

**Academic Senate Minutes**  
February 4, 2021  
3:00 – 4:50, using free the fifties  
Via Zoom

**Abstract**

Special Student Report. Approval of Agenda – Approved. Approval of Minutes of 12/10/2020 – Approved. Chair Report. President Report. Provost Report. Vice Chair Report. Vice President of Administration and Finance Report. Vice President for Student Affairs Report. Consent items: From EPC: Proposal for the Environmental Science, Geography and Management BS, as well as the Geography and Planning BA programs (and all associated course proposals and discontinuances) and From EPC: Proposal for elevation to full degree of the MA in Educational Leadership and associated discontinuance of the MA in Education with Concentration in Educational Leadership – Approved. Upcoming WASC visit. Associated Student Report. Statewide Senators Report. Staff Representative Report. APARC Report. EPC Report. FSAC Report. SAC Report. CFA Report.

**Present:** Jeffrey Reeder, Laura Krier, Carmen Works, Bryan Burton, Wendy Ostroff, Richard Senghas, Sam Brannen, Michaela Grobbel, Sakina Bryant, Wendy St. John, Doug Leibinger, Ed Beebout, Angelo Camillo, Florence Bouvet, Rajeev Virmani, Viki Montera, Rita Premo, Izabela Kanaana, Jordan Rose, Adam Zagelbaum, Kevin Fang, Rick Luttmann, Amal Munayer, Cookie Garrett, Judy Sakaki, Karen Moranski, Joyce Lopes, Wm Gregory Sawyer, Erma Jean Sims, Noelia Brambila-Perez, Chase Metoyer, Kate Sims, Elita Virmani, Emily Asencio, Paula Lane, Hilary Smith

**Guests:** Jerlena Griffin-Desta, Hollis Robbins, Merith Weismann, Katie Musick, Jonathan Smith, Karen Schneider, Damien Hansen, Stacey Bosick, Catherine Nelson, Jenn Lillig, Aaron Burton, Laura Alamillo, Melinda Milligan, Kari Manwiller, Lynn Prime, Natalie Hobson

**Special Student Report – A. Burton**

The Chair asked B. Burton to introduce the student speaker. B. Burton introduced his twin brother who started in the MPA program this fall semester.

A. Burton said I am a fourth semester part time, even though it feels like a full time, student in the MPA Program. In my day job I'm a Union rep with SEIU local 1021, so I actually represent the classified staff at the junior college. I really do enjoy Sonoma State. I recently came to Sonoma State partly because I'm a product of the CSU system. I went to Cal Poly Pomona for my undergrad in political science and I wanted to get my MPA. It took a long time for me to eventually get to that point. Initially I was looking at Southern Utah because my twin used to teach there and they have a really good MPA program, but when he started working at Sonoma and that I began looking at Sonoma State, because it does have a good reputation for the MPA program. I am a part time student and one thing that I would suggest is that we can look at part time scholarships. Even though I take six units every semester,

and I know a lot of my classmates do the same, because, unfortunately, school is so expensive, and also because of the cost of living, it's really difficult to go full time when you're trying to also support yourself. so that will be something that people could look at, and then the last thing as well is this is the first time I've had a full time faculty teaching a class. I love my adjunct professionals who've done a phenomenal job, but there is definitely a difference between a professor who has a full-time job and will come in to teach versus a professor who is teaching full time. You can certainly see the difference between the ability for you to get the attention you need. I do appreciate the smaller class sizes. It's really important to have that attention and to be able to get the help when you need it.

J. Reeder thanked Aaron for coming by and sharing his experiences and sharing his thoughts with us about why you came to Sonoma State and what you're getting from it. We appreciate hearing from graduate students as well because graduate studies are an extremely important part of our university and our identity.

### **Approval of Agenda – Approved.**

### **Approval of Minutes of 12/10/2020 – Approved.**

### **Chair Report – J. Reeder**

J. Reeder reported that one thing that he wished we didn't have to do, but something important and the right thing to do, is that we will be receiving requests for a posthumous certificate and posthumous degree. We lost two of our SSU students over the break. The requests for a posthumous certificate and posthumous degree will come to the Executive Committee and then to the Senate. He noted the email that went out to everybody about vaccine updates. He asked the members to look for that. There's an SSU specific email about vaccine updates and that explains the current rollout and also our partnership working with the Sonoma County Office of Education. In order to get the vaccines rolled out there are different policies, different protocols, that apply to people in specific circumstances such as students or faculty or staff who are on campus and within a certain age range category. That's explained pretty well in the in the email, so do please look for that. He noted we've had to postpone until a future date the emeritus dinner which is part of our annual tradition to honor our emeritus faculty for their lasting and important contributions to the university and as a way of remaining engaged with our colleagues who are now in a different role. We made the difficult decision at Executive Committee last week to postpone this year's emeritus recognition dinner until such time as we're able to do that safely. He thought it might be next year, but it's hard to tell these days. He called attention to discussions about AB1460 and how that will impact our curriculum. Specifically, at this stage the Chancellor's Office has created a process and a new GE category, area F, and they have rolled that out at Sonoma State. We continue to discuss and examine how that is going to impact us on our campus. He noted a specific webpage the University has [ge.sonoma.edu](http://ge.sonoma.edu), which has all things related to general education, including AB1460. We're going to make sure that we keep it as a priority and if anything changes or, as we have new developments, to update you all. The discussions, right now, are to some extent at a bit of an impasse, given that CFA and the Statewide Academic Senate and several local campus

Senate's have expressed disagreement with, and in some cases and an intention not to follow the Chancellor's Office guidelines and directives which are now codified in the Educational Code and Title V. In addition, AB1460, Ethnic Studies, has been a discipline in the California State University for 50 years beginning at San Francisco State University. We have seen and there's abundant research that already exists that suggests that disadvantaged minority students and disadvantaged students in general are being impacted to a greater extent and at a greater level because of the pandemic and the shutdown including all the issues of 2020 and now early 2021 that are going on. How we at Sonoma State University and, also, we collectively in higher education, how we handle this and how we respond to this will have an extremely significant impact. We've seen, for example, that the number of students from marginalized backgrounds nationwide, have dropped out of the higher education pipeline at a much higher rate than non-underrepresented minority students and that's a troubling concern. He looked at Lobo Connect and checked on the data and it seems like we do a good job taking care of them. He looked for GPA drops between the last three semesters among overall student body and underrepresented minority students and it seems to be flat. He looked at the percentage of underrepresented minority students at Sonoma State as a comparison with the overall student body over the last few semesters and that also seems to be flat. What we're doing here is working well, but what he wanted to do is give voice to those students who are not here, because they are among the students who chose to either defer or not go to college. As we decide what our fall semester looks like, as we decide what our classes look like, as we decide how to reach out to and engage and attract students, he hoped that we don't just keep in mind our current students and our current colleagues, but that we give voice to those students who would otherwise not come and who last year didn't come, because those are the truly vulnerable students.

### **President Report – J. Sakaki**

J. Sakaki reported that this week has been California State University advocacy week and normally, it would be a week there where several of us from the campus would be up in Sacramento walking the halls and seeing different legislators and talking to them about to them about California State University budgetary needs as well as about Sonoma State. However, these meetings this week and next week are all happening virtually because of the environment we're in. She had some great conversations with Assembly Member Jim Wood, Cecilia Aguilar-Curry and Mike McGuire is coming up as well as the Legislative Women's Caucus which has been very interesting, since over 50% of the Presidents in the CSU are women. They were interested in meeting with representatives of the CSU. Our team has been myself, Jerlena Griffin-Desta, Chief of Staff, and Rob Eyler in his role as Government, Community relations and Regional Relations. We've also had a student or two join us. She said that the Legislators are always really interested in hearing the student voice. What we've been talking about has been the graduation initiatives, support for the Governor's budget and appreciation for what we've been given so far, but hopes that we can increase that by not only restoring our full funding of the CSU, but also one-time additional needs, including deferred maintenance, as well as scholarship money for our DACA students who cannot take advantage of any federal stimulus money grants. We'd like to see some additional money from the

state for those students. It's been very encouraging and there's a lot of support for what we do. Some of our local legislators are alumni as well or CSU alum, so they get what we're doing and know that we're a value and want to be of help. In addition, last week was the Board of Trustees meeting and she presented an item which was on an update on our capital master plan. This has to do with our housing, particularly our Zinfandel villages which is our oldest village. At some point, it needs to be updated. Given the COVID environment and the economic downturn, we do not have immediate plans to build additional student housing, but we need to think into the future, and we need to be on the books, so that when we are ready, we can. The hope is that someday 50% of our students will be housed on campus and we would like to have more of a freshman village. There would be more traditional housing so they could really bond to each other and we can do some programming with them. The full board voted in support of our master plan. She thanked Joyce Lopes and her team who did the heavy lifting to get us there. Other things that are happening at the Chancellor's Office was the first Board meeting with our new Chancellor. He announced an appointed six-month interim Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student affairs. His name is Fred Wood and he is well aware of the needs in California and he'll be working with us for six months while they will be searching for the permanent replacement for Dr. Loren Blanchard who is going off to become the President at the University of Houston downtown campus. We kicked off a very successful Black History month celebration. She thanked all the students, staff and faculty who participated in and made that event worthwhile. She thanked everyone serving on the Senate because their voices on this body matter and she appreciated all of the input and time to help us be better as a Senate and as a university. We will be beginning some searches on our campus. Provost Moranski was appointed on an interim basis for a year, and so we will need to begin the search for a permanent Provost and she asked Jerlena Griffin-Desta to serve as the Chair of that search. We also will be starting a search for our Athletic Director as well. She asked Vice President Mario Perez to chair that search. We also have an opening for a Faculty Athletics Representative and she hoped that some of the Senators would consider applying for that position. The position does report to her. It is an important bridge between the faculty and the student athletes and the Athletic department, so that position is coming available for next fall. She spoke about Dr. Jerlena Griffin-Desta who serves as her Chief of Staff, and also as Associate Vice President for Diversity and Strategic Initiatives, noting we were one of the last campuses in the CSU to have a diversity officer and in addition, we're probably one of the only ones that has that as a part time position. She so appreciated everything that Jerlena is doing and she is doing both of these jobs in an exemplary way. After a thorough review of structure and positions in the CSU, both on the Chief of Staff side and on the diversity inclusion side, we will be changing her working title to be a Chief of Staff and Vice President for Diversity and Strategic Initiatives. Given the budgetary situation, there's no compensation change at all, she will continue to serve, as other Chiefs of Staff and Diversity Officers do across the system, on the cabinet.

## Provost Report – K. Moranski

K. Moranski reported on spring enrollment. We have a new student cohort of 407 students and since we predicted a spring class of 379, we are ahead a little bit on our actual numbers for new students for spring. This gives us an annualized head count of 7515. That is ahead of budget predictions for this year, so that's good news for the budget deficit. Obviously, for fall 2021, the trick is going to be conversion and making sure that we convert our applications to deposited students into enrolled students in sufficient numbers to continue to help with the budget and continue to make progress on boosting our enrollment. It's going to be an immense effort. We have already been working with the schools and with units across campus and with our Student Affairs partners to boost our conversion rate. Another note related to enrollment is that we have submitted an impact report that impacts several programs on our campus. The faculty in those programs in Communications, in Pre-Business, Business, Liberal Studies/Hutchins and Biology have made the decision to release impaction for the 2022 class. We will be working on moving forward with the public process that happens when we change compaction criteria. In addition, we have some programs changing their impaction criteria to allow for more flexibility in lower enrollment situations. All of that is good news and she offered deep appreciation to the faculty who have thought long and hard about this in order to be able to do it and to Stacey Bosick in Academic Programs and Elias Lopez in Strategic Enrollment who have supported the discussions around this issue. We are also deploying next week, a set of scholarships for new students as part of our efforts to bring that conversion rate up, and we will be doing three levels of scholarships. The President has a set of 10 scholarships, each Dean has a set of 10 scholarships and then there is a pro bono set of scholarships that covers the additional monetary amount that we have to give out in scholarships. This set of scholarships is primarily for first time, first year students, but we will be working on a program for transfer students. We released yesterday core scheduling guidelines for fall of 2021 to department chairs and dean's offices. This is rocket science in some ways, so contrary to the expression, it's very difficult and very complicated and to speak to Chair Reeder's point about making sure that we're speaking to the students, we really need to make sure that our course scheduling guidelines are equitable and fair, and that they allow as many students as possible to participate and complete their education in a timely fashion. We will be partially on ground, in person and partially online and we're going to have a mix of modes and methods, so we are trying to do our best to work within a very constrained budget situation to be able to manage our schedules most effectively. Faculty will be in discussions about those as we plan for the fall schedule. She thanked the faculty for their creativity and flexibility and their willingness to explore multiple modes of teaching and learning as we move forward. We are also moving forward this spring with a forum where we're going to be talking about institutional identity and this is one of the issues that has been brewing for the last several years. We're going to have that discussion forum probably in March. We'll send out a "save the date" and we'll be inviting all members of the Sonoma State community to participate in a discussion about our liberal arts and sciences identity and how that relates to professional programs, how that relates to workforce demand. She thought that is an important conversation for us to engage in as we move forward as an institution. As we work on budget reduction and budget deficits, it's important that we know

who we are so that we budget according to who we are and also so that we can move forward as an institution and capitalize on a firm commitment to identity.

A member said she was contacted by some faculty members who are frustrated by the assigned SSU trainings. How were they assigned? Why are there so many? For instance, there are probably some people on campus for whom the storm water and pollution prevention means something, but as a math faculty working from home, not so much. It seems that other CSUs don't do it this way. She wondered, are there going to be training like this from now on? She thought the frustration is we are spending so much time on computers right now and then spending additional hours on some of those trainings while not understanding the value of them was the cause.

J. Lopes said we actually had recently been audited, both by the State of California and by the system office and we found that trainings that are mandated had not been assigned across the campus. It is unfortunate, now, that we have all of these trainings, so we need to get caught up on. We did ask for an extension on the timeline. Specific to the stormwater training, why that is important on our campus is because our campus does get all of our water through a well system, which is very unusual. She didn't know if there are any other campus in the CSU that had that. There are certain trainings that are unique to the situations that we have on our campus and every employee then has to participate in that training. Once we all get this done and we're caught up, then the trainings will be more on a routine basis. Some of them need to be redone every year, but others are every two to three years or every five years.

The President noted that she has participated and done all of her trainings as well, and she asked for faculty indulgence to go through them. Some of the information is useful just for us in our personal lives, sometimes it is tedious. She said she is evaluated based on the percentage of our staff and faculty that participate. When she goes in for her summer evaluation with the Chancellor, the first thing she has been handed in the past was - what percentage of staff and faculty had completed their training and part of her evaluation is whether or not we have compliance, because increasingly there are some concerns that end up in litigation and we are asked to please encourage folks to participate.

A member posted to the chat: "The trainings are not timed, so I found that just by skipping straight to the test I could pass without reading or watching anything (most of the questions are common sense or common knowledge), so each training took me less than 5 minutes. I passed them all!"

J. Lopes said that's absolutely right, the trainings are not timed. If you go to settings and if you're able to listen at faster than a 1.0 ratio, you can speed that the training up and take it at one and a half times. There are some tricks to get through it a little bit more quickly, but it is mandated and we have got to get the campus caught up.

One of the Statewide Senators noted, he will be bringing this very issue to the Statewide Faculty Affairs Committee to ask them about - to what extent are any of these able to be managed or could faculty be given a choice. He understood the stormwater one is different by campus, but we're also wondering if we see different

ones on different campuses and to what extent does the Chancellor's Office have the ability to set policy. We'll bring it up at that level since we've also heard it constantly said it's coming down from above.

A member asked the Provost, at the Ex Com meeting you said 13 sabbaticals were awarded for next year, and some faculty are wondering how many applications, there were in total. The Provost responded, there were 25.

### **Vice Chair Report – L. Krier**

L. Krier reported that Structure and Functions voted to amend the bylaws to increase the membership on the university RTP subcommittee from five to seven members. We started discussing guidelines for committees to conduct business by email and we'll be working on something that we can share soon. We voted two additional faculty to governance positions.

### **Vice President of Administration and Finance Report – J. Lopes**

J. Lopes reported that the President's Budget Advisory Committee met this morning, and we had a good discussion around working collectively on our budget. While we are still facing a deficit, the one-time stimulus funding will help and we talked a lot about how it is important it is to ensure we are keeping strategic budgeting at the forefront as we think through this process. We're not focused on having a deficit. We think about how do we resolve that, but we keep in mind our values and our strategic priorities and look at where we need to invest to ensure that we're moving those priorities forward. It was a great discussion. We're going to have more conversation, looking at the various priorities, identifying which ones need to be addressed first, putting dollars to that and figuring out how that all fits into our full budget picture. We'll be putting a budget forum together for the spring semester. We're going to spend some time figuring out how we visually depict how our values are embedded into our budget for the forum. She thanked everyone on the Budget Committee and for the very helpful comments and suggestions that everyone brought to the table. Regarding vaccines, Missy Brunetta, is working with the Sonoma County Office of Ed who is now in charge of making sure that the educators in the county are vaccinated. The county public health has told the Sonoma County office that they will start releasing vaccines to them again, hopefully, in a week or so. They were supposed to get vaccines this week, but then they read about the prioritized groups, so we have given the Sonoma County office all of the information about our employees and faculty and staff, including ages. We've got the plus 75, plus 70s, plus 65 age cut offs Those are all being considered. They know who's working on ground, who's working directly with students and so vaccines will be prioritized based on the age groups, and then who's on ground working directly with students. As folks reach a tier where you're eligible to be vaccinated, you'll get a message directly from the campus. If it's necessary for you to take a letter, then the letter would be attached to the communication and you could print that out and take it with you or show it to them on your phone screen. It's continuing to move forward and they're very hopeful than the next month or so we'll start making good progress on getting our education tier vaccinated.

A member asked in regards to the vaccine, the next month or so, for those who are 75, 70, 65 - do you have any sense at all, about people who are in my category (mid 40s), not working currently with students and what that might look like. Are we still thinking about eight months or have they given us any update or do they plan to ever?

J. Lopes said Missy does attend at least weekly update meetings with the county. They were predicting that for those of us who are not on ground, it will probably be this summer before we get our vaccines. It's so hard to know. If another vaccine is approved, if there's more vaccines in the pipeline, if the State lets organizations like Kaiser or Sutter or Catholic health get more involved, it could really change the whole logistical process. Her crystal ball was broken.



#### **Vice President for Student Affairs Report – Wm. Gregory Sawyer**

Wm. Gregory Sawyer reported that, right now, we have 85 hotspots which we have already distributed this semester, and we do have a waiting list for those hotspots. On a positive note, we are actually caught up with our Chromebooks and the library still has additional inventory if we need it. We still are looking to acquire more hotspots. We've had 500 students move into housing and that is an increase of around 50 students from last semester. This morning he received a text message that said that our area coordinators in housing will be able to be vaccinated for their first shot next week. That's because they'll be working directly with those students. As of today, we have four people in housing that are in quarantine or isolation, three that are positive, one that is in quarantine and not in isolation. In terms of Care numbers, so far, so last year '19- '20 throughout the year, we had 505 students needing care. So far this year, up to February 3<sup>rd</sup>, there have been 466 student needing care. That shows you the number of mental health and COVID cases that we are working with in care. He thanked the faculty that are working with us and partnering with our student success model. What we're trying to do with our early warning system is working with about five classes and faculty are letting us know whether or not students have checked in online. About 23% reported that that students have not have not checked in with their online programs. Just as an FYI, as you're talking to other faculty those final reports will be due on February 8<sup>th</sup>. What we're trying to do with an early warning system is find out what students have not checked into their classes. Other things that are of importance, going back to immunization as well as vaccination, one of the ideas that we're looking at is making sure that all students check in to my health portal. As soon as they check in, there will be an individual confidential statement, and we will be able to let the students know as that information comes up, they will be notified by Student Health. Then we can start vaccinating students on a regular basis as we get the vaccines. We have a new wellness program on campus. We talked about it a little bit last semester is called

You@Sonoma. There are about 15 universities now in the CSU that are using it. It allows students to check in to find out how are they doing on campus, be it for academics, or their own physical or mental health. It helps them to adjust so they can go through at their own pace and they can see how they are doing on a college campus. We're excited about the program and the students will be able to log in the portals which is being set up. Laura Williams from CAPS wanted him to talk about SeaWolf safe. The first training will be in February 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 11:00 and we will be sending that information out. It's our Suicide Prevention program.

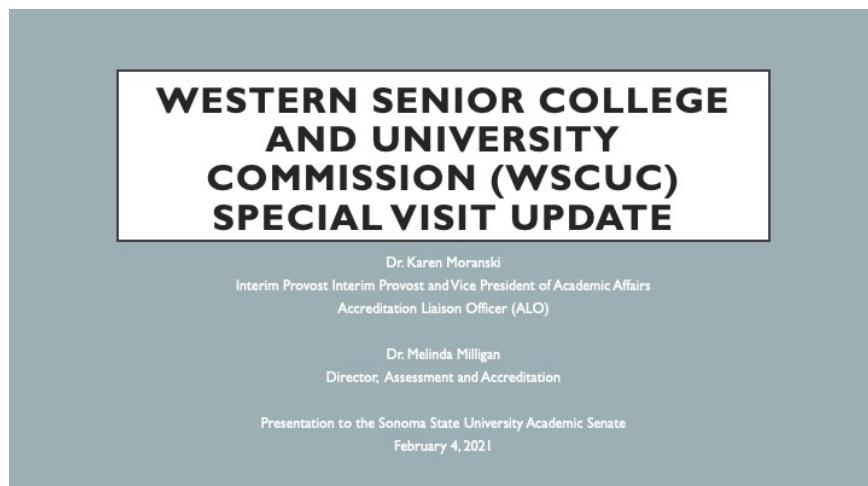
**Free the Fifites (3:50) reached** and Natalie Hobson provide desktop yoga.

**Consent items:** From EPC: Proposal for the Environmental Science, Geography and Management BS, as well as the Geography and Planning BA programs (and all associated course proposals and discontinuances) and From EPC: Proposal for elevation to full degree of the MA in Educational Leadership and associated discontinuance of the MA in Education with Concentration in Educational Leadership – **Approved**.

### Questions for VP Sawyer

A member asked if the early warning system is accessible for faculty members and, if so, how. We need that. Wm. Gregory Sawyer said yes, faculty can do that. He listed the courses that are part of the early warning system - English 101, Math 165, History 252 and GEP 305 can all run progress reports. But that can certainly be extended to other faculty, but those are the classes right now that are in the program with us. The member said she teaches Eng 101 and frequently teaches English 100 AB and she sees a lot more problems in those courses. She strongly recommended that those courses also be added to the early warning system. Wm. Gregory Sawyer said absolutely and asked to talk to the member offline. We have found out over the last couple of semesters, some students are just not even signing into classes. We're having our peer success coaches following up with them, we have our professional advisors, but anything faculty can do to help us would be wonderful.

### Upcoming WASC visit – K. Moranski and M. Milligan



K. Moranski said the Western Senior College and University Commission is coming for a visit on March 4th and 5<sup>th</sup>. We want to talk a little bit about the timeline, what's been happening, what we've done and what we may need from the campus community as we prepare for this special visit. In February 2017, we submitted an institutional report to WASC, which we do every 7 to 10 years based on the timeline they give us. When the WASC team came to visit, it was a week after we had returned from the fires. The team was very complimentary of our efforts to be resilient and to continue with the site team visit and they focused on five lines of inquiry. At the end of that visit they gave us a report. They made seven recommendation to us and did affirm our accreditation for an eight-year period. The year 2025 is our next full institutional report. WASC asked us to take those seven recommendations and address them as part of a special visit set for March 2021.

## **SSU'S RECENT ACCREDITATION HISTORY**

### **February 2017**

- Institutional Report submitted to WSCUC
- Based on work of Accreditation Steering Committee

### **October 2017**

- WSCUC Team visit to SSU campus
- Focus on specific Lines of Inquiry

### **February 2018**

- WSCUC reaffirmed SSU's accreditation for a period of eight years

### **March 2018**

- WSCUC action letter provided seven recommendations to SSU
- Special Visit set for March 2021

M. Milligan said she would talk about what was done in anticipation of that special visit which was to gather a WASC special visit working group. This group was charged with gathering evidence to respond to the seven recommendations.

## WSCUC SPECIAL VISIT WORKING GROUP (SPRING, SUMMER, FALL 2020)

- Stacey Bosick
- Heather Brown
- Mark Gondree
- Jerlena Griffin-Desta
- Laura Krier
- Naga Lakshmi Damaraju
- Jennifer Lillig
- Laura Lupei
- Amanda McGowan
- Melinda Milligan
- Laura Monje-Paulson
- Karen Moranski
- Jeffrey Reeder
- Hollis Robbins
- Kaitlin Springmeier
- Karen Thompson, Chair
- Laura Watt
- Merith Weisman

This slide shows the membership of the Special Visit Working Group. It is comprised of representatives from across campus. The focus of this team was to drill down into the seven recommendations and to find out what the campus could do and where the best support was for explaining what we were doing and plan to do in between the initial review and the follow up special visit. The committee divided itself into working groups, each of which focused on a particular recommendation, gathering information, consulting with appropriate groups on campus, to create the background. The Chair of the committee, Karen Thompson, worked with that information to draft the special report that was then submitted to WASC on December 22nd of this year in advance of the visit.

## DECEMBER 2020: SPECIAL VISIT REPORT

### Summary of progress on WSCUC's recommendations:

#1: Assuring every degree program has **measurable learning outcomes** and an **assessment plan** that identifies where the outcomes are being assessed in the curriculum.

#2: Adhering to the recently approved **program review policy**.

#3: Fully implementing a comprehensive **strategic planning process** that identifies **measurable goals** and aligns **financial resources** with those goals.

#4: Effectively using newly implemented **data tools** (like the CSU data dashboards) to enhance student learning and success.

#5: Creating an **IT strategic plan** to improve the student experience and advance the mission and vision of the institution.

#6: Creating and implementing a **comprehensive diversity plan**.

#7: Formally articulating what it means to be a **SSU undergraduate or graduate student**.

K. Moranski said it's important to realize that we had been working on the seven recommendations. Our strategic planning process, our diversity plan and diversity framework, the changes to our program review policy were all happening over the last

three and a half years or so. These seven recommendations and the full report are in the Senate packet. The slide above is a summary of the progress on the seven recommendations and they largely concern assessment and program review. They concern strategic planning and strategic budgeting. They concern our use of data tools, our strategic plan and our diversity framework and the identity question - What it means to be an SSU undergraduate or graduate student.

## WSCUC SPECIAL VISIT MARCH 4-5, 2021

### WSCUC Team

- Dorothy Leland, Chancellor (retired), UC Merced (Chair)
- Amy Wallace, Associate Vice President for Academic Excellence, CSU Sacramento (Assistant Chair)
- Gary Coyne, Principal Research Analyst, Center for Assessment and Applied Research, UC Irvine
- Ron Germaine, Professor Emeritus, National University

M. Milligan said the special visit is scheduled for March 4th and 5<sup>th</sup>, which of course will be a remote special visit. The visiting team is listed here and there are four members of the team. These four members were on the team that did the full review in 2017. It's fantastic that we can have them back to our campus to do the special visit because they know so much about Sonoma State, and they will be able to see in detail, the progress that we've made. We can show them everything we've been doing, and she thought they will have a special understanding of where we were in 2017 and the circumstances that surrounded that visit. That will create a good context for them being able to see everything that the campus has done, as illustrated in the reports. In terms of the schedule, it is still a bit up in the air, because the team will be meeting next week to finalize for themselves what they specifically would like to know when they visit us on March 4th and 5<sup>th</sup>. After they determine where they want to drill down, they will send a draft schedule to our campus. We will flesh it out and send it back, and then we will arrive at the final schedule. Because this visit is a special visit, it's going to be different in focus than the previous visit which had much more engagement with the campus as a whole. This visit, we anticipate, is going to be focused on meeting with key leaders, such as President Sakaki, the Executive Cabinet, and Interim Provost Moranski. Beyond that we anticipate that the WASC team will want to focus on questions or additional information they need around the seven recommendations, and so the planning that we've been thinking through is who best would represent the campus to speak to both the content of the report and the current state of campus affairs around the issues in those seven recommendations. We anticipate a series of sessions focused on the recommendations with key campus representatives that can speak to each of the

recommendations. There are sub groups that have special expertise in each of the seven recommendations, and we will also be pulling in individuals from across campus that can add to the information that WASC will be searching for. From a faculty governance perspective, recommendations one and two, the program learning outcomes and assessments and the second recommendation that focuses more on program review will have engagement with faculty governance. She has contacted APARC and UPRS to give them a heads up that we will likely ask their leaders and membership to be in these visits. The packet today has not only the full special visit report, it also has a helpful one sheet summary that details the recommendations and also details the campuses response to those recommendations so that's the first place to start and then you can drill down into the report, in the areas that are of special interest to you.

## **WSCUC SPECIAL VISIT MARCH 4-5, 2021**

### **Anticipated Meetings (schedule in development)**

- President Sakaki
- Executive Cabinet
- Interim Provost/ALO Moranski
- WSCUC Special Visit Working Group
- Sessions focused on seven recommendations (with key campus representatives for each)

## **RESOURCE LINKS**

[SSU Institutional Accreditation Website](#)

[Special Visit Report \(December 2020\)](#)

[Institutional Report \(February 2017\)](#)

### **Associated Student Report – N. Brambila-Perez**

N. Brambila-Perez reported that elections are up and running. If faculty know of any students who might be interested in leadership positions, and please tell them to apply through February 16th. We have virtual info sessions available for them for the next few weeks. One of our programs, JUMP, is getting ready to send out a student email on virtual volunteering options. One of the cool things that they came up with this semester is a crisis text line. Students can go ahead and volunteer in these lines and help others who are in need. ASP is also having events every week such as campus drive-in movies, as well as a drive-in concert. The Children's School is up and running, just like it was last semester and we have great protocols. Young children are still getting the best of the best, so we're really happy over that. She provided an update on the Basic Needs Initiative. We gave on campus and off campus bag distributions this January, and we were open during the break as well. We do have six students in case management for grants or other resources. Calfresh outreach days come in the last week of February, please spread the word to students. She thanked all the faculty who have been very understanding of students and giving them the option of having their cameras on and off. We are in this very weird time right now, so making sure that the students are comfortable and having that open communication with faculty is great. If anyone needs any student representation on committees, she is the one to contact.

The Chair noted that in terms of reaching out to students interested in leadership, he suggested rather than attempting to determine which students are already interested in leadership, think about which students have the potential for being interested in leadership and encourage them to get in touch with the current student leaders and to consider that as an option. A substantial number of our local elected officials, including our state Senator Mike McGuire, a number of city council members, and vice mayors, in our region are SSU alumni.

### **Statewide Senators Report – W. Ostroff, R. Senghas**

W. Ostroff reported on what happened at the most recent Statewide Senate plenary on January 21st and 22nd. We heard from the CSU ERFSA. They have a charitable foundation which gives grants and those grants are open to both current and retired faculty. The grants are about 1200 dollars each and faculty are encouraged to apply for CSU ERFSA grants. We heard from our new CSU Chancellor Joseph Castro. An important item he mentioned is that he's sponsoring legislation to reallocate prop 63 funds for student mental health services in our CSU system and is hoping to improve the counseling ratios which are very crucial to us right now in this in this challenging time for our students. We also approved three interesting resolutions. One was protecting fair workload for faculty in the CSU, one was on disparate impact of technology on underserved students and one was on the ongoing collaboration of ethnic studies and the implementation of ethnic studies. Notable upcoming issues that are being worked on in the Statewide Senate are the faculty emeritus status revocation and appeal process. Committees are working on a resolution about how emeritus status is awarded and also whether it can be removed under certain circumstances. A committee is working on general education area B4, which is the mathematics and quantitative reasoning course guidelines and

principles in the Math Council of the CSU document and hoping it will be included in the guiding notes for general education course review.

R. Senghas noted that he will be bringing to the Faculty Affairs Committee the question about what would be appropriate levels of training, for which people and do faculty need to be doing all the trainings.

A member asked what ERFSA stood for. It stands for the Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association.

### **Staff Representative Report – K. Sims**

K. Sims reported that that one of our latest endeavors is that the Staff Council has been inviting new officers on the campus to our meetings. So far, we have enjoyed meeting and hearing from the CARES Caps team on campus, the new Chief of Police, Nadar Oweis, the Dean of Education Laura Alamillo and the Dean of Social Sciences Troi Carlton. If any Senators know of any new people on campus that would like to meet with the Staff Council, just let her or Katie Musick know.

### **APARC Report – E. Virmani**

E. Virmani provided few updates on APARC business. One item is that we had an engaging APARC meeting about assessment Melinda Milligan and Jenn Lillig, thinking about the role APARC can play more explicitly in assessment at the university and guiding assessment processes. It's still very much in the beginning stages of conversation, but it's exciting to think through how APARC might work, in terms of guiding and/or oversight of some of the processes that need to happen on a meta level with program learning outcomes. There's a lot to think about. She invited all the Senators to think about ways to engage and invite faculty to play a role in assessment at the university level. The other thing that we've completed is that last semester we worked with UPRS to integrate language into the self-study guide to more explicitly state ways in which their goals and mission engage with core values and the strategic plan of the university.

### **EPC Report – E. Asencio**

E. Asencio reported that EPC had their first meeting this morning, and we had lots and lots to talk about. First of all, we are going to be extending the temporary tags for online courses through summer due to the uncertainty of many different things for fall and for scheduling purposes for spring. We're sending a memo out shortly, just so that you are aware that that's happening and it won't be necessary to apply for a course mode delivery change. We're going to extend that permission to teach online without having to do that through summer 2022. It's currently through summer 2021, so that's one of the major developments. EPC is currently doing a first reading of the WIC overlay criteria and EPC today decided, we're going to be bringing that out to the schools, so just keep an eye out for that and as an opportunity to provide feedback for that criteria. We're working things out during the first reading, so you should be expecting to hear from your EPC representatives about that and we would appreciate your feedback. Academic Programs has

brought to EPCs attention an update, or potential update, to the academic calendar for fall that would allow for a week of flexibility, and that would accommodate fire type of emergencies. She will bring be bringing the changes through the Ex Com.

### **FSAC Report – P. Lane**

P. Lane reported that FSAC had just enjoyed their first meeting, and they are practicing our own version of the free five-minute break in the middle of our meeting, and she thanked Chair Reeder, for leading us in that endeavor. FSAC is taking on a procedure to took to look at faculty retreat rights. It's come to our attention that the current procedure is a little bit loose and unclear, and we would like to help direct that in the hiring of new MPPs on the campus, Deans, etc. in order to have the process a more organized, a possibly more consistent process for how an applicant learns of and how departments help decide about retreat rights. AFS has provided us with their document again of the statement for teaching of sensitive materials. This is a statement that's been going back and forth for over four years. We hope to help edit it one more time. As you may know, it was brought to the Ex Com and was sent back to AFS for more edits. We've received it again and we are still working with it and hope very shortly to bring that forward. PDS is looking to change their name to the Teaching and Learning subcommittee. They are looking at changing their charge as well. They would work more on teaching and learning awards and perhaps be the group that would help us all think about teaching and learning awards and presentations, etc. April 1 is our deadline to receive revised RTP department criteria. We expect quite a few of these this semester. Please, if you know your department is working on or is thinking of working on their RTP criteria, get that revised document to FSAC by April 1, so that we have time to look at it and review it. FSAC will be bringing documents regarding the RTP policy revisions to the Senate next time for feedback.

### **Student Affairs Report – H. Smith**

H. Smith reported that Student Affairs met this week for the first time this semester. SAC is moving forward with a review of the plagiarism and cheating policy, looking more closely at the different pieces at the university that intersect with that policy. We will be having Ben Ellis, the Student Conduct Officer, join us at our next meeting, so we can talk about how that process works from the administrative side. We're also going to shortly put out a call for applications for priority registration. Applications are due by March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **CFA Report – E. J. Sims**

E. J. Sims reported that the California Faculty Association is very pleased and proud to bring to the Sonoma campus, the statewide Interrupting Racism workshop. The email about the workshop went out yesterday morning to our Board of Directors and to all of our CFA members. We're asking members to commit five hours to improving racial justice and the campus climate for all faculty, staff and students. The workshop is in two parts. Part one is February 12th from 10:00 to 12:30 and there is some pre homework that folks can view in preparation - articles and a video. Part two is going to be on Friday February 19th from 10:00 to 12:30. For those who

register for part two, you'll be receiving the pre-assignment articles, videos etc. at that time. In the email it's just a matter of clicking on the part one to register for that and clicking on part two to register for that part of the workshop. This is certainly a timely topic in light of what's been going on with the racial injustice and unrest in this country and we're very pleased to be one of the campuses to have this workshop. The other thing we're excited about is that this semester we have a student intern. Her name is Sally Gonzales. She's a senior, majoring in psychology. She has been involved in a number of organizations at Sonoma State. She's also one of the Faces of Sonoma State. She has tremendous energy and she will be working with the Students for Quality Education, which is our interns group statewide. She received her first training with them as well. We are working in collaboration with Deborah Roberts from Faculty Affairs to put on a workshop for department chairs about article 12 - entitlement and we appreciate having another collaboration with the Faculty Affairs.

A member asked whether the workshops will be recorded for those who are unable to participate. E. J. Sims said right now, there are no plans to record them because they're very interactive and some folks may feel uncomfortable being recorded, but it is possible to offer it again later in the semester, if there's sufficient interest around doing that. It was clarified that the workshops were only for faculty at this time.

**Adjourned.**

*Minutes prepared by L. Holmstrom-Keyes with help from Zoom transcript*