

Academic Senate Minutes
September 12, 2019
3:00 - 4:45, Sonoma Valley room

Abstract

Chair Report. Agenda amended and approved. Minutes of 8/22/19 amended and approved. Consent Item: Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status – Approved. President Report. Provost Report. Vice Chair Report. Vice President of Administration and Finance Report. Vice President for Student Affairs. Associated Students Report. Staff Representative Report. From EPC: Discontinuance for Minor in Physical Sciences – First Reading Completed. Resolution Requesting Hiatus of Policy Prohibiting FERP Faculty on RTP Committees – Approved. APARC Report. EPC Report. FSAC Report. SAC Report. CFA Report. Good of the Order.

Present: Laura A. Watt, Melinda Milligan, Hope Ortiz, Wendy Ostroff, Sam Brannen, Melissa Garvin, Jim Robison, Carlos Torres, Jeffrey Reeder, Joshua Glasgow, Angelo Camillo, Rajeev Virmani, Chiara Bacigalupa, Rita Premo, Izabela Kanaana, Mary Ellen Wilkosz, Adam Zagelbaum, Kevin Fang, Cookie Garrett, Judy Sakaki, Joyce Lopes, Erma Jean Sims, Melissa Kadar, Jenn Lillig, Paula Lane

Proxies: Sally Hurtado for Rick Luttmann, Christina Thao for Amal Munayer, Karen Moranski for Lisa Vollendorf, Maggie Simms for Hilary Smith, Laura Krier for Sean Place, Katie Musick for Arcelia Sandoval, Laura Monje-Paulson for Wm Gregory Sawyer

Absent: Florence Bouvet

Guests: Kara Rabbit, Jerlena Griffin-Desta, Julissa Espana (Star)

Chair Report – L. Watt

L. Watt reported that the Annual GI 2025 Symposium will happen in Sacramento this year. Jenn Lillig will attend as the faculty representative. She and M. Milligan worked with J. Lopes and L. Vollendorf to discuss strategies for improving communication about the Stevenson remodel.

Approval of Agenda – item added: Resolution Requesting Hiatus of Policy Prohibiting FERP Faculty on RTP Committees – Approved.

Approval of Minutes of 8/22/19 – No, the chair is not telepathic. Approved.

Consent Item: Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status – Approved.

Greta Thunberg, Geography, Environment & Planning
Melinda Barnard, Communication Studies
Caroline Christian, Geography, Environment & Planning
Johanna Filp-Hanke, Early Childhood Studies

Francisco Vazquez, Hutchins School of Liberal Studies
Randall Dodgen, History
Catherine Kroll, English
Suzel Bozada-Deas, Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies
Robert Caruso, Computer Science
Elizabeth Warner, Degree Completion Hutchins

President Report – J. Sakaki

J. Sakaki reported she was the keynote speaker at the 50th Anniversary of EOP event in the CSU. She will be signing an agreement with the Roseland School District for students who are CSU eligible to have a space at SSU. She has been working closely with Graton Rancheria and they have developed paid internships for SSU students in the Cotati-Rohnert Park school district and at the Fairfield Osborn Preserve.

Provost Report given by K. Moranski

K. Moranski provided an update on the campus accreditation process. The WASC focus visit take place in 2021. This will focus on the recommendations made from the re-accreditation in 2017. She will be putting together a team to write the report for the focus visit. She reported on SSU receiving a Teagle grant for 15 programs to undergo curriculum revision geared toward student success.

Vice Chair Report – M. Milligan

M. Milligan noted that there were still two service opportunities open and nine positions were appointed at the last S&F meeting. Two positions are still in process. She discussed the Basic Needs committee call and noted that the committee has been reformulated and faculty will be needed for the Basic Needs Task Force Executive Committee. Another call will be sent out soon.

Vice President of Administration and Finance Report – J. Lopes

J. Lopes encouraged everyone to attend the open forums for the candidates for the VP of Human Resources.

Vice President for Student Affairs – L. Monje-Paulson for Wm. Gregory Sawyer

L. Monje-Paulson announced that the immigrant attorney from the CSU will start working on campus on Monday and she will be housed in the CASSE offices. In the beginning of October, they will move to Schulz. She praised the student who organized the March for Consent recently on campus which was well attended. She highlighted other activities related to the issues of consent.

Associated Students Report – M. Kadar

M. Kadar reported that the AS is working on appointing students to committees and voter registration.

Statewide Senator – W. Ostroff

No report.

Staff Representative Report – K. Musick for A. Sandoval

K. Musick reported on the first Staff Council meeting of the semester. She asked the faculty to encourage their staff to serve on campus committees. The next meeting is in October.

From EPC: Discontinuance for Minor in Physical Sciences – First Reading – J. Lillig

J. Lillig noted that no students have been enrolled in this minor for 18 years. It also does not have a home. There are better opportunities available on campus now. This discontinuance cleans up the catalog. No comments on this discontinuance were received. EPC recommends moving forward with discontinuance. The members were reminded that the Senate is making a recommendation to the President on the discontinuance.

Motion to waive the first reading. Second. Discussion. Vote on waiving first reading = Yes – 13, No – 7. Failed, 2/3rd required. First reading completed.

Resolution Requesting Hiatus of Policy Prohibiting FERP Faculty on RTP Committees – First Reading – J. Lillig

J. Lillig introduced the resolution. She noted that a few weeks ago many departments were notified that FERP faculty elected to department RTP committees could not serve on the committee. This caused considerable problems in those departments who had to scramble to find other committee members in a short period of time. She argued this was a disservice to the candidates for RTP. Many FERP faculty have strong expertise in RTP matters in their disciplines. FERP faculty are also disappointed about not being able to serve. J. Lillig argued that FERP faculty are often very active in departments and continue to be so after retirement. There was also concern that the SSU RTP policy was in conflict with the CFA contract. The SSU policy states only full time faculty can serve on RTP committees and the CFA contract states that FERP faculty have all the rights and responsibilities of tenured faculty. These concerns led to the resolution. It asks that the ban on FERP faculty serving on RTP committees be put on hiatus for this year while FSAC works on the revision to the RTP policy.

Highlights of Discussion:

Is resolution requesting re-instatement of RTP committees or that no more FERP faculty be denied? J. Lillig responded that the meaning of the resolution is to re-instate committees, but perhaps that could be clearer.

Does the CFA contract override campus policy if campus policy is out of compliance? Yes.

When did SSU adopt the policy that FERP faculty cannot serve on RTP committees? It was noted that last RTP revision was in 2017 and FERP faculty have been able to serve in the recent past.

J. Lillig noted the concern about the lack of consultation with faculty governance on this change.

AVP Roberts provided her perspective. She noted that she interprets policy with all faculty in mind. The CFA contract says FERP faculty may serve with the approval of the President. Thus, at any time the President or the President's designee may give a yes or no to FERP faculty serving on an RTP committee. She noted that one RTP committee was composed entirely of FERP faculty and that is not allowed in the faculty contract. FERP can serve or not serve with Presidential approval.

It was asked if any FERP faculty are serving now on RTP committees. AVP Roberts said she would need to check.

A member asked why were any FERP faculty not approved for RTP committees. AVP Roberts said candidates, by policy, need to have thorough and objective evaluations and if that is not the case, she had discussions about RTP committee composition.

A member noted that the word "shall" is used in the CFA contract language 29.19. Thus, the concern would be the period of time the RTP committee meets as related to the FERP faculty member's active employment. However, he stressed the word "shall" in the contract.

It was noted that RTP committees have not started to review candidate files yet.

A member asked if departments elect their RTP committees and a candidate objects, can the committee be changed?

A member asked to have information regarding how many FERP are on RTP committees and a timeline of the decisions.

The Chair of FSAC noted that FSAC is reviewing the SSU URTP policy and will take in all suggestions including this one issue.

Motion to waive the first reading. Second. Vote – Approved.

A grammatical change was suggested in this sentence: That any further changes in interpretation "or" policy be "of" policy.

Discussion continued.

A member argued that one of the top priorities for faculty governance other than curriculum is evaluation of faculty and the Senate should assert its authority here.

K. Moranski noted issues that needed to be disaggregated. One was bringing the policy in line with the CFA/CSU contract. Another was the situation where the RTP committee that was sent forward that was in conflict with both the contract and SSU policy. Another is that there could be a set of circumstances where both the department and candidates figure out who is best to serve on an RTP committee. She argued against having a blanket statement either way.

It was clarified that the resolution was only asking that it not be a blanket "no" that FERP cannot serve.

A member asked AVP Roberts if all FERP faculty were denied to RTP committees this fall. She responded that she did not make a blanket decision on FERP faculty serving. She was following the SSU policy stating that only full time faculty can serve on RTP committees.

Motion to amend: add another resolved clause - Resolved: That departments who had elected FERP faculty to serve on an RTP committee be allowed to ask for permission again to allow them to serve. If they are denied, then an explanation and discussion between the President's designee and the department in question take place in the light of the increased workload and loss of disciplinary expertise on the committee. (this resolved clause was amended slightly a few times. This is the final version. LHK) Second.

Support was voiced for a discussion between the departments and the President's designee about particular FERP faculty serving on department RTP committees and re-submitting committee membership for approval.

AVP Roberts said she did not think it was the purview of Faculty Affairs as the President's designee to decide who was on or not on an RTP committee.

It was noted that the CFA contract does give the President or President's designee the ability to decide on a case by case basis already.

J. Lillig stated that the faculty who wrote the resolution want elected RTP committees to stand.

Vote on amendment – Approved.

The President said that FERP faculty, and all faculty, are highly respected and their service is very important to campus and departments. She was concerned about communication and wanted to know from designees what was happening. She said we are all here to make the campus better.

Vote on Resolution – Approved.

Resolution Requesting Hiatus of Policy Prohibiting FERP Faculty on RTP Committees

Resolved: That the SSU Academic Senate request SSU Faculty Affairs to put a hiatus on the recent re-interpretation that FERP faculty cannot serve on RTP committees, until FSAC addresses the issue in policy; and it be further

Resolved: That any further changes in interpretation of policy regarding the evaluation of faculty work be provided to the Chair of the Faculty for consultation purposes within faculty governance; and be it further

Resolved: That departments who had elected FERP faculty to serve on an RTP committee be allowed to ask for permission again to allow them to serve. If they are denied, then an explanation and discussion between the President's designee and the department in question take place in the light of the increased workload and loss of disciplinary expertise on the committee.

Resolved: That this resolution be sent to the SSU President, Provost, and AVP of Faculty Affairs.

APARC Report – L. Krier for S. Place

L. Krier reported that APARC is discussing how to best prioritize the results from the classroom conditions survey and how to best receive feedback from students on classroom conditions. The student rep on APARC will provide a presentation to the Associated Students on this topic. APARC continues to discuss new class modules and will seek feedback from department chairs before bringing the new modules to the Ex Com.

EPC Report – J. Lillig

J. Lillig reported that EPC had its first reading on the Internship policy. EPC is setting up a way for members to post feedback on the policy and also on the procedures and other issues. EPC will take time at each meeting to discuss the feedback received and how it will be incorporated in the new policy. She advised everyone to work through their EPC reps in this process. EPC also started talking about Community Engagement in the GE program. They will continue to discuss how this aspect of the strategic plan could be included in the GE program. The Chair noted a new webpage has been set up for all reps by School in the Senate website: <http://senate.sonoma.edu/memberships-and-meeting-dates/membership-school>. EPC has also given information to S&F for their discussion of GE assessment and approval of overlays as well as the role of school curriculum committees in the governance process.

FSAC Report – P. Lane

P. Lane reported FSAC will be working on the URTP policy all year. They will be bringing a revision to the Emeritus policy to the Ex Com next week. FSAC provide feedback on Chair Duties for Faculty Affairs. URTP is helping faculty with SETEs.

AFS sent FSAC a joint statement from AFS and PDS on teaching sensitive materials, which will eventually come to the Senate.

SAC Report – M. Simms for H. Smith

M. Simms reported SAC is working on their goals for this academic year and reviewing the goals of the Student Affairs Division, so they can work collaboratively this year. She gave a shout out to ATI, the Accessible Technology Initiative workgroup, working on improving accessibility on front facing platforms of campus, such as websites and You Tube. The Academic Advising Subcommittee is working on barriers to advising and financial aid literacy workshops.

CFA Report – E. J. Sims

E. J. Sims reminded the members that the focus of CFA this year is Social Justice Unionism. The CFA Leadership Board passed a resolution asking CalPers to divest from companies who are associated with for-profit migrant detention centers on the southern border of the US. She discussed activism surrounding this issue. Next Wednesday is the CFA general meeting and they will discuss the upcoming contract negotiations. She encouraged members to take the survey sent out by CFA about issues for bargaining. The next solidarity social is September 26th in Lobos. Members of the statewide bargaining team will visit SSU on October 16th 12 -1 ST 2011.

Good of the Order

The Chair noted that an occasional report for Lecturers is now on the agenda and she welcomed Jim Robison as the second lecturer on the Senate. It was noted that the next CFA social is on a Senate meeting day. A member asked that acronyms being used be described in full at the beginning of conversations.

Adjourned.

Minutes prepared by L. Holmstrom-Keyes