

Academic Senate Minutes

October 12, 2006

3:00 – 5:00 Commons

Abstract

Announcements from the Chair. Report of the Chair. Moment of silence for Rand Link. Approval of Agenda. Approval of minutes of 9/14/06. Update on WASC. Provost Report. Cost Sharing Policy first reading. SPECIAL REPORT: CSU Coded Memorandum: Access to Electronic and Information Technology for Persons with Disabilities. Capping Size of Senate first reading. Associated Student Report. Statewide Senators report. APC report. EPC report. SAC report. SBC report. Good of the Order.

Present: Elaine McDonald-Newman, Tim Wandling, Elizabeth Stanny, Edith Mendez, Robert McNamara, Sam Brannen, Carolyn Epple, Birch Moonwoman, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Kristen Daley, Elizabeth Martinez, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Robert Train, Thaine Stearns, Liz Thach, Virginia Lea, Raye Lynn Thomas, Tia Watts, Murali Pillai, Rick Luttmann, Wanda Boda, Sandra Feldman, Steve Orlick, Glenn Brassington, Melinda Milligan, John Wingard, Scott Miller, Sandra Shand, Eduardo Ochoa, Jarrod Russell, Art Warmoth, Mary Halavais, Doug Jordan

Absent: Catherine Nelson, Noel Byrne, Steve Cuellar, John Kornfeld, Ruben Armiñana, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth

Proxies: Sue Hayes for Carlos Ayala, Jan Beauly for Marguerite St. Germain, Michael Cullinane for Lane Olson

Guests: Carol Blackshire-Belay, Dawn Dolan, William Babula, Rose Bruce, Mary Gederalik-Cooper

Announcements from Chair

The Chair reminded the members to get their RSVPs in for the Emeritus Dinner and of the CSU peer review visit regarding the 22 Points for Facilitating Graduation meeting for all faculty, Monday, October 16th from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Sue Jameson room.

Report of the Chair

The Chair asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Rand Link on October 9th. Rand worked at SSU for 35 years and at his retirement was Vice President for Student Affairs. He was very well-loved and respected.

Silence.

The Chair thanked the members. The Chair noted that there had been some talk on Senate-Talk lately about the tone of recent Senate meetings and she offered her own comments on this matter. She agreed that at all times we should endeavor to be as civil and respectful as possible. Further, the Senate is our one opportunity to

question our top administrators as a group and while we should take advantage of this opportunity, we should not abuse it. She also said that everyone on the Senate has the right to be critical of action or statements by others. She did not think criticism should be taken as an attack and that it could be expressed in ways that are not direct personal attacks. She was aware that everyone might not agree with her, but asked the body to do the best it could.

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Minutes of 9/14/06 – Approved.

Update on WASC – R. Bruce

R. Bruce reported on meetings with the three faculty consultants. They are taking each criteria for the standards and determining what evidence exists to support the area and if any more is needed. This will be written up and shared with the campus community in the Spring.

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Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa reported that the CSU is going to launch a strategic planning process for the whole system. He thought it was a process that would help renew an emphasis on quality in the CSU. He said that an update on the progress of Cornerstones was brought before the Board of Trustees and it noted that in three of the categories of Cornerstones, not much progress had been made. This provided a good starting point for the strategic planning to begin. The three areas are faculty development, compensation equity for faculty and diversity. He reported he was invited to join the group as one of two Provosts.

A Senator asked if the Provost's office had made a finding about the FAD (Faculty Assignment by Department) report and whether or not faculty are working in excess. He also asked two other questions. He asked what business plan did Extended Ed currently have to pay back the revenue bond, and where could he get a report on the finances of Extended Ed so he could make his own assessment. He thought these questions were of general interest. The Provost responded that for the first question what he could think of was their investigation into CS78 – non-traditional education which currently doesn't have WTUs associated with it. It has been used here at SSU for courses that would show an overload as it was thought the FAD could not show an overload. But that is no longer the case. We had a number of courses showing FTES, but no FTEF associated with it. He said they found as they looked at it, over 300 FTES have been generated in this category. Dr. Bruce estimates that this could account for .5% of our SFR. They will now correct that so it shows faculty workload correctly. The Provost said he would have to look into where to get the financial data for Extended Ed. He said there was currently no business plan yet for Extended Ed. He said in broad brush terms there was potential for Extended Ed to grow programs which need the Green Music Center for space. The debt service on the revenue bond won't start for two years.

Another Senator asked for a presentation on the business plan when it is created. The Provost said he didn't see any problem with that.

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A Senator asked if the campus is getting more money for the summer session. The Provost said that yes, the campus will get a higher target and more growth money to meet that target.

Cost Sharing Policy – S. Hayes

S. Hayes introduced the item. She said FSAC approved the policy and she introduced Joshua Schulz. He described the changes to the existing policy that consisted mainly of allowing, under very specific circumstances, faculty to volunteer time as cost share. He explained the reasons for the specific circumstances. Suggestions were offered to clarify the policy and there was discussion about the suggestions. The Chair requested any other questions or concerns be sent via email as the next time certain had been reached.

First reading completed.

SPECIAL REPORT: CSU Coded Memorandum: Access to Electronic and Information Technology for Persons with Disabilities – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa said the memo was very informative and detailed. He didn't think he could add more, but thought that walking the body through the memo would be useful. He had been involved in the consultation that preceded the memo and had been thinking about the issues a bit longer. He said the system is moving into compliance with laws from the state to provide access for persons with disabilities at a new level. He described the current level. The new level requires that all materials provided in the classroom and the university in general be accessible to the disabled whether or not there is an indication that a disabled student will be in a particular class. He noted the Director of Accessible Technology system-wide is Mary Cheng who is doing most of the research needed and providing information. He said it is an unfunded initiative, however, some money will be available to help. He described the consultation process in the CSU leading up to the memo. He described the work plan that is divided into three areas and covers three years. The three areas are: web accessibility, accessibility of instructional materials and procurement of electronic and informational technology resources that will have to be accessible by specification. The first year is for planning and evaluation. The second year is implementation and the third is assessment of how we are doing and if we need to change anything. He discussed the initial strategies for planning to be worked on in each of the three areas this year. He said an RFP is out from the system for a tool to help us carry out the job of determining accessibility of websites. He noted the Senate's role in developing plans and policies for providing accessibility for instructional materials and other issues associated with this area. He outlined Administration and Finance's role. He reported that the Vice Provost Carol Blackshire-Belay will be coordinating this activity on campus. The Provost is the Executive Sponsor. They will be attending a planning group meeting at the end of October. He thought perhaps it would be appropriate for a Senate member to attend this planning group meeting.

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A Senator commented on how daunting this initiative appeared even though he wanted to make his teaching accessible to as many people as possible. He asked how

much disability must be accommodated. The Provost said he is just learning about this and that clearly there are limits to what needs to be provided. He validated the Senator's reaction as it had been his own when he first heard about it. He said this potentially has huge resource implications and that it is the law and there is no recourse.

A Statewide Senator reported that the Statewide Senate was presented with the memo and many concerns were raised, particularly implications for academic freedom. He asked how many faculty are going to be on the planning committee because it has such wide implications for instruction. The Provost said they are looking for 4-5 people and that the people going to the workshop are just gathering information to bring back to the campuses.

A Senator asked about readers and that it would be helpful to know what caused complaints about web pages, so she could either take hers down or fix it. The Provost said that we don't have a crisis on our campus, so there is no need to take anything off the web. He said we are just attempting to comply with the law. He wanted to take the time to do the planning in an orderly fashion.

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A Senator asked about the clause about "undue burden." The Provost thought it could cover financial burden as well as physical burden. The Senator followed up asking if we would need to hire someone to do this. The Provost said we might have to. He said he will have a better sense of it after the workshop.

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A Senator voiced her support for the idea, but was very concerned about the initiative being unfunded. The Provost said he was also concerned about the lack of funding.

A Senator spoke about the tremendous impact on the library. She advised the body about system-wide library groups meeting to discuss this issue and they have already built into their purchasing the need for accessibility. She identified projects that were already in the works on campus and system-wide that the campus could utilize and suggested having someone come to talk about those resources.

A Senator asked which institutions are in compliance within the disciplines so we could use their resources as a beginning point. The Provost said he was not aware that best practices have been developed in this area. He stressed the fact that no other higher education institution was subject to this level of [what? Accessibility?].

A Senator encouraged the Provost that faculty with expertise in accessibility as well as academic freedom be involved in the planning and consultation. He also thought it would also be helpful to involve a lecturer. He asked that the Provost articulate this new law as a dollar figure and as an impact on our SFR, which then we could take back to the Legislature.

A Senator said she was impressed, from her personal experience, with the University of New Mexico in the area of access. She also reminded the body that this legislation was an attempt to give everyone a voice at the table. She spoke about the

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experience of people with disabilities as being separate in a profound way. She asked the body to consider who we are as educators and who we are to each other.

A Senator commented that it forces us to do our teaching in a variety of modalities and even though we are being forced to do it, it was a good thing we were doing it.

A Senator noted that he thought the campus did a very good job of dealing with accommodations. The Provost responded that he agreed that the most cost effective way of accommodating people with disabilities was as the campus does it now. However, the law says we must make everything accessible to everyone. He also noted the ENACT program on campus that are working on Universal Design and from this perspective we could improve our curriculum design for everyone.

Capping the Size of the Senate – T. Wandling

T. Wandling introduced the item from Structure and Functions about capping the size of the Senate, an item brought to their committee by the Senate Analyst and the Faculty Retreat on Governance. He said there was also a proposal for reducing the size of the Senate, but the committee rejected that. He described the proportional model proposed and noted that every School would have at least two Senators, but no more than five. Questions were asked concerning practices CSU-wide. T.

Wandling said that Structure and Functions wants to know if the proposal is rejected, the reason it is being rejected and whether the Senate does want them to consider the question of reducing the size of the Senate. A Senator noted that she valued the work of the Senate Analyst and thought the body might consider that in their thinking. Another Senator said she thought the Senate was big for the size of our university, and also noted there were not that many voices at the Senate. She thought that it was probably not a good idea to get smaller, but also not good to get larger.

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Return to Reports

Associated Students Report – J. Russell

J. Russell reported that the audit for Associated Student is going well. The committee appointments are almost complete. The Chancellor's office visit will meet with the students at 1:00. He rounded up about 30 students for the visit. He updated the AS work on getting students registered to vote.

Chair – Elect Report – T. Wandling

No report

Statewide Senator Report – R. McNamara

R. McNamara reported that they meet next week. They will also be attending a CSU conference on Student Success. He recommended the Statewide Senate newsletter that had recently come out.

APC Report – A. Warmoth

A. Warmoth reported that APC is working on the institutional priorities that the Senate passed last year to make sure they make it in to the University Strategic Planning process. They are also developing strategic initiatives to go along with the priorities. They hope to have the information about changing from Schools to Colleges that was requested by the next Senate meeting.

EPC Report – M. Halavais

M. Halavais reported that EPC meet with the GE subcommittee and Sascha Von Meier regarding the Monday meeting with the Chancellor's office staff. She reported that Dr. Von Meier remains enthusiastic about the First Year Experience pilot. M. Halavais was questioned about a report back on the FYE and if there were any timelines. She responded that Dr. Von Meier said they are actively planning the second year. In terms of assessments, they are doing intakes. M. Halavais said there was a report requirement in the resolution passed by the Senate, but she did not have a timeline.

SAC Report – D. Jordan

D. Jordan reported that SAC is working on a proposal from the Senate Analyst regarding how hearings are done at Sonoma State. They have approved the idea that a Fairness Board would adjudicate cases rather than juries. They will be sending to Structure and Functions the proposal for membership for the Fairness Board, which would be a subcommittee of SAC.

Senate Budget Committee – S. Orlick

S. Orlick reported that the SBC will be looking at how we align our mission to resources per the WASC report. They will also be looking at the last 10 years of growth money, where it went and why it did not impact the faculty at SSU.

Good of the Order

Senator Shand passed out a handout about Graduate School workshops and discussed the Career Center activities to prepare students for Graduate School. She asked the members to spread the word. Senator Coleman-Senghor asked for the Senate to have a course in Campus Budget 101. The Chair noted that such a presentation was scheduled for the Senate.

Adjourned.

| Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström

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