

Academic Senate Minutes

October 27, 2005
3:00 – 5:00 Commons

Abstract

Chair's Report. Approval of Agenda. Approval of Minutes of 10/13/05. B.S in Biochemistry approved. Information item: Senate Self Study. Annual report from Academic Council on International Program representative Christine Renaudin. Periodic Review of Administrators Policy approved. Program Review Protocol postponed. Course Outline Policy First Reading. Resolution endorsing the Statewide Senate Resolution: Re-Affirmation of Prior Actions and Statements on Merit Pay approved. Provost's Report. Good of the Order.

Present: Elizabeth Stanny, Elaine McDonald, Melanie Dreisbach, Edith Mendez, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Rick Luttmann, Carolyn Epple, Noel Byrne, Birch Moonwoman, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Kristen Daley, Elizabeth Martinez, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Robert Train, Liz Thach, Steve Cuellar, Bob Vieth, John Kornfeld, Raye Lynn Thomas, Tia Watts, Murali Pillai, Richard Whitkus, Sam Brannen, Wanda Boda, Myrna Goodman, Melinda Milligan, John Wingard, Bruce Peterson, Sandra Shand, Eduardo Ochoa, Lindsey Simoncic, Sara Statler, Greg Tichava, Art Warmoth, Perry Marker, Doug Jordan

Absent: Sandra Feldman, Glenn Brassington, Ruben Armiñana, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth

Proxies: Carmen Works for Carlos Ayala, Thaine Stearns for Tim Wandling, Jan Beauly for Marguerite St. Germain

Guests: Rose Bruce, Lynn Cominsky, Jennifer Lillig, Mela Mulvihill, Jennifer Ochsner, Les Adler, Ian Hannah, David Abbott, Jacqueline Boman

Report of the Chair – E. Stanny

The Chair announced that the last day to RSVP for the Emeritus Dinner was tomorrow. She announced the current, past and future Chairs will be meeting monthly with the President to talk about how faculty can be more involved in setting budget priorities. She noted that a presentation on the Green Music Center will be given at the next Senate meeting.

Consent Items:

Approval of Agenda – The chair added time certains for the business items.
Approved.

Approval of Minutes of 10/13/05 – *Approved.*

B. S. in Chemistry – P. Marker

It was noted that statements about GE in the proposal were incorrect. R. Whitkus listed the changes needed. *Approved.*

Update on WASC

No update given.

Information Item: Senate Self Study

E. McDonald advised the body that the self study was only an information item at this point as the Executive Committee decided to send out the study to the Standing Committees for them to respond to recommendations made in the study. Structure and Functions then intends to bring the self study back to the Senate with the responses. She commended Structure and Functions on their year long project and noted that it was a very interesting study. The main finding of the study was that the Senate is well suited for its purpose. The entire self study will be placed on Reserve in the Library. She noted that questions could be sent to her or to committees considering the recommendations.

More Chair's Report

The Chair announced Fridays at Four continues this Friday.

Annual Report from the Academic Council on International Programs – C. Renaudin

(The entire report can be heard on the SSU-5 server)

C. Renaudin gave an overview of how many students were placed abroad this year and noted this number was down from last year. She gave two possible reasons for this: the recent bombings in London and Madrid give parents more to worry about and the strong foreign currencies. She reported that the trend that our students tend to go to Western European countries continues. She said the International Program is working to diversify the experience of students abroad and will open a program at the University of Ghana and in South Africa. They are still working on reviewing the programs abroad. She noted that the BCLAD program in Mexico was becoming unworkable and gave the reasons. She said it looks like the BCLAD program in Mexico will be suspended. She announced resident directorships abroad, and that applications for the Wang Fellowships are available. She reminded the body of student application deadlines.

C. Renaudin answered a few questions from the body.

L. Adler remarked that Extended Education had sent recent SSU graduates to teach English in China.

Periodic Review of Administrators - Second Reading – E. McDonald

E. McDonald reviewed the change made at the previous meeting when this item was considered. She noted the CSU attorney statement in the packet regarding signing or not signing comments on administrator evaluations. She noted that there is no law, but the attorney said that the university cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a faculty members name. She also advised the body that anonymous evaluations of faculty on the SETE were bargained. She reviewed the reasons why the policy is a good compromise as it is.

There was continued discussion about anonymous comments on evaluations of administrators.

Question called. Second. Approved.

Vote on Periodic Review of Administrators – Yes = 28, No = 4; 3 abstentions. Approved.

Program Review Protocol – Second Reading – P. Marker

P. Marker passed around amended language from EPC for the policy from the comments generated at the Senate at the first reading. He gave a rationale and context for the new language.

Motion to amend Program Review Protocol with language presented. Second.

Discussion.

Question called on motion. Second. Vote – Yes = 15; No =8 Failed.

Motion to remove the item from the agenda. Second. Vote – Failed.

Motion to extend discussion 10 minutes. Second. Vote – Yes = 21; No =9. Approved.

Motion to postpone until last resolved clause is satisfied in the resolution the Senate passed at its last meeting regarding Program Review. Second.

Discussion.

Question called on motion. Second. Approved.

Vote on postponement of Program Review Protocol until a funding plan is implemented. Approved.

Course Outline Policy – First Reading – C. Works

C. Works passed out the most current version from FSAC of the Course Outline Policy. She reviewed the current changes.

A Senator suggested that course fees be added to section II.

It was clarified which sorts of policies would be included in the single URL indicated by the Course Outline Policy and it was asked for them to be specifically listed on the second reading.

A Senator asked why GE designations were asked for in the Course Outline Policy and not other possible requirements the course might fulfill. C. Works answered that the GE was included because the GE subcommittee asked for it.

Support was voiced for the Disability Policy to be included in the URL.

First reading concluded.

Resolution endorsing the Statewide Senate Resolution: Re-Affirmation of Prior Actions and Statements on Merit Pay – R. McNamara

R. McNamara introduced the item and gave background on the resolution.

A Senator noted his discomfort addressing this issue which to him was clearly a union matter and not appropriate for the Senate to consider.

R. McNamara responded that it was the duty of the Senate to speak on these matters according to our Constitution.

Motion to correct title of resolution on the agenda. Second. No opposition. (note: correct title used in these minutes)

Discussion of resolution.

Question called. Second. Approved.

Vote on Resolution – Approved.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING CSU STATEWIDE SENATE RESOLUTION
(AS-2714-05/FA) RE-AFFIRMATION OF PRIOR ACTIONS AND
STATEMENTS ON MERIT PAY

RESOLVED that the Sonoma State Academic Senate endorse the CSU Statewide Senate Resolution (AS-2714-05/FA) Re-Affirmation of Prior Actions and Statements on Merit Pay

And be it further

RESOLVED that the Sonoma State Academic Senate send copies of this resolution to the Chancellor, all members of the Board of Trustees.

Provost's Report – E. Ochoa

The Provost reported that there has been some difficulty scheduling the Accreditation Steering Committee and the University Strategic Planning Committee, but progress is being made. He reported on the progress of the Green Music Center committees. He described the budget calculations and process of determining how much money would be needed for the Schools to mount a Spring schedule. The first figure was incorrect and the administration is working now to find the funds for the correct figure, so the Spring schedule that is planned can be funded. The Provost discussed the question of a funding plan for program review. He has asked the Deans for a status report for each of the departments doing program review this year. Then the resource need and resource source will be secured. He noted that resources were directed away from program review in the past for the departments to develop assessment structures. Now departments that have finished their assessment can re-direct their resources to program review, however, not all programs are in the same stage of development of assessment. He further elaborated on Academic Affairs' thinking about funding program review. A decision was made that the Provost's office will pay for external reviewers.

A Senator noted that there was very little room in department and School budgets for program review. The Senate was requesting that money for program review come out of some other part of the university. If the funding comes out of the instructional budget, it will not have met the Senate's concerns.

The Provost said he did not envision that funding for program review would come out of the instructional budget. He argued that a global plan could not be created for funding because the specifics of each program are different. He gave examples of the differences in programs.

Motion to extend 10 minutes. Second. Approved.

A Senator noted that 128 new full time faculty would be needed if the campus grows to 9000 FTES and maintains an SFR of 21.9, the system average, or if we retain our current SFR 24.7, then we would have to add 82 FTEF. He asked where the campus will put these new faculty.

The Provost noted that the Green Music Center would have academic office space and another building is in process.

It was clarified that the Provost intends to hire 82 faculty by 2010.

A Senator noted the spirit of the resolution on Program Review which stated that any money from a department would have to come from the instructional budget.

A Senator asked if savings would be pooled between the Schools to improve resources for instruction.

The Provost said no, that direction has not been taken. He explained the process Academic Affairs is undergoing to identify how funds are spent and then use benchmarks to determine whether the funding levels are appropriate and further advanced his theory about how to produce more buy-in from the campus for issues encountered in Academic Affairs.

Good of the Order

P. Marker reported that NCATE voted to give the School of Education national accreditation.

Applause.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmstrom