

Academic Senate Minutes

February 9, 2012

3:00 – 4:30, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Agenda amended and approved. Minutes of 1/26/12 approved. Academic Calendar Guidelines revision – First Reading. The Bucks Start Here Campaign. President Report. Provost Report. Chair-Elect Report. Vice President of SAEM Report. Associated Students Report. APC Report. EPC Report. FSAC Report. SAC Report. CFA Report. Staff Representative Report. Good of the Order

Present: Ben Ford, Margaret Purser, John Wingard, Maria Hess, Catherine Nelson, Michaela Grobbel, Steve Wilson, Helmut Wautischer, Jim Robison, Marco Calavita, Parissa Tadrissi, Mutombo M’Panya, Terry Lease, Merlin Hanauer, Karen Brodsky, Tom Buckley, Jean Chan, Sharon Cabaniss, Matty Mookerjee, Laura Watt, Don Romesburg, Michael Pinkston, Sandra Shand, Marisa Thigpen, Ruben Armiñana, Andrew Rogerson, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Dolores Bainter, Matthew Paolucci-Callahan, Armand Gilinsky, Richard Senghas, Jennifer Mahdavi

Absent: Brian Wilson, Deborah Roberts, Janet Hess, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Michael Cohen, Noel Byrne, Edie Brown,

Proxies: Carmen Works for Sam Brannen, Birch Moonwomon for Andy Merrifield

Guests: Anthony Gallino, Melinda Barnard, Ross Stivison, Elaine Sundberg

Chair Report – B. Ford

B. Ford noted he had sent out an email recently and asked Senators to read it. He reported on the request made at the Senate for disability retirement to be considered in the Emeritus policy. He said he had found out that FSAC had already discussed this issue and FSAC thought that opening the policy up to exceptions would bring about difficulties. The Chair said he would not pursue the issue any further. He reported that the University Affairs subcommittee for the Green Music Center had a good discussion about academic programs that might take more advantage of the GMC.

Approval of Agenda – Motion to postpone item#1 – Resolution Regarding the Subsidization of Category II (Local) Student Fees for Low Income Students to the next Senate meeting. No objection. Approved.

Approval of Minutes of 1/26/12 – Amended and Approved.

Consent item: Degree designation in Music from Bachelor of Arts to Bachelor of Music – Approved.

Academic Calendar Guidelines revision – First Reading – A. Gilinsky

A. Gilinsky noted a date change for the actual calendar included in the packet. He noted the reason for the revision due to the earlier start of the spring semester. He summarized the discussion in EPC about the revision. The Chair clarified that the Senate approves the academic calendar guidelines and the Provost's office creates the actual calendars. A member suggested that the first two guidelines could be written to be clearer. A member suggested explanatory language might be helpful in the guidelines as the same discussions kept happening as the calendar guidelines came through the Senate over the years. A member suggested including the number of faculty workdays. E. Sundberg noted that the academic calendar was constrained by the regulations given by the Chancellor's office, which were used first to construct the calendar and then the local calendar guidelines were used as representing what the faculty would prefer after the regulations were met. She directed the Senators to the notes provided with the calendar materials in the packet. A member asked about the history of the Thanksgiving break. C. Works provided her understanding that no classes were held on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving to allow students to travel longer distances. She noted that the Thanksgiving break was discussed most years in EPC and that the Monday and Tuesday of that week were faculty work days and for them to become part of the holiday, two other days would have to be found somewhere else in the calendar. A. Gilinsky responded to the suggestion that the first two guidelines be written clearer and discussed the rationale for those guidelines. E. Sundberg described how the guidelines, written as they were, helped her construct the calendar. First Reading completed.

The Bucks Start Here Campaign – A. Kosty

A. Kosty, the Chair of the Associated Student Senate, noted that the Bucks Start Here system wide campaign was initiated by a student at SSU, Sean Richards, who was a representative to the CSSA. She said it was basically a letter writing campaign to the Governor to tell the stories about how the budget cuts were affecting SSU and other CSUs.

(<http://www.csustudents.org/whatwedo/TheBucksStartHereCampaign.shtml>) She said the Associated Students goal was to gather 1000 letters. She said the letters were written on paper that looked like money

(http://www.csustudents.org/whatwedo/documents/650million_revised-1%20%282%29.png - it was changed again to be a \$750 million bill). A huge box to carry all the letters was traveling around the campuses and would be presented to the Governor at the march in March. She said they had run out of bills to bring to the Senate that day. She noted they were tabling most days. A member suggested sending a stack of bills to the Department Chairs. The Chair praised the AS for this campaign.

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana reported that the CSU would receive another reduction of \$200 million if the tax measures were not approved in November. He said the chances for the ballot measures about taxes to be approved was "iffy." He noted that there may be

several different tax measures on the ballot which, conventional wisdom said, confused the electorate and so none of them would pass. He said the impact on the CSU of that further reduction would be “dramatic” and the CSU would not be as easily recognizable as today. The prospects were frightening. The Legislative Analyst had released a criticism of the Governor’s budget saying that the budget did not establish an enrollment target, and the \$200 million trigger was of enormous impact to higher education and would come too late in the year. He said the CSU was still trying to figure out how to make the \$100 million reduction permanent. He noted that the LAO also criticized the Governor’s increase in the requirements for Cal Grants. He reported that the campus had received from an estate planning bequest \$1.3 million for scholarships that would be based on merit and need. He said that increased the amount of scholarships by 1/3rd. A member asked what was being considered if the \$200 million reduction was realized by the CSU. The President said he suspected it would include a review of program offerings, consolidation of programs, potential layoffs of some type of employees, not doing a number of things that were presently being done. These were ideas for a campus. On a systemwide basis, he thought something like furloughs might happen and shortening the school year. He did not see a significant fee increase to cover the reduction. A member asked about the change in Cal Grants and how it would affect current students. The President said it would not affect current students, but future students. He noted the proposal was in the Governor’s budget and would have to go through the Legislature. A member asked if the campus would start a capital campaign to cover the reduction. The President responded that the kinds of money raised in capital campaigns did not cover operating costs. He said he would consider a capital campaign, however, it would require at least a million dollar investment to mount such a campaign and he thought it was not a good time given the current economic situation. A member asked if there were be a search for the Vice President of Development. The President said, at some point. The Chair asked why the lobbying towards the Legislature had not begun. The President responded that it was happening behind the scenes, but the Legislature had not taken up the budget yet and would not talk about it until after the May revise.

Provost Report – A. Rogerson

A. Rogerson reported that effective Fall 2012, the Community Counseling Center would no longer offer internships, but would still offer practicum for first year counseling students. He said they were phasing out the internship part of that program. He said it was a very small program and the students would be able to find internships off campus. The decision was made in full consultation with the department. A member asked what the impact would be on the community served by the Center. The Provost noted the internship possibilities in the community. The FSAC Chair expressed FSAC’s concern about the cancelling of the Director of ORSP search and offered reasons why this should be a first priority when funds became available. The Provost said it was still his number one priority and he thought that as the campus went through the upcoming changes, it was important to retain university status by offering scholarship opportunities to faculty and students. He thought that the position might be filled internally and would discuss that with the Sponsored Programs Subcommittee. He said if the campus was not doing scholarship, it would be a community college, not a university.

Chair-Elect Report – M. Purser

M. Purser encouraged the Senators to get out the vote. The nominations deadline had been extended. She also asked Senators to help their colleagues understand the constitutional amendment that would also be on the ballot.

Vice President of SAEM Report – M. Lopez-Phillips

M. Lopez-Phillips noted that the interviews for the Director of the MCC were finished and he hoped to make an offer in a couple of weeks. He reported on the admissions process and noted the campus was up 1000 applications from last year and said it was a very strong pool. A member commended M. Lopez-Phillips and other administrators for making the Director of the MCC hire go forward. A member asked if there had been any changes in admission criteria. M. Lopez-Phillips said it was a floating index and they were currently trying to admit students that needed the least remediation.

Associated Students Report – A. Kosty

A. Kosty reported that the Associated Students were recruiting for their elections. She noted they were dealing with a lot of resolutions lately. They passed one about supporting the rideshare program and were considering one on more sustainability in AS practices. She encouraged everyone to the “Pack the Den” event that night to support men and women athletes and strengthen school spirit. They were working on the fee referendum policy.

APC Report – M. Paolucci-Callahan

M. Paolucci-Callahan reported that APC created two workgroups to work on the documents for an online course policy and an updated MOU with Extended Education.

EPC Report – A. Gilinsky

A. Gilinsky said EPC did not establish a colony on the moon, but did approve the Ukiah/Liberal Studies Program Review, finally. He reported on curricular items approved by EPC.

FSAC Report – R. Senghas

R. Senghas reported that FSAC had looked at calendar changes to the Excellence in Teaching Award policy and noted it would come to the Senate soon. He reported on the Faculty Expo happening March 7th and said information would be coming out shortly. He noted FSAC had a first reading on the Sabbatical and DIP policy and it went well. He stressed they were not looking at the “merits” portion of the policies, but rather the process. He thanked the six faculty members who came forward to work on the SÊTE project.

SAC Report – J. Mahdavi

J. Mahdavi reported that SAC had an interesting conversation about a memo from the Athletics Council about whether they should accept sponsorships from organization and enterprises such as “Hooters.” SAC recommended back to the Athletics Council to determine what their own priorities were concerning sponsorships to be able to have policy and procedures in place to handle these issues.

CFA Report – B. Moonwomon

B. Moonwomon reported that CFA was at impasse and that there might be concerted action during the current semester. A member asked about CFA’s attention to the budget issues and if there was any campaign to bring to the public’s attention what was happening. B. Moonwomon said yes, there would be information about that during the actions in March.

Staff Representative Report – D. Bainter

D. Bainter thanked Senator Cabaniss for suggesting that the resolution from the Senate about faculty / staff civility be re-sent out (<http://www.sonoma.edu/senate/resolutions/endorseFSACcivility.html>). She announced a mediation class. She announced the opening of “Oklahoma” and that the matinee on the 12th would be a sing-along.

Good of the Order

K. Brodsky, the Library Senator, announced four different events upcoming in the library. A party, a workshop on affordable technology resources, an exhibit in the art gallery –XX: Women, Art and Science and free music from the Music Department on the first Fridays of the month. A Senator asked if electronic textbooks required students to pay for access to test materials. K. Brodsky said she had not heard of that and was sure something could be worked for low-income students.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström