Academic Senate Minutes
March 8, 2012
3:00 – 4:30, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Agenda approved. Minutes of 2/23/12 approved. Revision to the Excellence in Teaching Award policy approved. Provost Report. Chair-Elect Report. Replacement policies for Sabbatical and Difference in Pay policies – First Reading completed. Vice President of SAEM Report. Associated Students Report. APC Report. EPC Report. FSAC Report. SAC Report. Good of the Order.

Present: Ben Ford, Margaret Purser, John Wingard, Maria Hess, Catherine Nelson, Michaela Grobbel, Sam Brannen, Deborah Roberts, Steve Wilson, Helmut Wautischer, Marco Calavita, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Karen Brodsky, Tom Buckley, Jean Chan, Sharon Cabaniss, Matty Mookerjee, Noel Byrne, Laura Watt, Don Romesburg, Michael Pinkston, Sandra Shand, Edie Brown, Andrew Rogerson, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Paul Ramey, Anthony Gallino, Dolores Bainter, Armand Gilinsky, Richard Senghas, Jennifer Mahdavi

Absent: Brian Wilson, Jim Robison, Parissa Tadrissi, Janet Hess, Mutombo M'Panya, Michael Cohen, Ruben Armiñana, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Andy Merrifield

Proxies: Susan Moulton for Matthew Paolucci-Callahan, Anya Bergman for Marisa Thigpen, John Urbanski for Terry Lease

Guests: Nathan Rank, Elaine Sundberg

Chair Report – B. Ford

B. Ford reported on the Senate Budget Subcommittee group augmented by two department chairs that was working on principles that could guide budget decisions in Academic Affairs. He noted that the GMC Board of Advisors would meet the next day and on their agenda was a request from the University Affairs subcommittee, which was composed primarily of faculty, to create a substantial endowment to support the music, theater and dance departments. He reported on the SSU academic identity conversations and updated the Senate on the progress of hiring a consultant with grant money received to help craft the "outward facing" identity. He noted that there would be focus groups and interviews in the Spring to help with this "outward facing" picture. He said the coming Monday lunch on this topic was cancelled, so that himself and the Provost could attend another event, "Remediation as a Civil Rights Issue in the CSU" and he encouraged everyone to attend that event.

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Minutes of 2/23/12 – Approved.

The Chair announced that the candidate election had been closed, but an announcement of the winners could not be given yet, as the candidates had not all been notified. He encouraged the Senators to help get out the vote for the Constitutional amendment. He promised that the voting would be extended one week at a time until the 50% was reached.

Revision to the Excellence in Teaching Award policy – Second Reading – R. Senghas

R. Senghas reviewed the reasons for revising the policy: changing the calendar listing and eliminating the two-year "pool." A member noted he thought the two-year pool was beneficial to the nominees. **Vote on revision to policy – Approved**.

Provost Report – A. Rogerson

A. Rogerson noted the phenomenal success of the re-accreditation of the School of Education (applause) and congratulated that school. He announced there would be a Moodle upgrade and encouraged everyone to read the information about it in his or her email and noted that training sessions were upcoming. He said the university was continuing to support the LSAMP (Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) program and it would continue under a 5-year grant. He talked about the discussions of using a cap on enrollment in the Fall. He said the policy on petitioning would be flexible. He said the idea of using caps on enrollment would be talked about at the CSU Provost's meeting upcoming. There was some distress about the idea in the CSU. He noted that his office was still open to feedback, but they were going to use a cap and the exact number of units was fluid at that point. There was discussion about enrollment caps and related issues. A member thanked the Provost for the faculty development workshop recently held on civility in large classes. One of the student reps thanked the Provost and the faculty members for attending the People's University event that week. The Chair noted that the Provost had expressed a lot of support for research at the Faculty Expo and he encouraged everyone to attend the Expo each year.

Chair-Elect Report – M. Purser

M. Purser reported in more detail on work of the Senate Budget Subcommittee as it was working on budget principles for Academic Affairs. She said they were in the initial stage of receiving feedback from the School level. She reviewed how the project was begun. She said the committee would ultimately come up with a list of budget principles and that the committee would do no ranking of anything. They would be looking at the whole university as well as academic affairs, so they wanted to consult with as many groups as possible. They were also talking about open forums for campus wide conversations in part to get good ideas and to enhance transparency and quell rumors. A member suggested a campus wide survey of the faculty to narrow down the priorities. The Staff Rep asked if there would be staff representation in the conversation. A member suggested resurrecting the statistical dashboard to give people information.

Replacement policies for Sabbatical and Difference in Pay policies – First Reading – R. Senghas

R. Senghas introduced the items and noted that FSAC had worked with URTPS and CFA while crafting these replacement policies. The initial impetus was to decrease workload and confusion. Previously, the campus had a policy that included both Sabbatical and DIP, but as they looked at the CBA articles, they decided to start over with two new policies because the CBA articles for the two processes were different and it would be easier to keep the policies in compliance with the CBA going forward. He noted that Sabbaticals came from a pool that needed to be ranked whereas DIPs were not. The new policies dealt with process issues and not the criteria for evaluation of merit. They were just trying to come in to compliance with the CBA. They also discovered that more transparency was needed in the process and he provided examples. They also found a place to reduce faculty workload in the Sabbatical process. They made some recommendations: That the URPTS would be the CBA's "Professional Leave Committee"; create two separate processes for applying for Sabbatical and DIPs; that the appropriate administrators be specified as "Deans"; that the Provost be identified as the President's designee for these decisions; and removing recommendations from the department and School for Sabbatical or DIP to lighten faculty workload and have the applications stand on their own. There were questions and suggestions about: the President delegating to the Provost, removing the department and School recommendations, citing the CBA in specific areas, where the weighting formula was in the policy, what "funding available" referred to in the Sabbatical policy, lecturer issues regarding the policies, disparities between departments and Schools in terms of what they submit to URTPs. The Chair of URTP spoke on the committee's experience with Sabbatical/DIP applications and did not think department or School recommendations swayed the ranking or was critical to the process. He spoke about what made a solid proposal. First Reading completed.

Vice President of SAEM Report – M. Lopez-Phillips

M. Lopez-Phillips spoke to concerns raised by N. Byrne in the student newspaper regarding the services of the Counseling Center and clarified that students in distress for life pressures would be seen by the Counseling Center. He also spoke about how impossible it was to mandate a student to seek therapy. He noted that students who were addicted to substances were referred off campus, as the Counseling Center was not equipped to deal with long-term addiction issues. He reported on his "thumbnail" sketch for budget reductions in his division and said that the Summer Bridge budget would be cut in half. He had asked the staff in that program to come up with a plan to manage that cut and they had. He asked them to think about how to meld Summer Bridge and orientation. He talked about the possible creation of a First Generation Center. He said it was not a pleasant decision to cut Summer Bridge, but he had to make choices to preserve jobs and continue services. He announced the hiring of Mark Fabionar as the new Director of the Multi-Cultural Center. He would be starting on March 19th. He thanked the administrators for their support of this position during difficult budget times. He said M. Fabionar had run the Multi-Cultural Center at Cal Poly and was an adjunct faculty member at Sacramento State. There was a question about the $100 fee that students now needed to pay for counseling services and whether those fees go directly to the Counseling Center. M. Lopez-Philips responded that all the fees go to the Counseling Center and he was happy to provide an accounting if desired and have the Director of the Counseling Center visit the Senate. A student rep reported that student leaders in Summer Bridge were concerned about the decision to cut the program and asked M. Lopez-Phillips to do a presentation to the Associated Students Senate about it to quell rumors. M. Lopez-Phillips agreed and provided suggestions for other venues as well.

Associated Students Report – P. Ramey

P. Ramey reported on the student march on the Capitol and noted there were 10,000 students in attendance. They had planned to deliver the "Bucks Start Here" box to the Governor, but the government building was having security issues and would not let them deliver it. So they were sending the box to a couple of campuses that had not had it and would take it with them on lobby day in April. He extended gratitude for everyone that came out to participate in the event the day before (*The People's University*). He updated the members on the student government election. The Chair suggested that the students collect at least 50 of the "bucks" with powerful stories to post online.

APC Report – S. Moulton

S. Moulton reported that APC had met with the Provost and appreciated his time spent with them. She noted that D. Roberts had been elected Chair of APC for the next year. The Chair of FSAC asked that the Academic Freedom subcommittee be consulted on the Online Education Policy APC was developing. D. Roberts said they would be consulting with many people and offering free colonoscopies as an incentive to prompt feedback!

EPC Report – A. Gilinsky

A. Gilinsky reported on curriculum that had been passed in EPC and would be brought to the Executive Committee the next week.

FSAC Report – R. Senghas

R. Senghas announced the Academic Freedom Subcommittee Read-In on April 4th and April 18th from 12:20 to 1:00. It would be a book-reading group on *For the Common Good: Principle of Academic Freedom* by Finkin and Post. He reported that the Conflict of Interest policy would be coming forward with a revision due to requirements coming from Washington, DC.

SAC Report – J. Mahdavi

J. Mahdavi reported that the Senate would see the Student Fee Referendum policy as an information item. She reported that the new career counselor, Anya Bergman, visited SAC and they had a good conversation. She encouraged everyone to talk with her.

Good of the Order

S. Cabaniss announced an event titled "Remediation in the CSU as a Civil Right Issue" that would be held on the following Monday. She presented the Women's History Month poster and noted it was International Women's Day. She announced the second lecture in the Women and Science lecture series in the Library. S. Brannen announced the next week was "Geek Week" with the highlight being π day where students could throw pies at their Math professors.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström