

Academic Senate Minutes

April 29, 2010

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Agenda Approved. Minutes deferred. Consent items: Revisions to the Biology Minor – approved. Move of Organizational Development MA to Hutchins – approved. Candidates for Graduation May 2010 – approved. President Report. Provost Report. Vice President for Administration and Finance Report. Vice President of SAEM Report. Associated Students Report. Special Report: Fiscal Report on Athletics. Resolution Applauding U. S. House of Representatives recognition of Norooz approved. Results of Diversity Recommendations Survey Report. Statewide Senators Report. Resolution to Hold a Referendum of No Confidence in the Financial Management of Sonoma State University and a Call for the Resignations of President Ruben Armiñana and CFO/VP Larry Furukawa-Schlereth tabled. Format of proposed online forum regarding tabled motion referred to Executive Committee.

Present: Susan Moulton, Scott Miller, Deb Kindy, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Noel Byrne, Sam Brannen, Edith Mendez, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Janet Hess, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Paula Lane, John Kornfeld, Rick Robison, Cora Neal, Nick Geist, Tia Watts, Wanda Boda, Michael Cohen, James Dean, Laura Watt, Maria Hess, Margaret Purser, Sandra Shand, Lillian Lee, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Jenny Tice, Morgan Carvajal, Art Warmoth, Carmen Works, Richard Senghas, Derek Girman

Proxies: Barbara Lesch McCaffry for Mutombo M’Panya, John Urbanski for Terry Lease, Robert Eyler for Florence Bouvet

Absent: John Wingard, John Sullins, Jacqueline Holley, Matt McCarty, Dolores Bainter

Guests: Jason Dunham, Bill Fusco, Mike Ogg, Debora Hammond, Elaine Sundberg, Elaine Leeder, Dan Condrón, Saeid Rahimi, Steve Orlick, Sharon Cabaniss and many who did not sign in.

Chair Report – S. Moulton

S. Moulton reported that students were doing an inventory of Safe Zone stickers and asking faculty to sign a slightly modified pledge. She said she had put a copy of the new pledge at each seat and asked members who had Safe Zone stickers to re-pledge.

Approval of Agenda – approved.

Minutes deferred.

Consent items:

Revisions to the Biology Minor – approved

Move of Organizational Development MA to Hutchins – approved

Candidates for Graduation May 2010 – approved

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana reported on the joint lobby day in Sacramento between the UC, the CSU and the Community Colleges. He noted that the Governor said he would not sign a budget unless it included the money he put in the budget for higher education. If this were to happen, then the CSU would increase enrollment by 21,000 students and that would mean an additional 485 students at SSU. He offered C. Nelson the floor to talk about her experience at lobby day. She noted the difficulty among the Democrats to choose higher education for funding. A member asked about newspapers articles he had read about the CSU enrolling more out of state students and wondered if this was true. The President said it was a plan of the UC system, not the CSU. The member asked if there would be any impact in the CSU system from the UC system plan. The President said there may be some trickle down affect.

Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa noted that he sent out a message on Senate-Talk directing everyone's attention to the President's Diversity Council website and said they welcomed feedback.

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

L. Furukawa-Schlereth said he had three items to report. He said it was true that the University was in conversation with the San Francisco Symphony to do a series of concerts in the Green Music Center. He called it a very exciting development. He said that the University had agreed to partner with the City of Cotati to help bring the SmartTrain to the region. He had been asked by the President to serve on the City Task Force for the SmartTrain. He announced the campus would have its first Fulbright Scholar in the Fall who would be teaching in the German program. He announced the "transparency home page" that was set up in the spirit of Senator Yee's bill - <http://www.sonoma.edu/afd/home/transreport.html>. The Chair asked about the elimination of charge backs. He responded that the main chargebacks have been postage and phone charges. Due to the use of the internet, those would be paid centrally now. He also spoke about the charge backs in IT and said he would be proposing that CRC do away with those as well since they only brought in around \$30,000 and created much irritation.

Vice President of SAEM Report – M. Lopez-Phillips

M. Lopez-Phillips reported on the campus Take Back The Night event and noted the Clothesline project was on display in the Stevenson quad. He said registration was

moving along with no significant bottlenecks and provided the average unit load for all class levels. He said, regarding enrollment, they were seeing the figures about 100 behind last year for the freshman class. They were continuing to monitor enrollment closely as housing deposits were lagging behind enrollment deposits. The Chair asked about the late presentation of the schedule and what might be done to mitigate that in the future. M. Lopez-Phillips said they were trying to do better on that front and that included coordinating a large group of people. A member noted the problem with registration occurring during class time. M. Lopez-Phillips said he was happy to have conversations about it as they want to be available to help students during registration and not impact class time any more than necessary.

Associated Students Report – J. Tice

J. Tice reported on five items. She congratulated the newly elected Associated Students officers and noted the AS had increased their voter turnout by implementing online voting. She reported on student lobbying in Sacramento. On May 1st, they were trying to beat the Guinness World Record for the most people howling at the moon. The AS passed their 2010-2011 budget after many hours of meeting. They also transformed the role of Speaker of their Senate. The Chair thanked the AS for their strong participation in faculty governance this year.

Special Report: Fiscal Report on Athletics – L. Furukawa-Schlereth

L. Furukawa-Schlereth began by asking the Athletics Director to provide context for the Athletics program. (*Thanks to L. Furukawa-Schlereth's office for providing the PowerPoint slides to include in the minutes.*) B. Fusco talked about the identity of the SSU Athletics program:

- **National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)**
- **Division II**
- **300 members**
- **California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA)**
- **12 members**
- **11 CSU's and 1 UC**
- **All members located in CA.**
- **One additional member to join in 2012**
- **13 intercollegiate programs**
- **300 student-athletes**
- **8 women's teams**
- **5 men's teams**
- **60% participants are female**

He then spoke about academic achievement of SSU student athletes:

■ **STUDENT-Athletes**

■ **85% graduation rate in NCAA Academic Success Rate report.**

■ **Federal graduation rate for SSU Athletes 13% higher than general student population.**

50.34% student-athletes received a 3.0 GPA or higher in the Fall 2009 semester.

L. Furukawa-Schlereth then spoke about the guiding principles for Athletics funding from the Chancellor's Office.

Revised Policy Statement: Intercollegiate Athletics, Governance and Athletic Financing (AA-2009-10)

Athletic Governance

Requires the President to meet with the Athletics Director and CFO regularly.

Administrative Representative is an active, participating member of the campus' athletic council.

He noted that the AA-2009-10 memo also defined Athletics as an instructional program and as such all coaches were represented by the CFA, are faculty and Athletics was likened to a School.

He provided more information about the financial responsibility reflected in the memo:

Budget Administration and Supervision

The President should designate the CFO to monitor the financial operations of Athletics.

Budgets for expenditures should be consistent with realistic projections and maintained as part of the official Accounting Records of the campus.

He then described the three funding sources for the Athletics program:

3 funding sources:

**Instructionally Related Activities fee
Operating Fund
Department fundraising**

The Instructionally Related Activities fee was generated from mandatory student fees and fluctuates somewhat. It funds Athletics, the Center for the Performing Arts, the Children's School, etc. In early '90s the ASI, raised the IRA fee and decided to dedicate 65% of the IRA fees collected to Athletics. The rest comes from the Operations Budget and the coaches doing excellent fundraising.

He then spoke about the actual budget of Athletics:

Expenses	Amount
<u>Wages/ Benefits</u> • 13 Coaches • 15 Asst.Coaches • 4 Admin • 9 Staff	\$ 2,254,178
<u>Oper. Expense</u> • Travel • Equipment • Supplies	\$ 1,145,631
<u>Student Aid</u>	\$ 419,227
<u>Furloughs</u>	\$ 85,558
TOTAL	\$ 3,904,594

He said since he was not aware of the workings of athletics budgets, he met with all thirteen coaches to asses the budget. It became clear to him that one area of great need was scholarships. Coaches were spending too much time fundraising. He also learned that the travel budget was also compromised and described the budget saving measures the coaches and athletes were using that were creating uncomfortable conditions and safety concerns. He thought the \$3,904,594 represented the minimal level of funding for Athletics.

He then discussed revenues:

Revenue	Amount
IRA	\$ 1,869,194
Oper. Fund (base)	\$ 869,607
One-Time Funding*	\$ 832,029
Fundraising	\$ 333,764
TOTAL	\$ 3,904,594

**Current one-time funding from A&F salary savings. In the future A&F permanent growth money will replace one-time funding. Includes \$200k in scholarships.*

He noted that the \$85,000 was showing in the expenses as the coaches did not earn that money, but it shows up here in the revenue to “support the budget process.” He said the largest percent of the budget comes from IRA funding. He said the \$869,607 was the allocation from the general fund and they were asking the coaches to raise \$333,764 in this budget year. That left \$832,029 remaining that would be funded on a one time basis by redirection of institutional support dollars in Administration and Finance derived from salary savings. Since it was one time funding, they were concerned about finding permanent funding. He then discussed possible scenarios to gain permanent funding if the \$305 million was restored to the CSU by the State. He noted that to keep Athletics funded at this level was a larger conversation and asked for questions.

The Chair asked how the funding for this year compared to last year and what the impact was of moving the coaches salaries from IRA fees to the general fund. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said the last year would look similar to this current year as the Athletics program received an augmentation last year as well. He said some, but not all of the coaches were moved to the general fund. He noted there were certain prohibitions in the general fund about how general funds could be used for Athletics. The Chair-Elect asked how trade offs between Schools was decided. L. Furukawa-Schlereth responded that it was a good question and one, he thought, had not been well addressed. He hoped to have more of that kind of conversation with the new provost. He also said that Athletics, no matter where it was organizationally, needed budgetary review. The Chair said on behalf of the faculty she wanted to congratulate the Athletics program for a very good year.

Resolution Applauding U. S. House of Representatives recognition of Norooz – First Reading – S. Brannen

S. Brannen provided background on the resolution. He said that a year ago Dean Rahimi had approached the Executive Committee with a request that the campus recognize Norooz in some fashion and at that time there was general approval. Now a resolution was being brought forward to the Senate. S. Brannen described the celebration of Norooz (New Day in Persian) and where it was celebrated. He noted

that the celebration occurs on the spring equinox and signifies the new year. He then described the actions of the U. S. House of Representatives regarding Norooz.

Motion to approve by acclamation. Approved.

RESOLUTION APPLAUDING THE RECOGNITION OF NOROOZ BY U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RESOLVED, that The Academic Senate of Sonoma State University applaud the U. S. House of Representatives for approving H.Res. 267, the Norooz Resolution, marking the first time in history that the House of Representatives officially recognizes the "cultural and historical significance" of the Iranian New Year. The resolution also expresses appreciation "for the contributions of Iranian-Americans to society in the United States."

RESOLVED, that The Academic Senate of Sonoma State University recommend to the President that Sonoma State University also recognize Norooz as the New Year's celebration for many of our university community members.

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate send copies of this resolution to our local representatives of the U. S. House of Representatives.

Results of Diversity Recommendations Survey Report – L. Holmström Vega

L. Holmström Vega noted that the Senate's Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee had presented 24 recommendations to the Senate. The Senate had asked the committee to rank the top five. The committee approached her to survey the campus to identify the top five. The report provided the results of the survey. Although the survey was sent to a large number of people and only 351 actually took the survey, the top five of those 351 people was very internally consistent, no matter how the results were analyzed. There was some discussion.

Statewide Senators Report – R. McNamara and C. Nelson

R. McNamara noted the Statewide Senate and committees would be meeting the next week and he asked for feedback. He noted that they had passed a resolution challenging the legitimacy of the Board of Trustees without a faculty voice as prescribed by law. No action had been taken by the Board of Trustees on this matter which he said was unfortunate. He enumerated numerous issues before the Board where a faculty voice was clearly needed. C. Nelson reported on the Senate bill 1440, which would establish a transfer degree from the community colleges to the CSU. She said it sounded good to the faculty, but the details provided great concern. There was much discussion about it at the Statewide Senate. She discussed issues regarding "common course standards" discussions that were being held nationally. The Chair of FSAC asked if the Academic Freedom subcommittee should be alerted to this bill. C. Nelson said yes. A member asked about the role of pedagogy in the discussion. C. Nelson said there was some discussion about pedagogy, but primarily the discussions centered on content. She noted that the nuances of what faculty do appeared to be lost to the legislators. Also, the CSU came out in support of the bill without consulting with the Statewide Senate.

Resolution to Hold a Referendum of No Confidence in the Financial Management of Sonoma State University and a Call for the Resignations of President Ruben Armiñana and CFO/VP Larry Furukawa-Schlereth – Second Reading – N. Byrne

The Chair noted she would limit speakers to two minutes and wanted to alternate pro and con debate. There was some discussion about changing the rules. **Motion to postpone the resolution until next meeting. Second. Motion to amend motion to postpone one minute. Second. Failed.** There was discussion about postponement. **Question called on motion to postpone. Second. Approved. Vote on motion to postpone to next meeting. Failed.**

N. Byrne moved to table the resolution and to create an online forum. Motion was separated in to two motions. Motion to table seconded. Vote on motion to table - Yes = 19; No= 11. Motion that the Academic Senate establish an online forum for posting of information about financial management at SSU. Second. Highlights of discussion: The CFO expressed his desire to respond to the allegations suggested by the resolution and the talking point passed out at the last Senate meeting. Students expressed concern that faculty would be distracted by the forum and whether students would be able to post on the forum. N. Byrne responded that he welcomed student input to the forum. He also noted that the motion did not contain any allegations and that the talking points were not tied to the resolution. Further discussion included that discussions about financial management have been going on for two years, so an additional forum was not needed; an online forum should be open to all members of the campus community; concern was raised that the motion was tabled as there were many guests at the Senate meeting; that members were elected to make decisions and that the CFO should be able to make his statement; some of the issues were nuanced and should be put out in a form where everyone can read them; that the discussion could have been more organized if the resolution had come through the Executive Committee; positive comments regarding an online forum; questions about the purpose of the online forum and its time limit, argument that the forum was an end run to actually hold the referendum; concern that the CFO had not been given the chance to make his statement and arguments against the online forum; the CFO voiced concern about an online chat room to evaluate his work and reminded the Senate about the Periodic Review of Administrators; argument for the online forum based on the recent posts to Senate-Talk and a suggestion to improve the Periodic Review of Administrators policy; a comment that the online forum would be talking about financial management decisions rather than personnel matters, even though that was a fine line.

Motion to refer the specifics of an online forum to the Executive Committee. Second.

Question called. Second. Vote – Approved.

Vote on referral – Approved.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega