

Academic Senate Minutes

December 13, 2007

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Associated Student Report. Approval of minutes of 10/11/07. Engineering Science Revision approved. Anthropology and Linguistics revision moved to business and approved. Update on WASC. Discontinuance of TESL program – First Reading. Revision of Grade Appeal Procedures approved. President Report. Provost Report. Vice President of Administration and Finance Report. Focus the Nation Resolution approved. Ad-Hoc Committee: Resolution regarding Independent Audit of Grants and Contracts on Campus and the California Institute on Human Services amended and referred back to Ad-Hoc Committee.

Present: Tim Wandling, Scott Miller, Elaine McDonald, Edith Mendez, Catherine Nelson, Sam Brannen, Susan Moulton, Noel Byrne, Birch Moonwomon, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Ronald Lopez, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Ada Jaarsma, Terry Lease, Charles Elster, John Kornfeld, Raye Lynn Thomas, Tia Watts, Murali Pillai, Richard Whitkus, Rick Luttmann, Wanda Boda, John Kramer, William Poe, Margaret Purser, John Wingard, James Dean, Lillian Lee, Sandra Shand, Bruce Peterson, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Whitney McClure, Jonathan White, Lane Olson, Art Warmoth, Thaine Stearns, Karen Thompson

Absent: Robert McNamara, John Kunat, Janet Hess, Steve Cuellar, Maria Hess

Guests: Carol Blackshire-Belay, Rose Bruce, Saeid Rahimi, Bill Babula, Barbara Butler, Elaine Leeder, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, TK Clarke, Elaine Sundberg, Susan McKillop, Dan Condron, Ian Hannah, Patricia McNeil, Linda Blong, Tim Dondero, Whitney Diver

Chair Report – T. Wandling

T. Wandling began his report by talking about recent articles in the student newspaper in the STAR. He appreciated hearing the student voice and was also appreciated of the coverage the STAR has given to the Senate in the past year. However, recently an article about the President that was filled with personal invectives was inappropriate and he personally wanted to distance himself from that sort of discourse. He emphasized that discussions should not get personal. He said he wants genuine, searching discourse for the way forward. He also talked about another article that quoted a Senator stating that she thought the President did not have a personal regard for diversity. He said he has not heard that from faculty on campus and that faculty criticism about diversity has to do with funding diversity initiatives on campus, not the President's personal commitment to diversity. He welcomed the STAR's coverage and appreciated the time to clarify these issues. Senator Coleman said he would write an editorial or letter for the Senate to approve condemning the article. A Senator noted that while the student's expression may be reprehensible, it would be inappropriate for the faculty to try to

silence it due to the power differential. The Chair hoped the editor of the STAR would attend the meeting to explain their side of the story.

Associated Student Report – W. McClure

W. McClure said they did not meet this week due to finals. Last week they tabled the resolution on the MBA fees and sent the sustainability resolution back for more refinement. She then offered her time to W. Diver, Associated Student President. W. Diver talked about the article in the STAR. She said that the VP of SAEM office has confirmed that the student who wrote the article is not in PeopleSoft. What that means, she wasn't sure. She noted that an opinion cannot be published under a false name. She also noted that the STAR is a class and that the issue should be dealt with on that level and in academics. The President then said he knew the student. He talked about the context, that he went to a class of Jonah Raskin's and he wanted to take away the rumor that the student did not exist. She has written for the STAR previously.

Approval of Agenda – *Approved.*

Approval of minutes of 10/11/07 – delayed. Senators asked to have them re-sent over email.

Consent items:

Engineering Science Revision – A Senator asked to have a short report from the department. The Chair ruled that that would be a change in procedure for consent items. Items can only be removed for substantial issues. He said the Executive Committee would continue to discuss this issue. *Approved.*

Anthropology and Linguistics – moved to business by a Senator objection.

Update on WASC – R. Bruce

R. Bruce reported that the report was getting printed and will go to WASC next week.

Discontinuance of TESL program – First Reading - T. Stearns

T. Stearns noted that the last line in the cover letter should say appropriate instead of inappropriate to counter a double negative. He also said this appears to be the first discontinuance in at least five years. It did not pass EPC unanimously. He then invited R. Senghas, Professor of Linguistics, to speak to the item. He said it was disappointing to have to discontinue the program, but it is the acceptance of certain realities. Enrollments have dropped and TESL now requires Master's level work. He described how the current students would finish out. He described how they structured the process of the discontinuance. A Senator brought up concerns raised

through statements made in the documents and the fact that EPC was not unanimous. R. Senghas described the difference between the Linguistics minor, which is growing and the TESL certificate. Students were not interested in the TESL certificate anymore, but are interested in the Linguistics minor.

First reading completed.

Revision of Grade Appeal Procedures – Second Reading - K. Thompson

K. Thompson introduced the item. She reminded the body that this was the final policy to be change due to the approval of the Formal Dispute Resolution procedures last year.

Approved.

Chair report continued

The Chair reported that there is a systemwide General Education affinity group being created and we are supposed to send a faculty member and an administrator. He said the faculty member needs to be approved by the Senate. He will bring that name back at the next meeting.

President Report – R. Armiñana

The President reported that the state will be upwards of \$14 billion in deficit, that is roughly 7% of the state budget. It is not known at this moment what the Governor's budget will be. There is some loose conversation in Sacramento of a mid-year reduction. These deficits mean that the range for the CSU could be a cut of \$300,000 or a funded compact. He said if the compact is funded that would be the best scenario. If the compact is not funded, all compensation agreements with all the unions would have to be re-negotiated. He discussed the over-enrollment. He said he has heard that a tax increase is not being considered by the Governor. He pointed out too, that any tax increase would send 40% of the money to Prop 98 and would not help the deficit that much. He also said to watch the election and that if a certain proposition fails, the leadership of the legislature could change.

Time certain reached.

Anthropology and Linguistics revision – First Reading – T. Stearns

It was determined that the Senator's concern was about the TESL discontinuance and not the revision to the Anthropology and Linguistics revision. **Motion to waive the first reading. Approved. Vote on revision. Approved.**

Questions for the President

A Senator asked if the President had considered the distribution per student to various education sectors. He said he had calculated that per student for K-12 is

around \$7000, for higher education, it is about \$4000 and for prisoner students around \$5600. The President said he agreed with the numbers, but did not see the question. Was he asking if there was a way for us to declare ourselves a prison?
(much laughter)

Another Senator asked if the President thought that the Governor might try to suspend Prop 98 or was that politically unviable? The President said there are a lot of rumors. One of which is that Prop 98 might not be fully funded. There is technical issue that Prop 98 has been over funded and they may not get that over-funded money in the next budget year.

Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa reported that a new Dean of Extended Education has been hired. Dr. Mark Merickel from Oregon State University will be joining us January 14th and he hoped everyone would welcome Dr. Merickel to campus. A Senator asked about Dr. Merickel's expertise in distance learning and if that was a direction Extended Education might go. The Provost said that was an area that he thought SSU would benefit from Dr. Merickel's experience.

Vice President of Administration and Finance – L. Furukawa-Schlereth

L. Furukawa-Schlereth described what was on the handout he passed around. The audit he talked about at the last Senate meeting from the Chancellor's office was now available online. He also noted that Senators asked for information about the other auditors currently at work and that he had included their contact information on the handout. He also noted that after his talk last week there seemed to be concern about direct cost recovery. He has asked his team to look at the \$17 million from a high level perspective and also to do a detailed analysis about how the money was spent. He said it would be a relatively lengthy process and he will keep folks updated. A Senator asked how much such an audit would cost. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said he would have two people working full time for about six to nine months. A Senator asked if the audit completed met the criteria for a performance audit as called for in the CIHS resolution. He also asked for a CSU campus that reflected best practices in grants and contracts and IDC distribution. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said that he thought the audit was a performance audit. He said that himself and the Provost are going to work with auditors from the Chancellor's office on grants and contracts best practices for SSU.

Time certain reached.

Focus the Nation Resolution – Second Reading - T. Dondero

The Chair appreciated the work of the Focus the Nation group and it was his intention to support the work of these students. He commended their consultation process. He noted that he suggested that the Senate could discuss certain issues pertaining to sustainability on the day mentioned in the resolution. T. Dondero talked about the progress of the organizing and recognized all the people working on the effort. He hoped the Senate would pass the resolution today. The Chair of

APC spoke about other efforts on campus and said that he thought the biggest issue was how much time the Senate wanted to give to the issue. The Chair recommended that the last resolved clause be stricken, as the Executive Committee could do that work. **The motion to strike was made and seconded.** There was discussion.

Amendment to the motion to have the last clause say, “The Senate delegate the implementation of the roundtable to the past, present and future Chairs and the Chair of APC.” Second. *Approved.* A Senator suggested that the Senate devote a whole meeting to the roundtable. The Chair asked if there were any more suggestions to email him. **Vote on the resolution. *Approved.***

Resolution in Support of national teach in: “Focus the Nation”

Resolved, the Academic Senate of SSU endorses the “Focus the Nation” teach in on February 7th, 2007.

Resolved, the Academic Senate of SSU encourages faculty and student participation in the “Focus the Nation” teach in on February 7th 2007.

Resolved, the Senate delegate the implementation of a roundtable discussion in the Senate on February 7th to the past, present and future Chairs and the Chair of APC

Return to Vice President of Administration and Finance Report

The Provost remarked that there is no campus with best practices on grants and contracts in the CSU and nationally people are also working on this issue. One of the things the staff from the Chancellor’s office are going to do as well is to make recommendations for the whole CSU.

EPC report – T. Stearns

T. Stearns said he had three things to report. First, he noted that EPC had seen 12 curriculum proposals this semester and he commended the faculty for their hard and creative work on the curriculum. The three items he wanted to report on were: EPC passed the Singapore program, they had their first reading of the FYE and the need in the university for an academic unit housed in Academic Affairs that could be a house for several functions, courses and programs that are academically related in the university. He said that he has asked APC to look at this and thought it could be seen as the faculty pro-actively addressing a need within the university.

Ad-Hoc Committee: Resolution regarding Independent Audit of Grants and Contracts on Campus and the California Institute on Human Services – N. Byrne

N. Byrne offered a couple of modifications to the resolution. **He moved to add in the title Resolution regarding Independent Audit of Sonoma State University,**

including, but not limited to Grants and Contracts on Campus and the California Institute on Human Services. And in the first paragraph add the same language in the first sentence of the first resolved clause: . . .calls for a comprehensive financial and performance audit of Sonoma State University including, but not limited to. . . He noted this change reflected the charge of the committee to address the no confidence vote of the Spring and reflects the broader concern. **He also moved that the fourth resolved clause be stricken. Second to all proposals.**

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

Vote on first motion add *Sonoma State University, including, but not limited to in both places. *Approved.**

Discussion of motion to strike the fourth resolved clause: ~~Resolved: That the SSU Academic Senate request that President Armiñana join us in endorsing this resolution.~~

The Chair argued that the President cannot request the kind of audit asked for in the resolution. Other Senators questioned whether that reasoning was correct. L. Furukawa-Schlereth expressed the view of the administration about why they could not request such an audit. He reviewed all the kinds of audits that are preformed as standard by the CSU. He said they have full confidence in the Board of Trustee's auditors.

Question called. Second. *Approved with hand count. (totals not reported to notetaker)*

Vote on striking fourth clause. *Approved.*

Return to main motion of the resolution.

S. Moulton, a member of the Ad-Hoc committee remarked that the Ad-Hoc committee heard at the last meeting that Senators wanted an audit external to the CSU. She also thought it was important for the Senate to hear from employees of CIHS and introduced Linda Blong. L. Blong said she was a director of projects at CIHS. She said she was speaking to the resolution. She wanted the Senate to know that neither herself or most other directors at CHIS nor any other knowledgeable staff were questioned in regards to an audit about expenditures and procedures. She said they saw no evidence of delegated authority and contrary to what they had heard, the relations between CIHS and Administration and Finance had been strained for a long time. From a project manager perspective she said she thought the relationship with A&F was strained because the people who oversaw their grant activity didn't understand it and took very little interest in it. The way the relationship worked was that all their grants, subcontracts, invoices and payments were approved by Administration and Finance. She said we heard from A&F about errors when we made them and about procedural changes. We corrected out errors and adjusted our internal procedures to conform to the changes. We were not able to give input to the changes or receive training about the changes. It suddenly got worse and it was all managers could do keep up with the demands of A&F and deal with the hostile environment. She said she would not take up time with the details

and was glad the authors of the Chronicles were starting to bring to light what happened at CIHS. She argued that more answers were needed now and that rebuilding trust at SSU was very important to prevent such things from happening in the future.

A Senator asked for assurance that another kind of audit would provide the Senate with the information it needs. Another Senator answered that by arguing why an independent audit was needed by clarifying terms. A Senator argued that the Senate was still in an information-gathering mode and maybe did not know yet what to ask for in terms of action. A Senator argued that an audit may not bring the Senate the answers it wants. A Senator asked again how much an independent audit would cost. S. Moulton said that audits from the Legislative Auditors would not cost anything to the university. It may be one step into a larger process. A Senator noted that any audit requested needed to have clear objectives and perhaps the objective used here would be WASC's comment that we need to align our resources more to our mission. L. Furukawa-Schlereth noted that, by definition in the field the audits, the Board of Trustees auditor and the KPMG audits are both external and independent from management. He also noted that a Legislative audit would have costs to the campus in that he would have to assign three accountants to work with that auditor. The immediate Past Chair reminded the body that there has not been a response from the Chancellor or Board of Trustees regarding the vote of no confidence and argued that the Senate now needed to talk to the Legislature. She also argued that it was not too soon and needed to be done soon. A Senator commented that the resolution was too vague and would not get the Senate the information it wanted.

Motion to extend by five minutes. Second. *Approved.*

N. Byrne argued that the GAO definition of performance audit seemed to him to meet the information needs of the Senate. A Senator commented that currently it didn't seem safe to have grant on the campus because it was so confusing and concurred that the changes to the resolution made it too broad. A Senator suggested adding questions to the resolution to focus it more and point auditors in the right direction and argued that the Board of Trustee's auditors have not been successful in the past uncovering inappropriate budget expenditures. **Motion to refer the resolution back to the committee to take into consideration comments heard at the Senate. Second. *Approved.***

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström