

## Academic Senate Minutes

November 18, 2010

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

### Abstract

Chair Report. Agenda amended and approved. Minutes of 9/16 and 10/14 approved. President Report. Special Report: SSU Preserves. Revision to the Formal Dispute Resolution Policy – First Reading completed. Occasional Report: Senate Diversity Subcommittee. Special Report: Early Start Program, pt 2. Resolution on Faculty Governance Right to Approve Early Start Program at Sonoma State University approved. SSU Early Start proposal endorsed. APC Report. Statewide Senator Report. Associated Students Report.

**Present:** John Wingard, Ben Ford, Susan Moulton, Maria Hess, Catherine Nelson, Brian Wilson, Michaela Grobbel, Sam Brannen, Edith Mendez, Steve Wilson, Helmut Wautischer, Sarah Baker, John Sullins, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Mutombo M’Panya, Terry Lease, Florence Bouvet, Rick Robison, Tom Buckley, Nick Geist, Sharon Cabaniss, Matty Mookerjee, Michael Cohen, Karin Jaffe, Noel Byrne, Laura Watt, Don Romesburg, Margaret Purser, Sandra Shand, Marisa Thigpen, Ruben Armiñana, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Alex Boyar, Nicolas Carjuzaa, Paul Ramey, Dolores Bainter, Art Warmoth, Elaine Newman, Jennifer Mahdavi, Kathy Morris, Saeid Rahimi

**Absent:** Brian Wilson, Edie Brown, Andy Merrifield, Matthew Lopez-Phillips

**Proxies:** Sandra Newton for Richard Senghas, Thaine Stearns for Elaine Newman, Barbara Lesch-McCaffry for Janet Hess

**Guests:** Jason Wenrick, Elaine Leeder, Barbara Butler

### Chair Report – J. Wingard

J. Wingard noted the change in date for the University Retreat. It would now be held on January 26<sup>th</sup> to allow campus members to attend the AAC&U conference in San Francisco. He noted the first pass of registration would happen after Thanksgiving and hoped everyone had been busy advising students to be ready for that. He also noted an email from the Provost asking faculty to help to reduce the cost of textbooks for students.

**Approval of Agenda** – time certain added. Item added: Resolution on Faculty Governance Right to Approve Early Start Program at SSU to be included with Early Start Report. The Chair noted that the item from SAC – Revision to the Formal Dispute Resolution Policy – First Reading did not have the formal presenter available due to circumstances beyond her control. He noted that the Senate Analyst who works with this policy offered to answer questions and take back issues to the Student Affairs Committee. He asked if anyone wanted to remove the item from the agenda. No motion was made. **Agenda as amended approved.**

**Minutes of 9/16 and 10/14 – amended slightly and approved.**

**President Report – R. Armiñana**

R. Armiñana said that he was incorrect when he said the budget was sham and that it had a \$12 billion deficit. It was projected now to be \$25.4 billion in deficit. He said the affect of the deficit on the CSU was totally unknown. The Governor had asked for a special session of the Legislature for December 6<sup>th</sup> with the intention to close this year's budget gap of \$6 billion dollars. The other \$19.4 billion was projected for the 2011 – 2012 budget. He noted that both the Governor and Legislature were "lame ducks." He said the new Governor, Jerry Brown, would present his budget in January. He thought there could be mid-year cuts and it would be more difficult to accept mid-year cuts if the students were already enrolled systemwide and locally. He thought the future of California was pretty bleak. The deficit was about ¼ of the state budget. He thought it would take an actual miracle to have a growing economy at the rate of 10 – 12%. He thought there would be severe cuts. He noted the University of California recently raised their fees and changed the nomenclature of "fees" to "tuition." The CSU has not done that yet. He discussed what might happen on this front in the CSU. A member asked about the increased enrollment for the Spring and how that would happen. The President said the increase would come from transfer students and an increase in the average unit load. He said there would be more classes available and that the Deans have been looking at "bottleneck" courses as places to add more sections.

**Special Report: SSU Preserves – Claudia Luke, Director of University Preserves**

C. Luke said she wanted to chat with the Senate about things that have come up with the Preserves and talk about enhancements between the Preserves and the academic programs. She discussed SSU's Field Stations – Fairfield Osborn Preserve and the Galbreath Wildlands Preserve. (<http://www.sonoma.edu/preserves/about.shtml>) She emphasized that the Preserves serve the whole campus, not just one school. She offered examples about how various academic programs could use the Preserves and what the Preserves offered. She also noted that the Field stations could bring multi-disciplinary projects together – primarily environment, economy and culture. She spoke about how the Preserves could help with the graduation initiatives. She provided examples about how the Preserves could be used as recruitment tools and how key the Field Stations were for retention. She described the unique experiences that were available from the North Coast Eco Region for students and SSU. She described local/global themes that could help SSU attract international students. The themes were bio diversity, coastal temperate rain forests, and ocean productivity. She then discussed how the Field Stations could be engaged in the community. She then talked about how the campus could engage with the Preserves besides using them for field trips. *(The recording of this report is recommended)*

## **Revision to the Formal Dispute Resolution Policy – First Reading – J. Mahdavi**

Since J. Mahdavi was unable to attend the meeting, J. Wingard asked the Senate Analyst to provide a brief overview of the item. The Analyst said the revision was based on two years of Fairness Board practice and what possible policy changes had been noted during those two years. The item before the Senate was proposed changes to the Formal Dispute Resolution Policy. She offered to answer questions. It was suggested to use “under the discretion of the Board,” instead of “under exigent circumstances.” There was a discussion about the parties involved being able to request a copy of the opposing parties argument after the Board’s decision. It was suggested to use “summer break” instead of just “summer” as to when the Board does not meet. It was suggested to note that the Board does not meet during intersession.

First Reading completed.

## **Occasional Report: Senate Diversity Subcommittee – C. Boaz and S. Cabaniss**

C. Boaz introduced herself as the one of the co-chairs of the new Senate Diversity Subcommittee. She named the members of the committee. She noted that the committee was reaching out to other committees in faculty governance. She said the committee saw their role as getting in touch with diversity related stakeholders on campus, doing information gathering about the very complex issues and challenges of diversity. She discussed the Early Start program and the lack of visibility of voices nationally raising opposition. They were also looking at the Student Advocate position and the committee thought this was a high profile item. Vice President Lopez-Phillips would be visiting SDS to give them an update on the position. They were reviewing the CFA’s white paper on the Graduation Initiative. She noted some concerns raised by CFA related to diversity issues. They were also looking at the preliminary stages of a resolution on a Women’s Resources Center. She encouraged the faculty to be aware of Black History Month in February and Women’s History Month in March and, if possible, to tie those events in with their curricula. She discussed the standing reports given at the SDS meetings. She encouraged anyone to attend their meetings or ask for a member to attend their meetings. She said they wanted to have open communication, on-going dialogue and transparency. S. Cabaniss added that the subcommittee was looking at how the broader community was learning about the Early Start program. She recommended the CFA white paper on the Graduation Initiative: (<http://www.calpac.org/resource/restructuring>). She thought the faculty would want to see how the initiative appeared to disadvantage under represented groups. There were some questions.

## **Special Report: Early Start Program, pt 2 – T. Stearns**

T. Stearns noted he was presenting two documents on behalf of the Chair of EPC. The Early Start draft was vetted by EPC that same day and they also approved the resolution regarding Early Start. He noted that the Early Start proposal was due to the Chancellor’s office tomorrow. He asked for the Senate to endorse the current Early Start proposal and also asked that the resolution go through a first and second reading which would help the Early Start group’s cause. He said from the last

Senate meeting, he noted it was clear that the Early Start program was mandated from the Chancellor's office. He described the difference between the Early Start proposal seen at the last Senate meeting and one before the body that day. He said the spirit of the resolution was about the right of faculty governance to approve any Early Start program started on the SSU campus.

**Motion to waive first reading on resolution. Second. Approved.**

There was some discussion.

**Vote on resolution – Approved.**

### **Resolution on Faculty Governance Right to Approve Early Start Program at Sonoma State University**

Resolved: That the Academic Senate of Sonoma State University supports the efforts of the faculty working in the Mandatory Early Start Sonoma design team; and further be it

Resolved: That the ASSSU re-affirms the right of faculty governance to approve the final curriculum as an academic program for the mandated Early Start Program; and further be it

Resolved: Following review of the CSU system Early Start Implementation Team, the ASSSU expects the final plan for the mandated Early Start Program be presented to:

- the Educational Policies Committee for review and possible approval, as part of the regular curriculum approval process,
- and any other relevant Senate committees, e.g., Senate Diversity Subcommittee, FSAC, etc.

T. Stearns noted that the Early Start proposal would include that it was approved by EPC and they would also include a sentence to that effect, if the Senate approved it as well. There was some discussion about the English section of the proposal. The Statewide Senator suggested that the approach being taken might need to be defended at the Chancellor's office. The VP of Academic Programs noted that other campuses were also doing what SSU's English department was doing.

**Motion to endorse Early Start Proposal. Second. No discussion.**

**Vote on endorsement of Early Start Proposal – Approved.**

### **APC Report – A. Warmoth**

A. Warmoth reported on that morning's JCAP meeting. He said the information was still in a somewhat "undigested" form. There were two main areas discussed: the activity going on in the action areas and who was appropriate to be on the working groups; and a proposal from J. Wingard and Provost Rahimi about how to structure

the working areas. He noted that the action areas were set up to try to create a more effective network for communication and consultation; they were not decision-making bodies. Decisions that needed to be made would still be made by the appropriate body, either a faculty governance committee, or an administrative unit. JCAP had heard reports from all groups and thought they needed to be refined before becoming public. He said some of the groups have collaborative reports and others were still functioning as parallel faculty / administrative groups and not yet fully integrated. He thought overall, it was a positive move forward. J. Wingard noted that JCAP was moving more towards an implementation group, rather than a consultative body as it was previously. In this transition, he thought it was important for JCAP to tap into the existing faculty governance structure. So the Chairs of the Standing Committees would be playing a primary roll on the faculty side. He thought it was a bit premature to bring it to the Senate that day as they had just started discussing it at JCAP that morning. He noted that faculty governance does a great deal of work that should be recognized in this process. A member thanked J. Wingard, Provost Rahimi and A. Warmoth for their leadership on this issue and that the procedures showed a valuing of shared governance. A member asked how the membership of the action areas would be appointed. J. Wingard said that process was evolving and provided some background. The Provost noted that junior faculty were encouraged to get involved and A. Warmoth thought that contacting the Chairs of the action areas would be the way to get involved. The ASI rep said the AS would want to be a voice on all the action areas. A member suggested that other campus units would have to be involved too.

#### **Statewide Senator Report – C. Nelson**

C. Nelson noted she sent out a written report on Senate-Talk and it was also available at the meeting. She noted that the Early Start initiative was on the Statewide Senate's radar and they were working on various resolutions regarding that program. She noted there was a resolution about the creation of a task force for developing guidelines for online degree programs. She said the "red balloon" project received considerable interest at the Statewide Senate. It was an initiative developed by the AASCU to help re-imagine the university for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She noted it was heavily related to course re-design and the Statewide Senate had an intense conversation about it. She said she had asked the President if SSU was involved and he said no. There was a question about Early Start reciprocity between campuses. She said the Statewide Senate had brought that up on numerous occasions and that the statewide group looking at Early Start was talking about it, but she did not have any details. A member noted that the Math Chairs statewide were talking about it and the VP of Academic Programs noted that it was mentioned in the SSU Early Start proposal that it was a concern for SSU.

#### **Associated Students Report – A. Boyar**

A. Boyar passed out a recently passed piece of legislation from the Associated Students Senate. It was about the issues they had heard from students about faculty not following the course outline policy. He noted that an event they had two weeks ago that featured the speaker Kevin Hinds, who was famous for jumping off the Golden Gate bridge and surviving. He gave an empowering talk about mental

health and how to avoid suicidal thoughts. A. Boyar said the estimate was that about 500 students attended the event and about 100 students were turned away. He stressed how serious the AS was about programming space. There was discussion about the course outline resolution. A member asked about the cost of the proposed new university student center and argued that SSU fees were among the highest in the CSU system. A. Boyar said he did not know what the exact fee would be yet and noted that SSU fees were higher due to economies of scale. He also argued that Associated Students across the CSU were apples and oranges and the actual AS fee at SSU was low.

**Adjourned.**

*Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega*