kathy Morris, Sharon Cabaniss for Sandra Shand

**Guests:** Rose Bruce, Marisa Thigpen, Robert Train, Dolores Bainter, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Elaine Sundberg, Saeid Rahimi, Barbara Butler, Elaine Leeder

### Approval of Agenda – *Approved.*

### Chair's Report – S. Miller

S. Miller reminded the body that some faculty are giving finals and may need to leave early or will arrive late. He asked the members to think about who they would like to nominate to serve on next year's Executive Committee at 4:00, a time certain. He reported that the first draft of the WASC Educational Effectiveness review is online and encouraged everyone to read it and comment:

<http://www.sonoma.edu/aa/portfolio/>. He read a letter from J. Tarjan, the Chair of the Statewide Senate, alerting local Senate Executive Committees to plan to meet during the summer, if possible, due to the fluid budget situation. The Chair-Elect reported on the Town Hall meeting about the budget and noted that there will be regular email updates and a link on the SSU home page about the budget. It was

announced that two more Town Hall meetings on the budget would be held on June 18 and July 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Minutes of 4/23/09 – amended and approved.**

**Consent items:**

**Bioengineering concentration and Management streamline curriculum proposals – Approved.**

**Candidates for Graduation – Approved.**

**Special Report: Academic Council on International Programs – R. Train and M. Thigpen**

R. Train introduced himself as the ACIP rep for SSU and described the charge of the ACIP rep. He introduced the International Programs coordinator, Marisa Thigpen. He then highlighted several issues for ACIP this year. They received a FISPE grant to translate materials into Spanish and produced a DVD for recruitment of non-traditional students. He reminded the faculty of opportunities abroad through ACIP. He noted that the directorship in Mexico was discontinued. He reported that ACIP was involved this year in strategic planning. He noted one of the important strategic opportunities was to integrate the international experience in the CSU more and help promote global awareness. There was an initiative to have a senior international education program coordinator at each CSU campus and Dr. Mark Merickel, the Dean of Extended Education has been appointed. He then provided an overview of international education at SSU. M. Thigpen passed out a handout showing from what schools and majors student studying abroad are from and voiced her desire that every department have a study abroad contact. She suggested that if faculty did not see their department on the list to consider making it a personal goal to start sending students abroad. She stressed that all majors can find programs in international education. She noted the high number of students studying abroad from SSU in comparison to other CSU's. R. Train concluded with overall comments about international education, appreciations for people involved in international education and how international education could be further integrated in SSU. He hoped this would open the dialogue on campus about global education for all students.

**Revision to three Academic Policies – Second Reading – T. Stearns and M. Jolly**

There were changes to two of the policies based on the first reading. **It was moved and seconded to accept these as replacement documents with no objection.**

M. Jolly noted she created a document answering all the questions raised at the first reading that was emailed to all Senators. She began with the Withdrawal policy. She described the changes. There was some discussion. **Question called on Withdrawal Policy. Second. No objection. Vote on revision to Withdrawal from Courses policy – Approved.**

M. Jolly then described the changes to the Course Repeat Policy. **Motion to amend: (paragraph at bottom of first page) . . . program. An additional option for students in a specific situation of a course needed to enter or progress in a program would be able to request a waiver of university policy. Such a request would require the review and support of a faculty advisor and the Department Chair of the course in question. In such a case. . . Second.** There was discussion. M. Jolly argued against the motion noting that it was not appropriate at this time because the process was not clear yet. M. Jolly suggested that University Standards watch this waiver process and come back to the Senate with language later. There was further discussion. **Vote on the amendment: Approved. Vote on revision to Course Repeat policy – Approved.**

There were no changes to the Academic Probation, Disqualification and Probation policy. **Vote on the revisions to the Academic Probation, Disqualification and Probation policy. Approved.**

#### **University Strategic Plan – Second Reading – E. Ochoa**

S. Miller noted that himself, the Past Chair and Chair-Elect were not neutral on this topic, so he handed the gavel to the Senate Secretary, D. Kindy.

E. Ochoa reviewed the background of the plan and asked for the Senate's endorsement. The Chair-Elect argued against approving the plan at this time as it lacked a section on shared governance and that the budget allocation document included with the plan needed to be re-addressed. She also argued for priorities in the plan. E. Ochoa noted that the resource allocation document was not up for endorsement as it was not part of the plan, though it was informed by the Plan. He stressed the multi-year, consultative process of the creation of the University Strategic Plan and characterized it as a road-map. Highlights of the discussion included: support for endorsing the plan so that the budget priorities could be discussed in more detail; including academic programs, faculty and staff in investments. The Chair voiced his support for endorsing the plan and offered his analysis of SSU's Strategic Plan as compared with other universities. The Past-Chair noted that during the planning process, there was a rule to not prioritize and he thought perhaps some more work could be done and the Senate could look at it again in the Fall. The following arguments were offered for endorsing or not endorsing the plan: to be able to show it to WASC; to have something to work from; to be able to pass resolutions in the Fall about how the Senate wants the Plan interpreted; to have a conversation about the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan and its articulation and the University Strategic Plan.

**Question called. Second. Vote = Yes 17, No = 13 Failed.**

Discussion continued.

Time Certain reached.

## **Nominations to the Executive Committee**

Nominations offered from the floor: Terry Lease, Sam Brannen, Margie Purser. Election was by paper ballot. Results below.

### **Recommendation from the Executive Committee: Motion to extend the work of the Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee until October 1, 2009 – S. Miller**

S. Miller noted T. Lease was presenting a resolution on this topic that captured better the discussion in the Executive Committee. T. Lease read the resolution:

**“BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Sonoma State University (“the Senate”) extend the existence of the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and the term of each member until October 1, 2009. The purpose of extending the life of the committee is to allow it to complete the work it has begun and to deliver its reports and recommendations to the Senate. The Senate explicitly does not expect the committee to take up any new initiatives, even if the result will be that some aspects of the original charge are unfulfilled. Should any committee member wish not to continue to serve through to October 1, 2009, the committee chair(s) will determine whether replacing that member is beneficial to completing its work and either continue at a reduced size or request that the Chair of the Faculty appoint a replacement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Senate recognize that the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity has formed three subcommittees, which are at different stages of completion with respect to their different tasks. Accordingly, the Senate understands that the work of one subcommittee may be completed and presented to the Senate while the work of the other subcommittee is still in progress. The Senate will accept multiple reports (including recommendations) and discharge one subcommittee while the others continue to complete its charge under this resolution. The Senate will accept but does not require an overarching report from the committee as a whole.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Senate commend the hard work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity during the 2008 – 2009 academic year and its willingness to extend its term in order to complete the work it has begun.”

**Second.** The Chair noted this was a first reading. There was discussion.

**Motion to waiving the first reading. Second. Approved.**

**Question called. Second. Vote – Approved.**

**Vote on the above resolution. Approved.**

## **Resolution congratulating Dr. Jeffrey Reeder for being named Bike Commuter of 2009 – First Reading – T. Lease**

T. Lease described the events leading up to Dr. Reeder's award. **Motion to waive the first reading. Second. No objection. The Chair asked for approval by acclamation. Approved.**

“Resolved: that Academic Senate of Sonoma State University congratulates Dr. Jeffery Reeder for being named as Sonoma County Bike Commuter of the Year for 2009 and commends him for his dedication to this earth-friendly and healthful activity.”

## **Return to University Strategic Plan**

There was continued discussion on the University Strategic Plan that focused on the issues of shared governance and responses to previous comments.

**Question called. Second.** The floor was given to the President to comment on a previous question regarding “new space.” **Vote: Yes = 22; No =9 Approved.**

There was a request for paper balloting. Result on balloting below.

## **President Report – R. Armiñana**

R. Armiñana reported that the people of California voted down most of the propositions on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and now the state deficit is 21.3 billion dollars which is about 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the entire budget. The share of that to the CSU is 410 million dollars and the share to SSU is about 8.5 million dollars. The campus does not have the ability internally to cut 8.5 million dollars and continue to operate. The solutions will come via system solutions, not campus solutions. He expected the Chancellor to propose a plan early June. The Legislative Analyst's office released recommendations earlier this day to deal with the budget deficit. They are recommending for the CSU: pay down the state support for professional schools; increase the faculty teaching load by one course per year; increase average class size by another 5%, reduce non-instructional staffing by 5% through hiring freeze, furloughs and lay-off; increase student fees an additional 5% to offset general fund support; suspend Math and Science teacher initiative; eliminate state subsidy for students taking excess units; start process to close less productive programs to increase efficiencies and farm remedial course work to the community colleges. He said that the recommendations for the UC were basically the same. There was a question about non-hiring of lecturers. The President said that would be by department. There was a question about closing campuses in the CSU. The President said there was no information from the Chancellor. The CFA President remarked on the LAO's recommendations saying they were extremely ill-informed.

## **Report back on paper balloting**

The Chair reported on the two paper ballot votes.

The result of the Senate members elected to the Executive Committee for next year were: Sam Brannen and Margaret Purser.

**Result on balloting for University Strategic Plan: Yes = 18, No = 17. Approved to endorse the University Strategic Plan for 2008/9 – 2012/13.**

The Chair commented that the Strategic Plan vote showed clearly that the campus still had work to do on planning and he thought the campus was a winner by going through the process it had taken in the last few years.

### **Changing of the Guard**

The Chair announced who was leaving the Senate and who was returning or attending for the first time. A special memento was given to R. Luttmann for his many years of service on the Senate and in faculty governance.

The Chair thanked the Senate Analyst for her work this year. He also praised the immediate Past Chair, Tim Wandling and presented him with the “chair.” He read a statement he had prepared for T. Wandling:

Having served now as Chair of the Faculty, I can say that my respect for Tim Wandling, which was always very high, is now even greater than it was before I assumed this position. For me Tim serves as a model of what I would call academic courage: Here's what I mean by that. For me, being an academic means not only being a teacher and a researcher and a servant of academic governance but also someone who lives up to a very high ideal in uses of language. We are called first of all to speak the truth, or our truths as we understand them, to be clear and open about our positions and our reasons for our positions, and, second, to do so in a way that honors the dignity and humanity of everyone else in the conversation, that accepts implicitly that people have good reasons for acting and believing as they do even when we don't agree with them. For me this ideal of academic discourse is nothing less than a worldview: a world view that creates the possibility of inclusiveness even amid difference, sometimes bitter difference. Tim Wandling in my experience is a fierce exponent of this academic ideal, and I can speak to this personally. Even when I myself have disagreed with Tim and even at times collapsed in my own efforts to live out my highest understanding of academic relatedness, Tim never has done that. The core of his approach to all the he does is this model of acceptance and inclusiveness that puts reason, argument, and contention all at the larger service of community. I have never seen Tim fall into the bad habit of otherizing--again, even when he finds himself “on the other side.” To these core values, Tim adds the extraordinary blessing of a joyful and fun-loving heart--which makes him not only an ethical discourser but an exuberant one as well. In short, it's not to much for me to say that my chance to serve closely with Tim has been one of the most profound blessings and privileges of my career, and Tim, from the bottom of my heart I thank you for all your support and your teachings. I am certain that now all present will rise and join me in thanking you for your incomparable service to Sonoma State University during three immensely difficult years.

He then passed the gavel to the Chair-Elect, Susan Moulton.

S. Moulton passed around her rendition of Scott Miller as George Washington that she did with Photoshop. She then read the following resolution for the Chair Scott Miller:

**Resolution Praising the Remarkable Service of**  
**Dr. Scott Miller**  
**Chair of the Faculty, 2008 – 2009**

**Whereas**, Our Chair, Scott Miller, with exalted Rhetoric and Leadership signaled clarity and passion for disciplinary, civic and academic literacy;\* and

**Whereas**, citing the *enkuklios paideia* of the Greeks, and the *homo rhetoricus* of Rome, his Ciceronian pledge to harmony,\* informed his year as Faculty Chair; and

**Whereas**, deftly wielding his gavel with Robert's Rules authority, those who sought to interrupt learned to beware; and

**Whereas**, a loyal committee member, advocating academic pedagogy; he debated accreditation, planning and diversity, punctuated frequently with poetry; and

**Whereas**, in meetings he was praised for exemplary neutrality, he learned these acronyms with alacrity:

JCAP, EX COM AND PBAC

GE SUBCOMMITTEE, SENATE AND APC

AABAC, WASC AND PDC

STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS AND CRC

**Whereas**, unfaltering in this celebration of liberal arts and academic IT – heroically, in the midst of our eroding state economy; therefore let it be

**Resolved**, that we of the Academic Senate of SSU, for his service to our campus offer unqualified gratitude and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Academic Senate of SSU wishes him bon voyage, restorative travel and tranquility in a far off longitude.

\*Citations from Scott Miller's Fall Convocation Speech

## **Approved by Acclamation**

The CFA Chapter President thanked the outgoing Chair and said CFA appreciated the good working relationship between the union and faculty governance at SSU.

## **Adjourned**

*Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega*