

FSAC Minutes
February 23, 2006
1:00 - 3:00 Provost Conference Room, 1041

Present: Carlos Ayala, Sue Hayes, Geoffrey Skinner, Maria Hess, Judy Sakanari, Helmut Wautischer.

Convened at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Approved.

Approval of Minutes: Approved.

Reports:

Ayala reported on 9 February Academic Senate. Policy on Observance of Religious Holidays needed to be revisited to assess its legal implications. A revision to the Academic Calendar was approved, accommodating new regulations for the observance of Veterans Day. Global Studies major and the Program Review Policy were approved.

A recommendation from Structures and Function regarding the revised charge to the Academic Freedom Subcommittee can be expected in two weeks.

No report from Faculty Affairs provided.

Wautischer had no report from Academic Freedom Subcommittee.

Hayes had no report from Professional Development Subcommittee.

Business Items:

Item 1, Faculty Recruitment Policy, 2nd reading. Changes to the policy were discussed, implemented, and approved unanimously. The revised policy is forwarded to the Executive Committee.

Item 2, Revisions to the Sabbatical Policy, 2nd reading. A consensus was reached that the current policy does address all relevant components for sabbatical. Prompted by a communiqué from B. Poe, the weight of criteria used in evaluating the sabbatical request was changed to 50% for the merits of the proposal, 25% for the nature and quality of the applicant's past service to the university, and 25% for the years of eligibility since the last sabbatical leave at Sonoma State University.

Item 3, Shared governance. In view of upcoming Senate action related to workload issues, a "statement of purpose" is to be drafted to address shared vision and objectives for employment at SSU. Such statement will also assist administrative personnel who face expectations for becoming "agents of change." "Change for change's sake" can be minimized in favor of a healthy campus climate.

The Academic Freedom Subcommittee is charged to develop a Statement of Values that will include faculty initiatives, responsibilities, and freedoms. It can serve as reference for campus identity, and as template for all new SSU employees to ease their process of acculturation to shared values. The document should be developed in the spirit of a policy rather than a procedure.

Adjourned 2:45 p.m.