

**Senate Executive Committee Minutes**  
March 13, 2014  
3:00 – 5:00, Academic Affairs Conference Room

**Abstract**

Agenda – Approved. Minutes of 2/13 and 2/27 – Approved. Chair Report. President Report. Revision to the Communication Studies Program approved for Senate consent calendar. Statewide Senator Report. Vice Chair Report. APC and EPC reports read. FSAC Report. SAC Report. CFA Report. Senate agenda approved.

**Present:** Margaret Purser, Maria Hess, Richard Senghas, Deborah Roberts, Karen Thompson, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Jennifer Mahdavi, Elaine Newman, Richard Whitkus, Terry Lease, Ruben Armiñana

**Guests:** Anthony Gallino, Elizabeth Burch, Marco Calavita, Armand Gilinsky for EPC

**Approval of Agenda – Approved.**

**Minutes of 2/13 and 2/27 – Approved.**

**Chair Report – M. Purser**

M. Purser reminded the committee about events upcoming: The Excellence in Teaching Award reception and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Senate.

**President Report – R. Armiñana**

R. Armiñana reported on three new appointees to the Board of Trustees – Debra Farrar, who had previously served; Adam Day, the assistant tribal manager for the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation since 2002; and Lillian Kimbell-Del Bosque, a lawyer. He noted that Trustee Hauck had passed away. A member asked about past legal problems with local fire departments and how that had turned out. The President said the CSU had prevailed, as it was not in the city's jurisdiction to tax a state entity. The CFA rep asked the President where he stood on the Equity III for solving the compression/inversion problem for faculty salaries. The President said it was probably a system matter. It might become a local matter. The President thought it would happen, but he was not sure how it would get paid. The CFA rep asked if this would occur under the current contract or would they have to wait until the next contract. The President said he did not know, but noted that most of the money for this year had been spent.

**Revision to the Communication Studies Program – A. Gilinsky, M. Calavita, L. Burch**

A. Gilinsky said that EPC was very confused about earlier versions of the proposal and he thought the COMS department did a very good job of clearing up most of the confusion. EPC did approve it unanimously with two abstentions and they wished it to go forward as consent item. He thought that the department was caught between

two “grinding stones.” One was to be proactive and make the major relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the other was punitive nature of the department being winnowed down by resources and the lack of TT faculty positions being re-hired. M. Calavita said there were three issues that brought about the revision. One was updating the major for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He said Communication Studies was changing faster than most majors. The second reason was that they wanted the major to be easier for students to navigate and get to graduation on time. The third issue that promoted the revision, that had been very difficult, was that for several years, they had experienced a diminishment of their resources based on faculty losses and loss of money for adjunct faculty. He noted the department was very aware of the budgetary issues facing the CSU that hit everyone and that there were particular shortfalls on the SSU campus in Arts and Humanities and in Academic Affairs. He said in the transition from Dean Babula to Dean Stearns there was a new emphasis placed on teaching GE and slightly less on courses for the majors, which was affecting other A&H departments as well. The Department also understood that target was always relevant and of concern. With all that understanding, he argued that COMS had suffered inordinately. In the last 5 years, they had lost 26% of FTEF and 50% of part time funded units and course offerings had declined 37%. He argued that this severely compromised their ability to deliver their curriculum to students, and put significant stress on their faculty. They are concerned that it was making their program and SSU an outlier for COMS programs in 2014. He said no other COMS program in the CSU or elsewhere was shrinking. He provided evidence that other COMS programs were growing, not shrinking. He said he was proud of what they had accomplished to manage damage control under these circumstances. There was a quick summary of the curriculum before and after the revision. The CFA rep thought that the revision significantly increased the faculty workload and told the department that they did not have to agree to workload increases. They could not say yes to increases and then grieve, they had to say no and be forced into doing it. She gave more information about why they might want to talk to her about their faculty rights and the grievance process. There was discussion of the revision regarding readiness for the Senate. There was discussion about the pros and cons of the program being impacted. L. Burch noted they had problems with SB 1440 as well, so those students were given more leeway, but it still was an issue. A member noted she would not support a revision that included a course that was not funded. A member argued that there were other courses in the university that were not funded, such as internships and he cautioned about putting that criteria on one department and not others. M. Calavita said they were not adopting that unfunded course willingly. Discussion continued about specific curricular offerings and the way the particular course offerings interfaced with the ARR. There was discussion about how the program was bringing new and specific skills to the program. There was a discussion about whether the approval of the revision would hamper the ability to grieve the workload increase with the Union. The EPC rep noted that they thought it was not fair to hold back the proposal regardless of any other issues, unless the Department wanted to hold it back. The Chair discussed the various ways the Ex Com could move forward with this proposal. **Motion to approve the COMS proposal for the Senate’s consent calendar and add an item of business to the Senate agenda about the relationship between diminishing resources, curriculum and workload. Second. Voice vote had one nay.** Consent portion of motion cannot

be done, as all curricular items must receive unanimous consent at all levels to be on the consent calendar.

**Motion to reconsider vote brought by prevailing party. Second. Approved.**

**Motion to divide the question. Second. Approved.**

**Motion to put the COMS proposal on the Senate's consent calendar. Second. Approved.**

**Motion to add a discussion item to the Senate agenda about the relationship between diminishing resources, curriculum and workload. Approved.**

### **Statewide Senator Report – D. Roberts**

D. Roberts reported that the Statewide Plenary meeting would be next week. She still wanted feedback on the first reading items. She noted that the CSU wide conference would be Nov. 13 and 14<sup>th</sup> in Long Beach. A call will come out for speakers and poster sessions.

### **Vice Chair Report – R. Senghas**

R. Senghas reported that S&F recommended Hope Emery Ortiz as a replacement on the PDC. No objection. S&F recommended A. Collinsworth for the GMC Development Director Search. No objection. S&F recommended Emily Acosta Lewis and Shawn Purcell for the GMC Communications and Marketing Director Search. No objection. There were three positions for this search committee, so one more recommendation would be forthcoming. S&F was working on how faculty will be consulted in the intersession periods for emergency type hires. He reported that the GMC Board would be having a retreat at the end of May and asked for input. A member asked about the final cost of the MasterCard Pavilion. R. Senghas said it was probably another \$17 million.

### **Chief Student Affairs Officer Report – M. Lopez-Phillips**

M. Lopez-Phillips said that the student elections had to be stopped and redone due to anomalies in the voter rolls. They would look into that and re-run the election after Spring break.

### **APC Report**

The Chair read a report from APC. They were working on an executive summary of the SEIE policy to bring to the Ex Com. They would run the policy by EPC again as requested. They had meet with Geoff Cirullo from IT to assist in classroom updates. They were also looking at data about recent TT faculty departures.

### **EPC Report**

The Chair read a report from EPC. It described the courses and curriculum that had passed EPC. It also reported that EPC had decided not to ask the GE subcommittee to reconsider their negative vote on University 160A/B even though the discussion and voting had happened in a closed session. The Chair of EPC sent a memo to GE stating that in the future, they should not use closed sessions for this purpose and reminded them that they could use written ballots if needed for voting. Melinda Milligan was elected to serve as Chair of EPC for 2014 – 2015.

### **FSAC Report – R. Whitkus**

R. Whitkus said the past meeting was cancelled. Next meeting they would be working on the SETE policy. They would hear a proposal from AFS about adding at-large members to their committee and would hear from CFA about lecturers and department governance. A member asked about FSAC's reaction about service time – academic year vs. calendar year for service credit. R. Whitkus said he had a conversation with M. Barnard and she would find out where it came from initially.

### **SAC Report – K. Thompson**

K. Thompson reported that SAC was revising the grade appeal policy. They were reviewing priority registration applications.

### **CFA Report – E. Newman**

E. Newman noted that the current contract expired this June and they were actively bargaining. March 25<sup>th</sup> was the 100<sup>th</sup> day until the contract expires, so CFA would have events on campus that day. She said they would ask faculty to express their thoughts about the contract and join CFA in Lobos for free beer. There was a fascinating digression into the use of alcohol during the colonial period and how effective that was for voter turnout. It was noted that in the south, they used fried chicken.

### **Senate agenda**

#### **AGENDA**

Report of the Chair of the Faculty – Margaret Purser  
Approval of Agenda  
Approval of Minutes – emailed

Consent items: Communication Studies program revision-  
emailed

Special Report: Campus Foundation and Endowment – I.  
Hannah and L. Furukawa-Schlereth TC 3:30

#### **BUSINESS**

1. Discussion item: Impact of resource reduction on faculty

workload and curriculum (leading to creation of a resolution) - M. Purser

**Approved.**

*Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmstrom-Keyes*