

**Academic Senate Minutes**  
February 14, 2019  
3:00 – 5:00, Student Center Ballrooms C & D

**Abstract**

Chair Report. Agenda amended and Approved. Minutes of 1/31/19 Approved. President Report. Provost Report. Vice Chair Report. AVP for Student Affairs Report. Associated Students Report. Statewide Senator Report. Staff Representative Report. Resolution re: President's Climate Leadership Commitment – First Reading. Commencement Update. Discussion of GE reform vote. EPC Report. APARC Report. FSAC Report. SAC Report. CFA Report.

**Present:** Melinda Milligan, Carmen Works, Damien Wilson, Jeffrey Reeder, Sam Brannen, Melissa Garvin, Sakina Bryant, Carlos Torres, Ed Beebout, Florence Bouvet, David Horowitz, Rajeev Virmani, Laura Krier, Isabella Kanaana, Mary Ellen Wilkosz, Adam Zagelbaum, Michelle Goman, Rick Luttmann, Hope Ortiz, Audra Verrier, Judy Sakaki, Erma Jean Sims, John Dunstan, Fernando Mendoza, Arcelia Sandoval, Mark Perri, Jenn Lillig, Rita Premo, Ron Lopez

**Absent:** Laura Watt, Catherine Nelson, Kim Mieder, Joyce Lopes, Wm. Gregory Sawyer

**Guests:** Stacy Holguin, Paul Gullixson, Katie Musick, Jerlena Griffin-Desta

*(The Chair of the Faculty was attending the Council of CSU Senate Chairs meeting)*

**Chair Report – M. Milligan for L. Watt**

M. Milligan reminded the members that this day was the deadline to RSVP for the Emeritus dinner. She reported that at the President's Budget Advisory Committee (PBAC) meeting they approved an SSU budget oversight policy that will now go to the President for approval. The policy is complying with systemwide guidelines and reflects the current budgeting strategies. The set of procedures accompanying the policy will help key people associated with budgeting have a more streamlined process for budgeting intentionally. She updated the members about the Stevenson Hall Remodel process and encouraged those working in Stevenson Hall to look at the November 2018 feasibility study, so they can be prepared for the design/build team meetings that will take place soon with individual departments.

**Approval of Agenda** – items added: Discussion of GE reform vote; Update on Commencement; EPC given a 4:00 TC – **Approved.**

**Approval of Minutes of 1/31/19 – Approved.**

**President Report – J. Sakaki**

1. CSU Advocacy Day is on March 6 in Sacramento. The CSU sends its presidents and we are also sending Paul Gullixson, AVP of Strategic Communications.

2. Hill Day is in Washington, DC, in April. President Sakaki will attend and meet with legislators. She asked for research items or grant ideas to be sent to Provost Vollendorf so we can build a strong advocacy agenda. She also is open to suggestions about alumni or other people with whom she might connect in D.C.

### **Provost Report – L. Vollendorf**

1. The Provost lead with an incident that happened in a SYRCE classroom on January 29. Hollis Robbins and Sandra Moore co-taught a class in which they were teaching on the 1960s. Two poems were planned to be read: one by Langston Hughes and Amiri Baraka. Both poems contain the “n-word” and there was significant discussion before and after reading the poems with the class about language meant to be provocative. Following the class, some students expressed that they felt hurt and shocked by hearing the word said out loud in a classroom. To ensure we were responding in an open and empathetic manner, another classroom discussion occurred in the SYRCE course and Student Affairs facilitated several meetings among students, faculty, and staff. We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive educational environment at SSU, and this issue gives us an opportunity to learn more about our campus climate, to have further dialogue on campus about our climate and about what we feel we need to address and improve on campus. I know everyone here is aware that there is a national context for issues around race, ethnicity, and immigration and general issues of inclusivity, and also that these issues are playing out on university campuses as well. At SSU, we intend to bring some learning and training opportunities to campus for our faculty and staff so we can learn more together about how to teach and respond to difficult issues both within and outside the classroom. Provost Vollendorf asked for ideas if people have them about what kind of training or seminars would be useful for faculty and staff so we can think together about what makes sense at SSU as we continue down this path of learning. [In the Q&A Sakina Bryant said that she saw a lot of positive feedback on the Facebook page about the HUB event.]
2. As a separate item, [we?] are [all] grateful for all the work faculty are doing on GE and curriculum in general. Yesterday the Provost was at the Academic Council meeting where she learned that the preliminary systemwide data on the transition to Stretch math and English show great results. This reinforces what we know at SSU, that our faculty have been at the forefront of innovative thinking about how to transition away from developmental courses.
3. Finally, the Provost is seeking input about how we can better highlight faculty, staff and student accomplishments and achievements. Please send her your ideas.

### **Vice Chair Report – M. Milligan**

M. Milligan reported that the call for nominations for faculty governance leadership positions is open and nominations are due February 25<sup>th</sup>. S&F continues to work on the relationship between administrative and faculty governance committees. They are working toward recommendations for the Ex Com on streamlining that interface. S&F continues to work on the report about the faculty retreat.

## **AVP for Student Affairs Report – S. Heldman-Holguin for Wm. Gregory Sawyer**

AVP Heldman-Holguin reinforced the message that Student Affairs is supporting and scheduling conversations about climate, race, and ethnicity with students.

## **Associated Students Report – J. Dunstan**

J. Dunstan reported that Greek Life's Lip Jam will be presented tomorrow which raises money for charity. He reported on a program that will raise money for Verity, the rape crisis organization in Santa Rosa. The President met with the AS Senate and they discussed commencement and how to improve the university going forward. The AS passed two resolutions: 1. Asking for Winter commencement and 2. Advocating for Spanish translation at commencement and other university events. A member asked how they envisioned a winter commencement. J. Dunstan responded that only one ceremony would likely be needed.

## **Statewide Senator Report – J. Reeder**

J. Reeder reported on the Chancellor's responses to resolutions approved by the ASCSU. For the resolution about the Adoption of Tenets of System Level Governance in the California State University, the response was: Chancellor White participated in several of the original conversations about the tenets documents and he explicitly affirms the other important documents that form the legal and procedural basis of shared governance in the CSU and will continue to work on shared governance.

For the resolutions titled 'A Call for the Inclusion of Tuition in the Cal Grant B Awards Program for Freshman Students in the CSU', the response was: Support for the Cal Grant B program noted that over the past 4 years, funding to undergraduate students through this program has surpassed the State University Grant (SUG) program.

As such, he believes that including tuition in the Cal Grant B Awards program for freshman students is a reasonable request especially in the context of the various proposals related to Cal Grant reform.

For the resolution about 'Increased Funding for the Electronic Core Collection in our Libraries', the response was: The Chancellor's Office appreciates the support of our library services that in turn support the academic success of our students and the scholarly success of our faculty.

As is the case with every annual budget, the Chancellor allocates funds to optimally serve the success of our students, faculty, staff, institutions, and all the communities that benefit from the CSU.

For the resolution about 'Closing the Achievement Gap and Improving College Completer Outcomes and Success for Undergraduate CSU Students',

the response was: Chancellor White has set as a goal for the CSU system the elimination of the achievement gap.

We recognize that we have work to do, but the reductions in the achievement gap reported last fall give us hope that with continued effort we will be successful.

### **Staff Representative Report – A. Sandoval**

A. Sandoval reported that the Staff Council meet on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. They are working on their website, email and have set up a Twitter account: @SSUstaffcouncil.

### **Resolution re: President's Climate Leadership Commitment – First Reading – M. Perri**

M. Perri noted the Sustainability Executive Committee supports this resolution asking the President to sign the commitment. He reviewed the devastating effects of climate change on the world and argued that SSU can do its part to be part of the solution. J. Mackenzie, a guest from the Rohnert Park city council, addressed the body. He eloquently expressed his support of the Senate approving the resolution and signing the commitment. He urged the campus to engage the community in dialogue as we move forward with the commitment. A member suggested that the resolution reference, specifically, environmental/social justice issues in our county. A member suggested that the resolution state that we want the President to sign the commitment. The Provost noted that the administration does want to sign the commitment and noted that community engagement and environmental/social justice issues are wrapped up in the commitment. A member supported adding the ethical perspectives about addressing the environmental/social justice issues more overtly.

### **Commencement Update – C. Works**

C. Works noted that she was on the Commencement committee and wanted to provide an update that members could take back to their constituencies. She encouraged members to read the emails being sent about commencement. The commencement website will soon include information about regalia for faculty. Prelude will be open for dinner both nights. Meals will not be provided in Prelude this year. Meals will be provided for staff and faculty if they work/attend at least two ceremonies. No bottled water will be provided. Water stations will be available and people are encouraged to bring their own water bottles. Chancellor White will be in attendance for at least one of the ceremonies, along with Emily Hinton, the student trustee. She clarified that each student receives 2 tickets for inside seating. Everyone else can sit outside. Guests need to arrive 15 minutes before the ceremony. There have not been any issues with not seating everyone inside. A member suggested providing sustainably made water bottles, if water bottles are given out.

## Discussion of GE reform vote

M. Milligan introduced the topic of the discussion. Chair Watt had requested the following: “Given both the thoroughness of GERS' original research, design, and discussion of what constitutes a strong and innovative GE proposal, and the *very* detailed discussions now underway at EPC, I am concerned about *not* repeating the same arguments all over again once the proposal comes to Senate. For one thing, we most likely do not have the luxury of time to go through all the small details a third time, if we are to get the proposal approved this academic year -- and also, it does not seem entirely respectful of both GERS' and EPC's efforts that have already taken place.

So my proposal would be, once EPC approves the GE revision proposal and sends it forward, that the Senate receive it and all the supporting documentation, that we have a presentation of the proposal at Senate (EPC Chair Jenn Lillig can walk us through it all), and whatever discussion that people need/want for the first and second readings -- but that we then, after our second reading, simply have an up or down vote, with no amendments nor wordsmithing from the floor -- if it is voted down, it can be sent back to EPC with whatever concerns the Senate may have.

As Chair of the Faculty, I cannot impose this restriction upon the Senate -- but I can, and do, request that the Senate impose it upon itself, in the interest of expediency and out of respect for the thorough consideration and discussion that is already taking place in our curricular committee and its subcommittee.” (*email of 2/3/19*)

M. Milligan noted that the proposal has been debated in detail in both GERS and EPC. The proposal is incredibly complex. A sweater analogy was used to describe the possibility of unravelling the proposal if specific amendments are made in the Senate.

A member argued a contrary position to the Chair's request stating that just because it went through two other committees does not mean the Senate would not have something to say about it. M. Milligan noted that the Senate needs to have a full discussion. The proposal is just about the vote and making amendments on the floor. A member noted that many people have been present at the EPC discussions, not just the members of EPC. M. Milligan observed that GERS was asked to look at the proposal from a university perspective, EPC is looking at it from a School perspective, so there was a range of vetting already. A member argued that before the first reading, all members need to do their homework, so that the second reading can take any of those concerns into consideration. The Chair of EPC said that all the documents needed to be read, not just the main proposal. She endorsed the sweater analogy. She encouraged everyone to start reading now. A member suggested that a motion be made and voted on about the Chair's idea.

## EPC Report – J. Lillig

J. Lillig reported that a team drive has been created for the Senate and all the GE materials are posted there. She said she will post all the EPC minutes and an

updated motion log to the team drive. At EPC, they discussed the met-in-major proposal the entire meeting. She said she sees the faculty struggling with wanting to support the reform, but trying to figure out how it will mesh with the majors. She noted that the report from the Statewide GE task force has come out and after she stopped hyper ventilating, she saw that the task force recommendations are completely opposite from EO 1100. She said that they came up with the thematic items that GERS came up with! The assessment team will present more signature assignment workshops. EPC will be bringing an offsite locations policy to the Senate. J. Lillig noted that she was getting scheduling questions and she advised members to look at the implementation plan. There was discussion about specifics of the implementation plan and the requirements to be met in the fall.

### **APARC Report – M. Perri**

M. Perri reported that APARC talked about the Statewide GE Task Force report and discussed the recommendation that the Chancellor's office fund GE courses, but APARC is concerned about budgets being created "on high" and not in the departments. They discussed how APARC interfaces with the PBAC and how the end of year report from the program reviews would relate to that relationship. They continue to discuss strategic budgeting and the assessment of the budget. APARC is working on their priorities for next year and will be using the university strategic plan initiatives in that process. They heard from E. Lopez who wants to put out a survey about the cleanliness of classrooms and target the dirtiest classrooms for a thorough cleaning. He noted that the FAQ's about the potential migration to the Gmail suite have been updated and that a notice will go out to the campus. A member asked if all classrooms, hallways and stairways could be cleaned instead of just the dirtiest ones. A member voiced concern about the Stevenson Hall elevators being out of service and the timing of electronic doors and how that affects students and faculty who are mobility challenged.

### **FSAC Report – R. Premo**

R. Premo reported that FSAC received updated RTP criteria from three departments. She asked the members to talk to their constituents about committee RTP documents having deadlines for a reason and to upload them in a timely manner. They received a resolution regarding the creation of an Ombuds office from PDS. She noted that the revised Emeritus policy would be coming next time. They also took up a charge from the Ex Com to investigate creating a policy around instructor drops and whether students should attend classes when they are on the waitlist for that class.

### **SAC Report – R. Lopez**

R. Lopez reported that SAC has finalized the revision to their charge. The charge will go to S&F first. SAC now has a team drive.

### **CFA Report – E. J. Sims**

E. J. Sims wished everyone a Happy Valentine's day. She announces the next CFA Board meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> and at that meeting, they will hear a talk about CALPERs and fossil fuels. All the CFA chapters will be conducting focus groups to get feedback and find out what is important to faculty for the upcoming bargaining cycle.

**Adjourned.**

*Minutes prepared by L. Holmstrom-Keyes*