

Academic Senate Minutes

September 3, 2009

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Agenda Approved. Minutes of 5/7 and 5/21 – Approved. Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status – Approved. Resolution on Giving Priority to Reports at the Senate – First Reading. Chair-Elect Report. Associated Students Report. Statewide Senators Report. President Report. Provost Report. Vice President of Administration and Finance Report. Vice President for SAEM report. CFA Report. Discussion of four day teaching modules. Group photo for website.

Present: Susan Moulton, John Wingard, Scott Miller, Deb Kindy, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Noel Byrne, Sam Brannen, Edith Mendez, Michael Pinkston, Birch Moonwoman, Steve Wilson, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Janet Hess, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Terry Lease, Charles Elster, John Kornfeld, Rick Robison, Cora Neal, Nick Geist, Tia Watts, Karen Jaffe, James Dean, Maria Hess, Margaret Purser, Sandra Shand, Lillian Lee, Jacqueline Holley, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Andy Merrifield, Jenny Tice, Morgan Carvajal, Matt McCarty, Dolores Bainter, Kelly Estrada, Art Warmoth, Carmen Works, Paula Hammett, Derek Girman

Absent: John Sullins, Wanda Boda, Michael Cohen, Laura Watt

Proxies: Chuck Rhodes for Matthew Lopez-Phillips

Guests: Rose Bruce, Elaine Leeder, Ron Lopez, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Sharon Cabaniss, Saeid Rahimi, Rick Luttmann, Kimmie Osborne

Chair Report – S. Moulton

S. Moulton noted that there had been questions from new faculty about how to get on Senate-Talk. She directed people to the website: <https://mailman.sonoma.edu/mailman/listinfo/senate-talk>. She said she wanted to use both Senate-Talk and Senate-Announce to keep communication flowing this year. She encouraged everyone to read the WASC report and reminded the body that WASC will visit in October. She noted the change in roles in the Senate and new members to the Senate.

Consent Items:

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Approval of Minutes of 5/7 and 5/21 – Approved.

Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status – Approved.

Time certain reached.

Resolution on Giving Priority to Reports at the Senate – First Reading – T. Lease

T. Lease remarked that he wanted the Senate to go on record as wanting more information this year, particularly from administrators and what they are hearing from Sacramento and the Chancellor's office. There was a suggestion to include time for questions as well. There was some discussion. First reading completed.

Chair-Elect Report – J. Wingard

J. Wingard reported that a question had been posed to S&F about absences on committees, the use of proxies this year and furloughs. He said he had read the by-laws and noted that members could miss any number of meetings as long a proxy was sent to the meeting. However, if a member is absent, without a proxy, for three meetings, their seat can be declared vacant. Rather than relax the rules this year, the committee thought faculty governance was more crucial and asked people to send proxies if they can't make meetings. He also noted that S&F would be working on ways to help the Senate to be more effective in terms of communication to the administration and to the faculty at large. He asked for ideas from the body. It was brought up that sending proxies to committees meetings because of a furlough day was not in the spirit of the MOU. The Chair-Elect said he would take that back to the committee.

Associated Students Report – J. Tice

J. Tice introduced the other students sitting on the Senate this year. She said there has been large turnout for events this year. She noted that the Club Congress would be meeting soon and they will be acting as the lower house to their Senate. There will be a Legislative Affairs committee this year. She explained how students could get involved in student government. She thanked the faculty for their hard work and dedication. The Chair then asked who from the Senate would like to be the Senate rep to the Student Senate. Senator McAuley volunteered to serve.

Statewide Senator Reports – R. McNamara and C. Nelson

R. McNamara said he would be sitting on the statewide Faculty Affairs again this year. They will be discussing the implementation of the faculty furloughs. He said that RSCAP awards were cut off for this year. In terms of budget cuts, programs are being cut and they want to make sure faculty are involved in those decisions. He noted that the Governor still has not appointed a faculty trustee. C. Nelson said there is talk about a revision of the Master Plan for Education, nothing formal was coming forward, but she said she would try to find out what she could.

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana reported that the lawsuit against the Trustees' student fee increase is going forward. He said the July tax earnings were 20% below expectations, so things were not yet leveling off. He said that the reduction in the budget of the CSU represents a reduction in economic activity for the state of over 2.5 billion dollars. The CFA President asked about a lawsuit settled regarding faculty teaching overload. There was a question about the Chancellor's office asking for the top 50 faculty wage earners on each campus this summer. The President said that they did

receive that request, they submitted the information and he did not know the reason why. It was public information.

Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa reported that this year the campus would reduce enrollment for a total FTES of 72.7 and at the same time reduce the budgets. He has met with the School Deans, and except for one School, they all have viable plans to balance their budgets and meet target. He then reported on the new idea for creating the university catalog. The catalog would be outsourced to a print-on-demand company and CMS would become the locus for what is official curriculum. The process will become more normal and continuous. He thought this would relieve workload on departments, and save money on catalog print runs. The degree audit functionality would be more accurate on CMS now. He reported on the President's Diversity Council's work. He noted the different environment, but thought there were still initiatives that could be explored. He said they are looking at issues of course transformation this year in order to design sustainable frameworks for the reduced resources. He noted that several faculty are piloting a new online course management system called Moodle. (<http://moodle.org/>) The license with WEBCT will run out next year and so the campus was looking at alternatives. He reported that a process of prioritizing for budget issues was beginning. A member asked if the efficiencies of a faculty member sitting at a computer screen to do advising has been done, who would be paying for the outsourced catalogs and asked what the nature of course transformation was. The Provost responded that the catalog would be outsourced to lulu.com (<http://www.lulu.com/>). They have priced the SSU catalog and estimated the cost to be \$17.95. He said they anticipate buying a number of copies for advisors. He noted the website for the CSU initiative of transforming course design for further information. (<http://transform.csuprojects.org/>). A student member asked if students were part of the testing of Moodle and asked what exactly SSU was doing to reduce enrollment by 6%. The Provost responded that students were testing out Moodle by definition as instructors were using it for classes. In terms of reducing enrollment, they are starting at admissions. He said they would have to calibrate the student body in terms of the classes the campus can deliver. A member asked for more details about the process of the prioritization of the campus budget to be posted on Senate-Talk. The Provost said they were developing a process and were taking great care in describing a set of indicators for each program to help with prioritization.

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

L. Furukawa-Schlereth said that he had five things to report. The financial end of year went well and audits of the university were underway. He said the outcome of the audits would be made available to the campus community when they were completed. He noted that SETC voted to have layoff instead of furlough. He would be meeting with members of SETC to talk with them about voluntary measures they could do according to their contract before layoff. That was the first step. He hoped they could come to a resolution on our campus. In the Human Resources area, he said he was concerned about the impact of furlough on staff and managers. He wanted to make sure managers did not add extra work to staff due to furloughs. He has pledged to meet monthly with CSUEU and APC to monitor this situation. He said so far it seems to be working ok. There are some areas they still need to work

out furloughs, namely, the RLC's in the Residential Halls and the Coaches. The auxiliaries were also undergoing audits as per Trustee policy. He said perception developed over the summer, that the conflict of interest policy for Foundation Board members may not be strong enough. He noted the current policy did meet the requirements of the Education code, but there may be a desire to go beyond that. He said he was putting together an ad-hoc committee to look over this policy and suggest ways to strengthen it. He invited professors and students to participate in the committee. On budget, he said, he would do regular town hall meetings on budgets as events occur. He then reported that he had a plan about how to do the distribution from Extended Education to the Schools, which he would present at the PBAC. He said also that he had a plan for student scholarships and athletic scholarships. His staff was now turning their attention to the rest of the endowment distributions.

The Chair asked about the endowment distributions and the reason they may not be forthcoming. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said that the endowment was "under water" by 22%. He provided perspective on the 22% by reporting the percent other institutions were "under water." He said most investment portfolios were down by up to 30%. When that happens, no money is made, so no distributions can occur. He said many programs on campus were dependent on endowment money.

A member suggested that food could be served at the Senate and a money jar could be put out for people to donate. L. Furukawa-Schlereth noted that no food was being served at any meetings this year and said that perhaps something could be worked out.

Vice President for SAEM Report – C. Rhodes for M. Lopez-Phillips

C. Rhodes reported that opening went very well this year. Student participation has been beyond their expectations for all events. He said SAEM is working out how to deliver their programs and activities with a reduced budget and so much interest. He said they had a very busy summer orientation schedule and a successful summer bridge program. He noted that with the opening of the Tuscany residential hall, 40% of students now live on campus. He said SSU was the most residential campus in the CSU. They have added two new living communities this year – a sophomore interest group, to help retain sophomores, and our first multicultural group, MOSAIC. About 140 students are living in the FYE community and it was very successful last year. The Chair noted there were more bikes this year and asked for more bike racks. C. Rhodes noted that parents were not spending money on cars for their kids right now.

CFA Report – A. Merrifield

A. Merrifield reported on the implementation of faculty furloughs on campus. He noted there was no "hard cap" on the number of instructional days a faculty member can use for furlough. He advised the faculty take in to account any workload that has been shifted to them because of the staff furloughs when they consider how to reduce their workloads. He said CFA is monitoring whether the reduction in work was commensurate with the reduction in students. He has asked CFA members and he asked the Senators to monitor their departments and that reduction in faculty should not cause excessive workload for remaining faculty. He

reported on SB218, a bill that will make CSU auxiliaries as financially transparent as the rest of the CSU and described where it was in the legislature. Members asked specific questions about details of the furlough.

Discussion of Four Day A Week Teaching Modules

The Chair turned the meeting over to the Chair of EPC. **C. Works moved to go into a committee of the whole. Second. No objection.**

Committee of the whole discussion

C. Works noted that the Provost was looking for feedback on a proposal that he will be bringing to EPC in two weeks and also EPC was looking for feedback on any curricular issues the proposal brought up for Senators. It was her understanding that EPC would be asked to endorse the proposal, not vote on it. She offered the floor to the Provost. The Provost noted that having Friday closures in the Spring as part of the furlough plan was the initial motivation to look at the schedule modules. He was concerned that six Friday closures would disproportionately affect Friday classes. He asked the University Scheduler, V. Franklin, if it was feasible to have a schedule that went from Monday to Thursday and asked her to start with a blank slate and come up with an ideal schedule. She came back and said it could be done and that it would address some inefficiencies and peculiarities of our current modules that have long been a problem. He noted a side benefit of the four-day modules - Fridays would be open to schedule meeting and other events. Then the four-day proposal was sent to the Deans Council where it was discussed. He noted there were about 100 class sessions that meet on Fridays out of thousands of classes. Some issues were brought up in the Deans Council. The Deans are now taking the proposal to the departments and his office is gathering the feedback. He noted the timing was very tight due to the need for Spring scheduling and meeting with EPC.

C. Works asked for the meaning of "ideal schedule." The Provost said that ideal meant having a four-day week allowed more two-day a week modules to become available and also eliminated the non-standard modules. The floor was open for questions. A member thanked V. Franklin for her work and she received applause. The Chair reported that faculty teaching labs could not fit their classes into four days and that there was an RTP issue about Fridays being closed would affect class prep and research. A member said he thought having no classes on Friday would create a sense of a three-day weekend and does not allow time for student reflection between classes. A member described how closing Fridays would negatively affect Hutchins. A member noted that Fridays were the only days that extended field trips could be held. A member discussed his concerns about faculty workload and furloughs. A member asked how does the proposal affect student activities, labs and studio arts? What about people who serve on more than one committee? How could all committees be scheduled on Fridays? Are we talking about condensing office hours and advising into four days? Would the Library and computer access be available? Would classes start early? He asked that the proposal be looked at holistically. A student rep brought up questions from her constituencies and noted that the Provost was coming to their Senate to explain the proposal. A member questioned the choice of Fridays, not the President's prerogative to choose 6 days. She also disagreed that instruction should not be impacted by the furloughs. A member asked, if the President's choice of furlough days could be rotated throughout the week and have

the same impact. He questioned why EPC and Senate did not have a vote for approval before it is implemented. A member asked if the closure of campus has some economic impact.

The Provost said that the President has agreed to allow faculty to choose their own days in the Spring in consultation with their Deans on a one to one basis. He noted that the Fridays the campus would be closed, could still be workdays for faculty, they just wouldn't come to campus. He then discussed the programs that had off campus needs on Fridays that would continue. He said another positive benefit of not having classes on Fridays would be that Fridays could become community engagement days and into the future, such engagement could become a hallmark of Sonoma State. He noted that changes to the teaching modules had been approved by the Space Committee, provided a short history of the Space Committee and noted that the Space Committee was advisory to himself.

Motion to rise from a committee of the Whole. Second.

Motion to amend – to rise from the Committee of the Whole and continue discussion at the next meeting. Second. Question called. Second. Approved.

Vote on amendment – Approved.

Vote to rise from the Committee of the Whole – Approved.

Motion to extend discussion to next business meeting. Second. Approved.

A group photo was taken for the Senate website.



Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega