

Senate Executive Committee Minutes
February 5, 2015
3:00 – 5:00, Academic Affairs Conference Room

Abstract

Agenda approved. Chair Report. Approval of Thomas Targett as semester replacement for Secretary of the Senate. Minutes of 1/22/15 approved. Provost Report. Human Development BA Revision approved for Senate consent calendar. Business Administration BS Revision approved for Senate consent calendar. Structure and Functions recommendation re: Dean of Social Sciences search. Vice Chair Report. Ex Com rep to the SEC Report. Psychology Minor Revision approved as a business item on the Senate agenda. First look at Governance Re-organization. Senate Agenda - approved. EPC Report. FSAC Report.

Present: Richard Senghas, Margaret Purser, Andrew Rogerson, Kirsten Ely, Richard Whitkus, Melinda Milligan, Laura Watt, Catherine Nelson, Elaine Newman, Sam Brannen, Tom Targett, Ruben Armiñana

Absent: Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Julie Shulman

Guests: Nicole Lawson for SAC, Christian George, Karin Jaffe, Meng-Chi Su, Farid Farahmand, Karen Thompson, Elisa Velasquez

Approval of Agenda – item added: Approval of Thomas Targett as semester replacement for Secretary of the Senate – Approved.

Chair Report – R. Senghas

R. Senghas reported that the Senate was hosting the meeting of the CSU Senate Chairs on April 16th and that Faculty Trustee Steven Stepanek would also be visiting campus that day. The Executive Committee was invited to meet with the Trustee on April 17th. He reported he was starting to get feedback on the proposed BA degree programs in the Community Colleges. He said he would be writing that report next week. This was not the end of the process of the community colleges proposing BA degrees. Other degree programs were in the pipeline to come forward if any of the first 15 were duplicates of programs in the CSU. He reported on the meeting of the President's Diversity Council. They were planning to review the Graduation Initiative dashboard information to determine if graduation rates at SSU were showing trends along diversity lines. They wanted to help with the graduation effort, if possible. They were also looking into the Hispanic Serving Institutions requirements. Additionally, they wanted to work with Academic Affairs and Human Services to more effectively handle diversity issues on campus. He asked for someone to take his place on the Campus Re-engineering Committee task force for the Recruitment policy revisions. This had to do with the campus recruitment policy, not the faculty representation on search committees policy. They were working on better articulation between those two policies.

Approval of Thomas Targett as semester replacement for Secretary of the Senate – K. Ely

K. Ely noted that the current Secretary could not serve this semester. One faculty member came forward, Thomas Targett, and was being recommended by S&F.

Approved. The Chair thought this was a land speed record for a faculty member being hired for tenure-track and being on the Executive Committee. Targett does not yet know if this is a good or bad thing.

Approval of Minutes of 1/22/15 – minor edits. Approved.

President Report – R. Armiñana

No report.

Provost Report – A. Rogerson

No report. Questions for the Provost – A member asked about the financing of the reassignment time for the new hires. She asked if there was a pot of money for this purpose and would it be possible to track that money. The Provost said it would be a discussion at the next President's Budget Advisory Committee. The member noted that systemwide administration was very insistent that this money not come out of existing School budgets and would come out of a central source. A member asked about the budget situation in Social Sciences that was brought up in the last Senate meeting. The member expressed concern from faculty in Social Sciences he had talked with who verified that they believed the cuts to departments were "draconian." The Provost responded that they may be seeing the Dean allocating the base differently. He said the base funding allocation to Social Sciences was the same as last fall, and a bit more generous. He said that what could be causing some angst, was that the lecturer budget was reduced when tenure-track faculty were hired. But since that was a wash, he was not sure what was going on. He said that last year there had been an extra \$600,000 allocation because of putting on a very generous schedule. He said they did not need it this year because the students were not taking so many classes. He thought it was still early days and advised not to panic at this point. He said there would be adjustments as registration continues as they do every year. He said he would continue to look into it.

Time certain reached.

Human Development BA Revision – M. Milligan and K. Jaffe

M. Milligan introduced the item and noted that it was approved unanimously at all levels. K. Jaffe described the changes to the program. She noted that Human Development had 120 majors and no tenure-track line for faculty. There were only 3 units of actual Human Development courses. The rest of the program was made up of courses in other departments. The changes were meant to clarify the program for students, help with coordinator advising and bring Human Development program up to speed with changes in other departments that support the program. She said

this was the first of a series of changes. There was some discussion. **Approved for the Senate's consent calendar.**

Electrical Engineering BS Unit Reduction: 128 to 120 – M. Milligan, M. Su, F. Farahmand

M. Milligan introduced the item and noted that it was approved unanimously at all levels. M. Su explained how the Electrical Engineering department was meeting the Chancellor's mandate for 120 unit degrees. There was some discussion. **Approved for the Senate's consent calendar.**

Provost Report continued

A member asked if the Provost was anticipating any less for lecturer lines than the number of new faculty. The Provost said no. The member said she did not understand the Provost's explanation that the base budgets to the Schools were a bit more generous, but they were not going to get the \$600,000 they got last year and asked for clarification. The Provost said that the strategy last year was to put on as many classes as could be afforded to see what the carrying capacity was and to show the Chancellor's office that the campus needed more enrollment growth. With that one time money, they did not question the Deans and just funded the classes requested. He said that students seemed happy with about 13.5 units and that the same one-time money would not be there this year. The member thought the allocation then was reduced by \$600,000. The Provost responded that it was unknown at this point. The initial allocation to the Schools was the same as last fall. He noted that if the Deans wanted to schedule differently that was a school issue. The member noted that Social Sciences had 30% less for their lecturer budget. The Provost said he needed to sit down with the Social Sciences dean and figure out what was going on. A member voiced concern as a Social Sciences department chair because schedules were due the next day and most departments in Social Sciences could not make target with their allocation. The only way she could make target for her department was to inflate the already large GE sections from 128 to 200 and almost all of their major courses from 25 to 40 or 50. She wondered where the disconnect was between the Dean and the Provost. The Provost noted that apparently this was an attempt to balance out the departments. Historically, some departments in the school have gotten more than others and he applauded the dean for trying to balance that out. He was hearing that it was hardest on ENSP and Political Science. Members argued that most departments in the school were struggling.

Business Administration BS Revision – M. Milligan, K. Thompson

M. Milligan introduced the item and noted that it was approved unanimously at all levels. K. Thompson discussed the proposed catalog changes to the concentrations in the BS degree in Business. **Approved for the Senate's consent calendar.**

Provost Report continued

The Chair noted that he was sensitive to the fact that the issues discussed were about Social Sciences and thought that the concern was raised and asked if there were any other comments to be made as this went forward. A member asked if the lack of the \$600,000 could be why Social Sciences saw a reduction in the lecturer budget. The Provost responded that no, that was not accurate because the \$600,000 was literally given out at the last minute. If they saw the demand growing, then they would fund that, but that would happen the first week of fall. A member noted that Social Sciences was scheduling differently. Previously, they scheduled to seat capacity. Now they were being held to actual enrollment. If they do not make target, the FTES and the WTU's would be taken away and given to another department that might need them. These things are causing a lot of anxiety in the School.

Structure and Functions recommendation re: Dean of Social Sciences search – K. Ely

K. Ely reported they had two candidates for the search committee, but one person had mentioned in their ballot statement that they wanted to serve as the Social Sciences rep. S&F decided to include on the ballot the composition of the search committee, so voters would understand that the election was for an At-Large faculty member for the search committee. The Chair noted they would include this language on all dean search committee elections in the future.

Vice Chair Report – K. Ely

K. Ely reported that S&F had looked at the preliminary proposal for the reorganization of governance.

Ex Com rep to the SEC Report – M. Purser

M. Purser reported that the SEC was moving forward with plans to sponsor a sustainability event in the Student Center that would be free for students and faculty. She did not have the flyers yet and would send in a written report. She noted that J. Baldwin was working with student interns who attended the STARS conference about creating mechanisms to help campuses design their own sustainability accountability measures over time. The Chair said he would bring this up at the President's Diversity Council to see if they could connect, since often sustainability issues affect specific populations in particular ways.

Psychology Minor Revision – M. Milligan, E. Velasquez

M. Milligan introduced the item and noted it was approved unanimously at the school curriculum committee and there was one abstention at EPC. E. Velasquez described the changes to the minor. During the discussion, the EPC Chair voiced concern that the understanding of the revision as presented was not what EPC understood when they voted. Discussion ensued about whether to put this item on the consent calendar or as a business item. It was noted that the department was hoping that the revision would make it for the catalog. **It was approved as a business item for the Senate agenda.**

First look at Governance Re-organization – R. Senghas

R. Senghas discussed the work of the S&F task force considering a re-organization of faculty governance. In the packet were draft proposals for a way to restructure the Senate and its committees. The task force was just sun shining this information to get feedback before a formal proposal. They also wanted feedback on the presentation of the material itself. R. Senghas asked for email comments as well. Highlights of discussion: request to spell out all committee names; if departments were grouped as proposed, then all the Senators could not be from one department as they could be now; it was likely that actual grouping / representation would be up the Schools; why not just two at-large from each school; what was learned from the literature consulted; remove “proposed” from the documents and change to “one idea;” effort to reduce size of Senate applauded; be mindful about fairness in terms of size of constituency; draft idea puts a heavy emphasis on curriculum, faculty governance encompasses other things; request to know what the Academic Coordinating Team is doing currently; dismay about the proposed grouping in the School of S&T; Schools would be asked what kind of grouping for representation makes the most sense; recommendation to leave out grouping suggestion; show where release time would be spent. R. Senghas requested that the standing committees have the task force at their meetings for more feedback. He offered to report on ACT in his Chair report.

Senate Agenda

AGENDA

Report of the Chair of the Faculty – Richard J. Senghas
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes

Consent Items: Revision to the BS in Business, Unit reduction in Electrical Engineering, Revision to Human Development major - emailed

BUSINESS

1. Revision to the Psychology Minor – First Reading – M. Milligan & E. Velasquez – attached

Approved.

Associated Students Report – C. George

C. George reported that the AS was preparing a response to the Governor’s budget. He noted there was a lot of confusion about the new smoking policy and students were wondering what the consequences would be for not following the policy.

EPC Report – M. Milligan

M. Milligan reported that in the next month or so a couple of programs would be coming through asking for discontinuance. EPC would be reviewing the discontinuance policy to set up procedures. The programs coming forward soon for discontinuance were the CANDEL program in Education and the Direct Entry Master of Nursing.

FSAC Report – R. Whitkus

R. Whitkus noted that the next day was the deadline for the Exceptional Education Enhancement awards. FSAC went over the criteria for the awards and decided to request from Faculty Affairs information about who might be already receiving release time for their work. They also decided that they would strip off the names on the applications. A member noted that on a campus this size, people knew what others were doing. A member was concerned that, as a department chair, she saw electronic SETEs that were done for the wrong faculty member.

Adjourned.

Minutes prepared by L. Holmstrom-Keyes