

Academic Senate Minutes

March 22, 2007

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair report. Approval of agenda. Revision to Counseling Program's School Counselor curriculum approved. Provost report. Special Guest: Mayor Vicki Vidak-Martinez. Survey of Faculty Governance administered. Workload Resolution – second Reading. FYE Resolution approved. Good of the Order – announcement of Senate election results.

Present: Elaine McDonald, Tim Wandling, Elizabeth Stanny, Catherine Nelson, Sam Brannen, Carolyn Epple, Noel Byrne, Birch Moonwomon, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Kristen Daley, Elizabeth Martínez, Thaine Stearns, Robert Train, Steve Cuellar, Virginia Lea, John Kornfeld, Raye Lynn Thomas, Tia Watts, Murali Pillai, Rick Luttmann, Michelle Moosebrugger, Steve Orlick, Glenn Brassington, Melinda Milligan, Sandra Shand, Marguerite St. Germain, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Jarrod Russell, Rachel Sagapolu, Lane Olson, Art Warmoth, Carlos Ayala

Absent: Ada Jaarsma, Robert McNamara, Cora Neal, John Wingard, Mary Halavais, Doug Jordan, [Edith Mendez](#)

Guests: Sascha Von Meier, Barbara Butler, Jim Robertson, David Abbott, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Katharyn Crabbe, Elaine Sundberg, Katie Pierce

Proxies: Terry Lease for Liz Thach, Jan Beaulyn for Scott Miller

Chair Report – E. McDonald-Newman

The Chair asked that all Senate committees and business be cancelled on strike days, if they occur. No objection. A guest from the floor said “don’t be scared by bullshit emails.” The Chair reported on her meeting with the President and the CFO on the current state of grant activity and recovering of IDC money. She had two positive outcomes to report. All faculty grants will be rated on the basis of their importance to the university, not just their IDC recovery rate. The subsidy of the 20% IDC will be borne by the whole university, not just Academic Affairs. But the cost of IDC recovery is not 20%. She asked for help from the Senators to find out the true cost of administering grants. Other CSU’s average IDC rate is comparable or lower than ours. If they can do, it so can we. The pursuit of grants is integral to the university and part of the regular work of faculty. She then had a question, which she wished people were present to answer, why was there zero consultation with faculty before this decision was made? She read to the body from the Consultation Policy. She argued that whether grants go off campus is within the purview of the faculty and no consultation about that has taken place except for the meeting she had with the President, which she had to request. T. Apolloni used to return a lot of IDC money to the Schools. This money had been used to provide travel and seed money for

more grants as well as many other things. This year no IDC money will be coming in and we will be dipping into School pockets again to give back money to Administration and Finance. Why has this happened? What is so different? Currently, the Provost and CFO are reviewing all grant activity and it is taking much longer than before. She said she personally knew of four grants that were lost due to this new process. Finally, at the very least, she said she believed that faculty deserve a letter explaining why their grant was not approved. She is drafting a resolution about this situation. She and the FSAC chair will be meeting with the Faculty Subcommittee on Sponsored Programs to ask them to draft a rubric for faculty grants and to assign themselves the role of overseeing what grants administrators approved. She also thanked the local CFA leadership for their dedication and hard work in the past and during this difficult time.

She thanked Tia Watts for standing in for Edith Mendez as Secretary for this meeting.

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Minutes of 3/8/07 – Approved (*this was an error as the minutes had not been emailed out yet. Please see meeting of 4/5 for official approval of 3/8/07 minutes.*)

Consent item: Revision to Counseling Program’s School Counselor curriculum – Approved.

Reports

President Report – R. Armiñana

No report.

Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa reported on the email he and the CFO sent out about contracts and grants where they outlined a process to better address the real concerns voiced when we had an operating procedure that was going to use a 20% threshold. There is now a process that will look at the grants according to the criteria outlined in the email and they will track the IDC level of the grants and which ones fall below the true cost of administering the grant. The CFO is in the process of determining what that cost is. Then on a yearly basis, they will look at the difference between the determined cost and what was brought in and give an assessment to the university for the difference. He thought this will help address the issues and keep the support for research and scholarly activity that is necessary to our academic mission. The new length of time for grant approvals has become necessary as they find what was wrong with the old process. They are very sensitive to the short time lines that many grants operate under and they hope now that faculty understand the new environment, they will build in a longer lead time. He also reported on WASC. The Accreditation Review Steering Committee has met and the faculty associates have submitted their written summaries for standards 2 and 3. The Committee is giving feedback on those. That process has been very fruitful. They have begun a list of what they have discovered

about their processes to work on later and are beginning to see the benefits of the accreditation review.

The Chair asked the Provost and President why they did not follow the policy when they came to the decision to use the 20% threshold. The CFO said that the 20% was a response to an emergency situation concerning the California Institute on Human Services. Upon reflection, after the meeting with the Faculty Chair and the President, it became clear that additional consultation needed to be done. It is both his and the Provost's intention to continue that conversation on the specific criteria and the subsidy. Clearly, some way needs to be found to support grants and contracts that follow how much it costs to administer them. The university should be aware that the campus is in the midst of a severe emergency crisis in the area of grants and contracts. It was asked when the reports about CIHS will be due. The CFO said he expected to hear a verbal report tomorrow from the external auditors and that it will still be several weeks, if not, months, before any written report is finalized.

A Senator noted that in many instances the Consultation policy the Senate passed last year has been violated and he asked if the administration intended to uphold it or not. The Provost said he supported the policy and wanted to avail himself of consultation from the faculty. The Provost also noted that the current situation with grants and contracts was an emergency situation. The CFO said that he has followed both the spirit and the specifics of the policy in his areas of responsibility.

Special Guest: Mayor Vicki Vidak-Martinez

The Chair welcomed the Mayor of Rohnert Park to the Senate.

The Mayor described the form of government for the City of Rohnert Park and the role of the Mayor. The Mayor remarked that she was a graduate of SSU and much had changed since she was on campus as a student. She then spoke about two ordinances the city is working on. They have directed staff to focus on the safety of the community. They instituted a party ordinance last year due to the large number of calls received by the police for party issues. They have had a 25% reduction in cost of staff and think it is working out. The other ordinance is about alcohol beverage sales which is based on a needs assessment that found alcohol use by youth is widespread in Rohnert Park. She provided statistics. They are targeting outlets for alcohol sales and she enumerated the kinds of issues alcohol creates in the community that are safety issues (i.e., fights, domestic violence, etc). She described the three components of the ordinance that was modeled on an ordinance in Oakland. She then talked about the city's commitment to climate protection and energy efficiency. She thought personally a public health approach to climate change would be useful. The city has decided to lead by example. They've added sustainability to the municipal code. They have a green building ordinance. And they have just approved an energy efficiency ordinance for new buildings. They have measured their carbon footprint with SSU students to see where they are. They agreed to reduce their city greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2010. Citywide they have agreed to reduce greenhouse gases by 25% by 2015. These are aggressive targets for a city with no money. So they look at how to use what they have to reach their goals and lead by example. She provided examples of how the city will be

recycling a building for a new city hall. She also spoke about a community gardens project in conjunction with Graton Rancheria and the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center. She then opened up the conversation to questions.

A member asked if students were the only people being targeted by the party ordinance policy and was this being tracked? The Mayor said she would be happy to look into it.

A student member said information they received noted that student age people were being targeted, towards 80%. He also noted that the Associated Students have written two resolutions that will be coming to the City Council. The Mayor reiterated that they are not going to tolerate large parties over 100. She cited an example of a large party where people turned on the police and the neighbors and there was an attempted murder. She said they do not want this in the community.

A member asked why the police force had not grown over years since Rohnert Park has grown. The Mayor noted that they can pull out more folks when they need it, but it's difficult to recruit police officers, especially police/public safety officers as they have in Rohnert Park.

A member asked about sewer service for the proposed faculty/staff housing project. The Mayor gave some background on how sewer service works. She noted the process of creating the general plan and where the urban growth boundary limits are. They had a great deal of public input on their urban growth boundary. The land the university bought is outside the urban growth boundary and Rohnert Park is opposed to extending services outside the boundary. She said administrators and attorneys are still talking and they will work it out that way or work it out in the courts.

The Chair thanked the Mayor for her visit and presented her with two tickets for a concert of Faculty Composers as a thank you gift. Applause.

Survey of Faculty Governance – L. Holmström

The Senate analyst said, "Today I am hoping you will consent to participate in a survey of School representatives on faculty governance committees. This survey is designed to help me develop a meaningful and useful Orientation to Faculty Governance program and to provide input to the Senate Structure and Functions committee in their work on the Senate by-laws. Your participation is voluntary and all surveys will remain anonymous. There will be no negative repercussions if you decide not to complete the survey. In fact, since it is entirely anonymous, no one will know if you do not participate. The survey will be proctored as we do the SETE's. All responses from Standing Committees, subcommittees, and the Senate will be gathered before any analysis is done. Your survey will only reflect what kind of committee you serve on. No one will see the surveys themselves, except myself. Faculty Chair Elaine McDonald-Newman, who is a member of Structure and Functions, has offered to help me analyze the data. It is our hope that the results of this survey will benefit everyone involved in faculty governance."

She passed out the survey.

Workload Resolution – Second Reading – T. Wandling

(There was significant discussion on this resolution. These minutes only record minimal information. Please use the digital minutes to hear the full discussion. lh)

T. Wandling moved that the resolution handed out be substituted for the original resolution. Second. He thanked faculty who had helped him with the new version and commented that all the feedback he has gotten about the Senate making a statement about this has been positive. He argued that faculty need to “harden” on this issue, and while it may seem exemplary, not to do excessive work out of the kindness of their hearts and dedication to our mission. He explained the changes in the resolution.

No objection to accepting the handout in substitution for the original.

Discussion ensued. Comments were raised concerning the numbers used in the resolution concerning FTES and WTUs, the flexibility for workloads allowed by the resolution, and whether workload was directly related to number of students.

Motion to amend: *who contractually teach* to sentence in second paragraph – Proportional adjustments should be made for instructors *who contractually teach fewer or more WTUs.* Second. Discussion. Question called. Approved. Vote on amendment. Failed.

The Provost noted that the numbers in the second paragraph do limit flexibility for departments that want to leverage large classes.

There was more discussion about the second paragraph of the resolution and further comments made about the resolution as a whole. There was particular concern that the formula in the second paragraph about 24 FTES per 12 WTUs did not fit certain departments. Concern was expressed that scholarship was not emphasized enough in the resolution.

Motion to amend: Proportional adjustments should be made for instructors teaching fewer or excessive numbers of students. Second. Failed.

Motion to amend: For faculty teaching less than full time, proportional adjustments should be made to remain within the guidelines of 2 FTES per WTU. Withdrawn.

Concern was expressed about the work week being 45 hours. It was also noted that faculty are exempt. T. Wandling said that the resolution was about work and that work can be quantified, however, the resolution is focused on reminding faculty they do not have to work in excess. It was argued that the notion of workload be expanded to include advising and outreach activities of faculty. It was argued that SSU was under staffed and the resolution was an expression of frustration. It was noted that most people who spoke were in support of the intention of the resolution

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and it was moved that the makers of the resolution take back the feedback from the Senate and re-write the resolution to be a more broad statement of workload. **Second.** T. Wandling said that the resolution was not about frustration, but about faculty agency. **Vote on returning resolution to makers. Approved.**

FYE Resolution – Second Reading – S. Miller

There was a motion to postpone the item to the next meeting. Second. Vote. Failed.

Motion to extend meeting 5 minutes. Second. Approved.

S. Von Meier spoke to the resolution and asked for approval. The Chair also voiced supported for the resolution. **Question called. Second. Approved. Vote on FYE resolution. Approved.**

SSU Senate Resolution on Second Pilot Year of FYE

RESOLVED, that the Sonoma State University Academic Senate thanks the 06/07 Freshman Year Experience team for their good-faith work, congratulates them on mounting an apparently very successful pilot year of the course, and confirms its previous endorsement of the FYE program for a full two-year pilot;

And be it further

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate directs the FYE program to return to APC in September with the results of the assessment of year 1, in order to initiate discussion of the future of the FYE model and other planning implications of the results of the FYE experiment.

Good of the Order

T. Wandling announced the results of the Senate election – Scott Miller, Chair-Elect; Edith Mendez returns as Secretary; Robert McNamara returns as Statewide Senator; Noel Byrne was elected for the Senate’s At-Large position; Michael Pinkston returns as a Lecturer Senator; Noel Byrne was elected for the Senate Budget Committee; Paula Hammett, Judy Abbot and Linda Nowak were elected for URTP and Susan Moulton was elected for the At-Large position on APC. The Chair noted that 58% of tenure-track faculty voted.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström