

Academic Senate Minutes
March 19, 2009
3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Announcements from Chair. Chair Report. Approval of Agenda. Approval of minutes of 3/5/09. WASC update. Revision to the Excellence in Teaching Award Policy postponed to April 23rd. Resolution on Low Cost Books for Students amended and approved as Resolution in Support of Informing Students of Alternative Textbook Sources. New Concentration in ENSP first reading. Revision to Faculty Representation to Administrative Search Committees policy first reading. Revision to the RTP policy first reading. CFA Report. Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee Report. WASC Discussion on Planning. Good of the Order.

Present: Scott Miller, Tim Wandling, Deb Kindy, Sam Brannen, Edith Mendez, Noel Byrne, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Kristen Daley, Ronald Lopez, John Sullins, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Terry Lease, Steve Cuellar, John Kornfeld, Rick Robison, Tia Watts, Nick Geist, Cora Neal, Rick Luttmann, Wanda Boda, Steve Orlick, Margie Purser, James Dean, Lillian Lee, Sandra Shand, Jacqueline Holley, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Andy Merrifield, Lane Olson, Art Warmoth, Thaine Stearns, Sunil Tiwari

Absent: Susan Moulton, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Birch Moonwoman, Brian Wilson, Kathy Morris, Maria Hess, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Whitney McClure, Derek Pierre, Casey Jones.

Proxies: Karin Enstam-Jaffe for John Wingard, Derek Girman for Karen Thompson

Guests: Elaine Sundberg, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Barbara Lesch-McCaffry, Peter Phillips, Danielle Zazzeron

Announcements from Chair

The Chair noted that the upcoming Friday was the last day to submit letters of comment for the Excellence in Teaching Award. He also gave a huge thank you to the organizers of the Faculty Exposition that he thought was so well done and enjoyed enormously. He announced that Seawolf Day was Saturday.

Chair Report - S. Miller

S. Miller reported that JCAP had completed a draft of the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. He noted to the Standing Committee Chairs that they will be receiving it and JCAP wanted their feedback. Also, they expect the Plan to come to the Senate before the end of the year.

Consent Items:

Approval of Agenda – time certain of 4:15 for CFA report. Item #2 moved to item #1. *No objection.*

Minutes of 3/5/09 – amended and approved.

New concentration in ENSP – request to move to business item.

WASC update – E. Sundberg thanked everyone for their ideas for the poster session and encouraged more. They hope to have a draft of the Educational Effectiveness report done by April 15 and available for comment.

Motion for new concentration in ENSP to have a time certain of 3:45. Second.
There was discussion. *Approved.*

Revision to the Excellence in Teaching Award Policy – S. Tiwari

S. Tiwari moved to postpone the second reading until April 23rd. S. Tiwari noted that he had just found out yesterday that we had lost one of the awards. The document assumes we have two and there are issues with the calendar. **Second. Approved.**

Resolution on Low Cost Books for Students – R. Luttmann

R. Luttmann introduced the item by stating that it is not meant to solve all the problems with the bookstore. It was aimed at making clear the choices students have for buying books. He introduced two guests who wanted to speak – Dr. Peter Phillips and Danielle Zazzeron. Dr. Phillips talked about the emphasis on neutrality in the resolution. He offered counter arguments to an email the Provost had sent out about the textbook selection process. Danielle Zazzeron then spoke as the owner of Northlight Books and Café. She described her business processes to acquire used textbooks and her objections to getting the book list from the campus bookstore.

Motion to amend (technically a substitution): Resolution in Support of Informing Students of Alternative Textbook Sources. Be it resolved that the SSU Academic Senate strongly urges that the SSU administration clearly inform students, preferably by placing a statement near links to the campus bookstore on registration webpages, that there are sources other than the campus bookstore for purchasing textbooks, that some sources might charge a lower price than the campus bookstore and that students are entitled to purchase textbooks from such sources. Second.

Motion to postpone the amendment indefinitely. Second. Motion withdrawn. Mover wanted to postpone main motion. Second, approved. A member asked for a ruling from the Chair. The Chair ruled that the motion to postpone the main motion could be heard. Ruling of the Chair to hear

the postponement on the main motion appealed. Chair ruling overruled by the body.

Discussion of the amendment ensued. **Question called. Second. Approved.**

Vote on amendment - Resolution in Support of Informing Students of Alternative Textbook Sources: Be it resolved that the SSU Academic Senate strongly urges the SSU administration to clearly inform students, preferably by placing a statement near links to the campus bookstore on registration webpages, that there are sources other than the campus bookstore for purchasing textbooks, that some sources might charge a lower price than the campus bookstore and that students are entitled to purchase textbooks from such sources. *Approved.*

New Concentration in ENSP (moved to business from consent calendar) by N. Geist

N. Geist discussed the Biology Department's concerns about the concentration and noted that departments proposing curricular changes should consult with any departments potentially affected by the intended revisions or changes. Biology had not been consulted and was affected. The Chair of EPC stated that the proposal stated there were no actual changes to the program that had been running for 27 years. EPC had not required letters from other departments due to this understanding. Concern was raised that the former track being turned into a formal concentration was not substantiated in the proposal. **Motion to waive the first reading. Second.** There was discussion. *Failed.*

Motion to move the agenda. Second. Approved.

First reading completed.

**Revision to Faculty Representation to Administrative Search Committees policy –
S. Miller**

S. Miller described the changes to the policy. There were some cosmetic changes, in particular incorrect job titles. The substantive changes were the composition of memberships of committees for searches in Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. Now the committees would have two faculty, two SSPs and two students. The job titles were moved to an appendix. The title was also changed to Representation on Administrative Search Committees to reflect actual practice. There were questions and discussion. **Motion to move the agenda. Second. Approved.**

First Reading completed.

Revision to the RTP policy – S. Tiwari

S. Tiwari introduced the item. He noted the RTP revised policy that passed the Senate last year was in the process of being implemented. The Vice Provost and the Chair of the URTP had met with Chairs of Department RTP committees to gather feedback on the process. They collected a list of issues and concerns. They were mainly about inconsistencies with the CBA and ambiguous language in the policy. He described the documents in the packet – one summarizing each issue and what FSAC's intention was when they wrote the policy and a copy of the revised RTP policy. He offered the floor to the Chair of the URTP, P. Hammett, who elaborated on the reasons for revising the document. There were questions. The discussion was extended five minutes.

First Reading completed.

CFA Report – A. Merrifield

A. Merrifield announced that the Post Promotion Increase program for 2009/2010 would be going forward this year. He described the process and the appeals process. He discussed the political dispute about the stimulus package coming to California from the Federal government. He noted that CFA is fighting the Governor's interpretation so that there will not be layoffs of teaching faculty. He said colleagues may be asked to fax or call their legislators. He then reported on the mediation session schedule between CFA and the CSU. There were a few questions.

Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee Report – E. Velasquez-Andrade and B. Lesch-McCaffry

E. Velasquez-Andrade reported on the Open Forums and asked the Senators to volunteer to be facilitators and how to participate. She also asked the Senate to articulate what they see as the next step for the Ad-Hoc Committee work. She was being asked this question and wanted to give the Senate's answer, not her own. B. Lesch-McCaffry gave an overview of the committee's work. She noted that they hope to have a report for the Senate by the end of the semester. They have also been asked for recommendations for the Center for Gender, Culture and Sexuality. There was some discussion.

WASC Discussion on Planning

A. Warmoth began the discussion by noting various documents that were passed out for this item – a document on shared governance, and flow charts for the Academic Affairs and University Strategic Plans. He shared with the body the comments from WASC during the Capacity and Preparatory Review that concerned academic planning. They were: the University should reach consensus on a clear definition and articulation of its complex mission, so that planning efforts may proceed in the clear light of a widely shared understanding; the University must yoke its disparate planning efforts into a

single respected process that honors both administrative entrepreneurship and faculty governance; the University should address systematically the elements expressed in recent expressions of concern so as to strengthen the sense of community and enable the accomplishment of other critical aspirations. He noted that in all the planning discussions, no problems were articulated about being a liberal arts and sciences university and having applied professional programs. He said that serious efforts were being made to incorporate previous planning documents (LRAP and Core Academic Priorities report) into the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. He discussed how the plan would come to the Senate. He said he thought that the University Strategic Plan would be available by the end of the year. He noted that a discussion of the meaning of being a liberal arts and sciences educational institution, as promised in our self-study for the Capacity and Preparatory Review, has not yet happened. He expressed hope that a formal way of doing so would happen soon. The Provost described the flow charts he brought to the Senate which illustrated how planning would inform the whole campus and link efforts. He noted that JCAP would eventually replace the Academic Affairs Strategic Planning Committee. The floor was then opened for discussion. Comments were made regarding: buy-in for the strategic planning process or some other process; how to deal with disputes in the planning process, budget concerns, issues of access to information and administrative transparency; joint decision making during a crisis; suggestions about how to change the flow charts to reflect how programs are functioning and to show a feedback system; power relationships between "nested plans"; and the experimental nature of JCAP. The Provost responded to some of these ideas.

Motion to extend for five minutes. Second. No objection.

A. Warmoth appreciated the discussion and thought it would help the planning committees very much.

Good of the Order

S. Orlick brought up a concern about the restaurant at the Green Music Center. He asked for the item to be put on the Senate's agenda. The Chair said he would agendize it for the next Executive Committee. M. Lopez-Phillips announced that 2000 people were signed up for Seawolf Day and thanked everyone for their support.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega