

Academic Senate Minutes
February 18, 2021
3:00 – 5:00 with free the 50's
Via Zoom

Abstract

Special Student Report. Agenda – Approved. Minutes of 2/4/2021 – Approved. Chair Report. Consent Item: Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status – Gregory Roberts – Approved. President Report. Provost Report. From FSAC: RTP revisions discussion. From S&F: By-law change membership of URTP – First Reading completed. Posthumous Certificate for Luis Cid – Approved. Posthumous Degree Approved for Alondra Bandt. Motion that the Academic Senate endorse the EPC statement on administrative encroachment into curricular matters. Second - Postponed to next meeting. Vice Chair Report. Vice President for Student Affairs Report. Statewide Senators 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-Heckman, Rita Premo, Izabela Kanaana, Jordan Rose, Adam Zagelbaum, Kevin Fang, Victor Garlin, Amal Munayer, Cookie Garrett, Judy Sakaki, Karen Moranski, Joyce Lopes, Wm. Gregory Sawyer, Erma Jean Sims, Kate Sims, Elita Virmani, Emily Asencio, Paula Lane, Hilary Smith

Absent: Noelia Brambila-Perez, Chase Metoyer

Guests: Bryon Deaven, Catherine Nelson, Napoleon Reyes, Jenn Lillig, Troi Carlton, Katie Musick, Jerlena Griffin-Desta, Arcelia Sandoval, Liz Burch, Damien Hansen, Kari Manwiller, Jonathan Smith, Hollis Robbins, Laura Alamillo, Richard Whitkus, Kshatriya Colet, Merith Weisman, Ajay Gehlawat, Natalie Hobson, Emily Clark, Gina Baleria, Armand Gilinsky, Mary Gomes, Anna Valdez

Special Student Report – B. Deaven

B. Deaven said, “My name is Bryon Deaven. I'm a disabled navy veteran and either a junior or senior attending Sonoma State. I'm what you would call the never-ending college student. I think learning is great. I chose to come to Sonoma State for several reasons. The first one is I live in Rohnert Park so it's a hop, skip, and a jump from my house. The second reason is I have two young adults, also in school. They're both attending the JC right now. My daughter is actually transferring into Sonoma State in the fall. She just got her acceptance letter. I'm so proud of her. She wants to be a teacher. I started coming here when my kids were in junior high because their social studies teacher was always taking trips here and the campus is absolutely beautiful and, in fact, on one of the trips to the campus we went to see the sapling from the tree that was in front of Anne Frank's house. I thought that was really interesting. If there's anything I could say to you all about any improvements, it would be easier access for people with disabilities. I ran into some problems the first

semester I was here. Sometimes I'm in a wheelchair, sometimes I'm on crutches, it just depends on how I feel that day. One day we had a fire drill and I was on the third floor of Stevenson and you're not supposed to use the elevators, and so I ended up just sitting there in front of the elevator. It was resolved, but the other thing as far as access, some of the bathrooms don't have the push buttons to open the doors and they are really heavy. Trying to open them when you're in a wheelchair is extremely difficult. I'm sure you guys all feel the same way, but the campus could use more funding to hire more teachers to expand class sections. Just more of everything to make it easier for kids to get access. I'm 50 something years old and holding, but the future generations need, with technology and everything else, all this stuff and it's important. I appreciate the time that you let me talk.

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Approval of Minutes of 2/4/2021 – Approved.

Chair Report – J. Reeder

J. Reeder said there were a couple of things that are important to get to. One of which is we're beginning some discussion on the campus around the academic calendar. There has been discussion around including an additional week in the fall semester to be more resilient and responsive in the face of potential disasters or potential emergencies. One of the things that we've decided to do in the Executive Committee is that we realized that this is going to be a very impactful change, if we decide to adopt such a change. Rather than attempt to do this for the coming fall, it's something that we're all going to put on our schedules and radars and be aware of and look at. We can see a lot of potential advantages to having such a week built in and there are a lot of different ways to implement it. There probably are some drawbacks as well, so we just want to give time and daylight to the whole process. Area F for Ethnic Studies is moving forward. The CSU Council on Ethnic Studies has convened a meeting with Chancellor Castro. While the Council is still in opposition to a number of the ways in which the area F has been proposed and rolled out in Title V, at this point they are recommending implementation of area F, as it currently stands, so that's something that we've been looking at for a long time and will be continuing to work toward implementing or beginning that implementation in the fall. A couple of things coming up - we've got our next Tuesday Chair Chat with State Senator McGuire and State Assemblyman Levine. These are our elected representatives that have great impact on Higher Education in California, particularly Assembly Member Levine who's on the Higher Education committee. He noted that Senator McGuire is a CSU alumnus and we're excited to have him come and talk to us. He encouraged the members to spread the word and attend and hear what they have to say about Higher Education and SSU in particular. The following week the Deans will come talk to us about implementation and roll out for the fall. That's a good place to open some conversations and then the week after that Justin Lipp will be talking to us about implementing our fall semester. He asked the members to remember what they were doing last year at this time or the year before last. He was 100% confident we have such a dedicated group of faculty, staff, and administrators, but right now he was speaking to the faculty. We were giving 100% before the pandemic, before racial awakening, before all that happened in 2020 and

the beginning of 2021. Now we're feeling increased pressures. Often these may come from outside, often and probably most often, these pressures come from within. He wanted to encourage all faculty to reflect on that number - 100% - and reflect on what it means, if we go too far. If we overburden ourselves, overextend ourselves, and put ourselves in a position where we're unable to give our best selves to each other, to our students and to the university. What that means is, as we come up with different ways, ideas and planning for next fall, a lot of these ideas and thoughts and plans are complicated. If faculty are thinking of a specific way of implementing a course or program or instruction in the fall, that's going to take a lot more effort, time, planning and due diligence. He highly encouraged faculty to give ourselves permission to find areas in our instruction, perhaps, or in other parts of our professional life to proportionally reduce the effort because we want to stay at that 100%. That's food for thought as we move into the into the planning for the fall.

Consent Item: Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status – Gregory Roberts – Approved.

President Report – J. Sakaki

J. Sakaki said Wednesday was the Board of Trustees retreat and it was live streamed. She didn't know if anyone had the opportunity or wanted to take the opportunity to review it, but it is available if there are parts of it that you would like to see. There was a discussion with the new Chancellor about the roles and responsibilities of the Board, how he would like communication in the CSU, or at least between the Board and others to flow and he pointed out six values or tenants of communication for himself that he hopes the Board and others and CSU as a whole would take to heart. She thought they were important enough to go over. The Chancellor said he expects communication to be authentic, to be transparent, to be truthful, to be consistent, there are no surprises, and that the communication is accessible. What he hoped if the Board had any questions, they would contact the Chancellor and vice versa. But now there's a triangle which is the Board, the Presidents and the Chancellor. He invited the Trustees that if they had questions about a campus or an issue with the President to contact that particular President directly and not necessarily go through the Chancellor's office or the Chancellor's team. That was new. The most exciting news was at the lunch break. The Chancellor came back on and he said he had just gotten word that Governor Newsom and Senate Pro Tem Tony Atkins and Assembly Speaker Brendan announced an immediate agreement which is highly unusual in Sacramento that includes a full restoration of the \$299 million that had been reduced from the CSU base budget, and that this would take effect July 1, 2021, so quite exciting news. Everyone who played a part, whether it was advocating with your Assembly people or all of us faculty, staff, and students who were reaching out in Sacramento, all those add up and we're thrilled at this action. Additionally, \$6 million was allocated to the CalFresh program to help students in the UC, CSU and Community colleges, which is the state administered federal program for supplemental food assistance. That was also good news. As she had mentioned before, she serves on the Governor's Task Force for Recovering with Equity and the report from that Task Force is now available. She will put a link to it in her next update to the campus. In the full report, there is a roadmap for higher education after the pandemic and there are four things she wanted to mention that have recommendations under each. One is to foster inclusive institutions across

California, the second is streamlining pathways to degrees and there are specific things like establishing a common admissions process for all of the three systems. Third, facilitating student transitions using high touch, high tech guidance and improved academic preparation for college access and success. The fourth is to simplify supports for student stability, and that includes resources for students' basic needs, addressing the digital divide and addressing financial aid needs as well for students. The Senate will hear more about the application of those recommendations to us locally and what she hopes for at Sonoma State. We'll have conversations about that.

She was really disheartened and angry, as well as distressed at an event that we had on campus during the celebration of Black History Month. An email went out about the zoom bombing event that was very racist. The President was not at that event, but the Provost attended and she asked her to discuss it.

The Provost said she and Dr. Sawyer were in that terrific event. It was planned months in advance on Black athletes and with a guest speaker who is an ESPN reporter, a woman journalist who is black and female and has a special role with athletes. It was particularly distressing to have two visual racist incidents occur during that meeting. First a picture of a person in blackface and then overriding the presentation with a word that we do not use and do not accept as polite and reasonable humane discourse. The good news is that people gathered together quickly to address the problem to make sure that the bombers were ejected from the space and to make sure that our event could continue, and it is to the great credit of Mendell Murray, and the speaker who said let's just take a breath and breathe through this painful moment. Our Black athletes, and all our student athletes, really acquitted themselves with great grace and dignity and determination by not letting this derail the work that we are doing. Even in that moment, the decision to continue was a brave decision and we are grateful to everyone who made that possible. We are investigating the issue, investigating how it happened, and how we can prevent it from happening in the future. We've been working with the Center for Teaching and Education on the technology aspect, and of course, our Police are doing a formal investigation. We can't allow those kinds of events to happen.

The President said the last thing she wanted to mention is systemwide, in terms of COVID, we are seeing 2337 cases as of this week; this is across the system. The largest numbers are on many of the larger campuses, but she wanted to say that our campus has been doing a great job and it's thanks to all of you, the students, staff, and faculty that are doing the correct things to stay safe, as well as to make sure that others are safe. She knew these are tough times, and did want to say the statistics are showing that we are having an impact on our campus community. She closed by saying thank you for that, and hopefully vaccines will be available for everyone very soon.

Provost Report – K. Moranski

K. Moranski said she had three things to report. We've got good news on the transfer front, not only do our acceptances for transfer students look very good relative to the deposits and to the applications, the deposits are very high for our

transfer students for fall 202. We are trying desperately to convert those transfer students, as well as significant numbers of first time, first year students for fall of 2021. To that end, we are moving forward, not only with scholarships for first time, first year students, but also for transfer students and thanks to Presidents Sakaki and to the work of Strategic Enrollment and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness for putting those scholarship programs together. The scholarships are ready for delivery and they will go out with the student's financial aid package so that the student will have a good picture of what the benefits of that scholarship will be to their financial circumstances related to the cost of attendance. We are very excited about that program and will be working to fund that program as we go forward. The good news is that eventually what we would like to do is replace the institutional money that we're using to support scholarships with donor funding and we've been working with our Office of Advancement to make sure that we are putting the infrastructure into place to get those donors scholarships. The second issue she discussed is that we are having difficult discussions this week on our campus in Academic Affairs about curriculum and difficult discussions about budget and difficult discussions about the relationships between faculty and administrators. Those discussions center around the School of Social Science and the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies. She said she is aware of those issues and is working to make sure that a fair process plays out. One of the things that she wanted to say is that we have processes in place and those processes are being carried out. We have due process, and we have grievance processes that need to play out, so that we know where we can go and how we can get to a better place. Those are happening right now, and she urged patience and letting those processes play out. She did not want to interfere with the grievance processes. She is happy to have conversations as we need to, she wanted to find a positive path forward as we come out of this. The last thing she reported on was some good news about Lynn Cominsky and her work with NASA. Sonoma State University has been awarded almost \$5 million from NASA to design and implement a program that will engage students on the autism spectrum in informal STEM learning and we are really excited about that work, about Lynn's continued collaboration and her team's collaboration with NASA and with the impact that grant funding can have on our community, for our students, and children on the autism spectrum.

A guest from CCJS said he was very happy to hear that the Provost was aware of the issue. He agreed that the we should let the grievance procedures go forward. His concern was what is being done to ensure that SSU policies and procedures are observed by administrators and that there will be no interference into curricular matters which are the purview of the Faculty. This issue raised a very serious concern on the part of faculty and himself as a department chair, because if we are not able to do our job effectively, it affects the learning condition of our students. He wanted to know if there's any plan to address it to prevent future encroachment into curricular matters.

The Provost said she appreciated that question. We always are working to ensure that we follow policies and procedures. That's part of her role and that's been part of her role and she takes it very, very seriously. We need to gather all the information regarding current events and allow the grievance process to play out and in that process where we find that we need to make adjustments to policies and processes,

we should do that and that's always been her suggestion that we address those problems up front, where we see them, but we need to know the full picture.

Time Certain reached

From FSAC: RTP revisions discussion – P. Lane

P. Lane said as folks might recall, this is a second week of five documents that we put forward again. We started in December, and these are not final documents in any way. We are not voting on anything. There could be word smithing, of course, but we are trying to be as transparent as possible with all the things we've done, including the surveys to revise the URTP policy. We received some very extensive feedback from ERFSA and that was discussed today in our meeting. We're hoping more people might chime in before we bring forward to you a document that would be voted on, so we are trying to get more feedback. The ERFSA rep said he thanked Dr. Lane and Dr. Whitkus for the very collegial way in which they arranged the process in FSAC for the receipt of feedback and for the way in which the feedback is being handled in that committee. Feedback is sometimes interpreted incorrectly as a criticism. We very much appreciate the way both of them have handle the feedback. J. Reeder said remember this is an important matter, please look the document over and provide comments as you see fit to FSAC.

Return to Provost Report:

A guest, who was Chair of the Academic Freedom subcommittee, said in regards to the Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies department issue that interim Provost Moranski just addressed, he wanted to note two things. One is that AFS did unanimously find that the complaint that was brought to AFS has merit and should proceed following the path stated on the Senate webpage. Also, AFS made a good faith effort to reach out to the Dean of Social Sciences regarding this complaint and for her participation. We have not heard back from her. It's been over one week now and frankly; this goes to Provost Moranski's point. The processes are playing out and need to play out, however, I also would like to point out that when a Dean does not respond in a timely manner to a request from a Subcommittee of the Senate - as the governance policy states on the Senate web page - it is incumbent upon parties that are named in such complaints to participate fully, so when they don't do that it is a sign of contempt, not only for faculty but also for governance. He argued that anyone not encouraging them to participate as they should is complicit in thumbing their nose at faculty governance and he thought it was important to state that because he had unfortunately have seen this kind of pattern play out before. He encouraged administrators who are taking part in this meeting, particularly interim Provost Moranski, that you will apply any necessary pressure to do things in this case of the School of Social Sciences to take part in exactly the process that you said needs to play out. The Provost said she would take that under advisement. She appreciated hearing from the guest.

A member said he was at the meeting today as the representative from ERFSA, but he was the CFA President for 12 years at SSU, so he was not unfamiliar with these types of situations. While he was President, and while President Arminana was

President of the institution, when we got to the point where a department had to file a grievance, that was a recognition of the failure of collegiality at the institution. It was possible in the previous administration, even with all the difficulties, that the Deans respected the processes of collegiality and shared governance that we have as a tradition on this campus. To say that we're following the procedures and we're proceeding with grievances is a recognition of failure. It is failure when you have a department has to file a departmental grievance which shows that the processes of collegiality are not working on the campus or, at least in that particular situation. He wanted to suggest that it's important that all the people involved recognize the norms and the culture of this institution, norms and culture that have been developed over the past 60 years and we have a reputation in the system and in the community for resolving our problems in a collegial, appropriate way. Grievances are obviously, important. We need to have grievance procedures, but when we have to resort to that it means there's been a failure. Reading the document that was produced by the department, it was very sad for him as the former Union President to actually see this sort of situation arising in that department, in that school. That school has a long tradition of collegiality that had 20 years of Deanship from Bob Karlsrud and 10 years of Deanship from Elaine Leeder.

The Provost said she appreciated the focus on collegiality, because she thought that was an important value for us all to hold.

The Chair of FSAC noted that when AFS brought their concern to them, she was impressed by them not wanting to file an official grievance and how much they wanted to work this out with their Dean. The Provost noted that there are both an informal and formal process at work on this issue.

The Chair noted in the spirit of our profession as good academics, as we either informally or casually, or if we have any role, where we're directly weighing these issues that we apply our careful and cautious and judicious reason to interpret and understand all the different sources and fonts of information that are available, in other words the all sides.

A member wondered if everybody at the meeting was really familiar with the grievance that we're discussing. We received a document that's very troubling and outlined a clear pattern, much in the spirit of what the ERFSA rep was saying, of long-standing erosions of shared governance. That's extremely serious, given the issues several years ago with the Chancellor and more locally. Is there a series of responses outside of the Senate, or is our conversation just occurring here? The Provost said there are multiple documents moving around at this point about this issue. If we are talking about formal personnel grievance issues, and she was not at liberty to talk about those issues or to talk about that the evidence. She appreciated what the Chair said about this being a complicated issue for which there are many views and much information, and so she thought it's incumbent upon us to make sure that we are evaluating all of the evidence, all of the information in both the formal processes that are already going on, as well as the informal processes that we're engaging in today.

3:50 reached. Natalie Hobson led us in desktop yoga.

Return to Provost Report

The CFA rep said CFA is deeply troubled by the issues in the CCJS faculty statement. The issues are serious and certainly concerning to CFA. CFA's role is to defend faculty rights, and so we certainly intend to do that. Our other role is to ensure that the collective bargaining agreement between the CSU and CFA is not violated. We also appreciate the shared governance practices at SSU being followed in a collegial way. CFA will be watching the investigation of the issues raised by the CCJS faculty. We will be watching the investigations and the process that goes on to ensure that the faculty members from that department have a voice in that investigation and are asked to participate in it. The faculty took this issue very, very seriously and deliberated about it and are concerned about it and felt strongly enough that it should be shared with the Sonoma State community. She applauded their courage and their diligence and their vigilance around these issues and looked forward to the investigation and all of those processes and a clear definition in writing of what those processes are of formal and informal, so that it'll be transparent to everyone involved, how this is proceeding, what the timetable is and what the findings are, so please feel free to involve CFA. We will defend our faculty rights on this campus and we will ensure that the collective bargaining agreement between the CSU and CFA is not violated.

Time certain reached.

From S&F: By-law change membership of URTP – First Reading – L. Krier

L. Krier said Structure and Functions did approve this bylaw change to the University RTP subcommittee to increase the number of members from five to seven. The change would involve having one elected member from each school plus one at-large member and any school that couldn't send forth a representative, that seat will become at-large, as well. The rationale for this is that the workload has been very heavy and it is projected to continue to be heavy, so they were looking for additional bodies to do the work. She noted that Mary Gomes and Armand Gilinsky, both from URTP were present to answer questions. M. Gomes said there has been a steady uptick in the workload over the last several years. She spent some time looking at the composition of university RTP committees across the other CSUs and having representation from every school is the norm and, in our case, we've had a pretty unbalanced composition over the last several years so, for instance, right now, three out of our five members are from the school of Science and Technology. It's really helpful for everybody involved if there's someone present on the committee who has familiarity with the kind of work that each candidate is doing. We've been working on this proposal for a while and we are very excited to have it considered by you today and we're here to answer any questions that might come up.

P. Lane noted that as a point of order, when URTP reported to FSAC for their yearly report last May, we fully supported this idea and she worked with M. Gomes over the summer. There was a confusion about how by-laws, etc., could be changed so there's one step that's missing, which is there is no in written approval from FSAC,

the Standing Committee of URTP. FSAC does intend to take this up since it's been brought here and for the second reading, we will have in writing that, in fact, we support this and fully believe that it's necessary.

A member said he was a little concerned that maybe we'll have trouble filling these positions. Since the proposal is that if a school can't find a representative, then the position will be elected at-large, it seems like then schools, who don't have a lot of full Professor faculty and can't find a representative, then other schools could get more representatives, maybe even have all the representatives and have undue power over their candidates. Something to consider. **First Reading completed.**

Return to Provost report

A member asked EPC what exactly they wanted the Senate to do with the memo about the CCJS issue. M. Milligan said she thought that the most central phrase in the memo is the phrase that the Academic Senate stand up against this egregious overstep of curricular matters. Typically, the action would be for the Senate to endorse the memo. The EPC Members decided that, due to the timeliness of the matter, they wanted the memo to go directly, to the Senate and also to the President and the Provost at the same time. EPC focuses specifically on the curricular issues that were brought to the committee. You've heard that other bodies within governance have also talked with CCJS about the issue at hand, AFS and FSAC. She thought that the Senate would probably want to consider the guidance of all of the standing committees and subcommittees that have engaged with CCJS on this issue. EPC is really more about wanting to assert faculty purview over the curriculum and to condemn some of the actions that happened that are outlined in the memo.

A member asked the Provost a question regarding the support for transfer students and first time, first year students. In terms of the scholarships, are there any new ones? What is the total sum of those scholarships? Are those scholarship just for this year until another funding sources can be located? The Provost said the recruitment scholarships are a strategy that we started to deploy last year. We did a pilot project where we provided funding for a small number. It ended up being about 30-35 scholarships for first time, first year students. For this year's class, we expanded that. Enrollment is one of our huge budget issues and so it's important that we recruit students. After a great deal of work on identifying how we could best deploy recruitment scholarships, we've moved forward with a more extensive scholarship program. Those scholarships are providing roughly 300 scholarships for both first time, first year and transfer students. We have used tuition discounting for those scholarships which is about \$400,000.00 all together. The way to think about this process is we've discounted tuition in the form of \$1,000 and \$2,000 scholarships. Those are one-year scholarships, so we're working immediately on plans for how to continue those scholarships, both for the students who get them for this coming year and then need continued funding and for new students for next year because if we don't continue this process, one year isn't going to get us back to where we need to be in terms of tuition. The plan needs to be a multi-year plan to use scholarships strategically and we're hoping that as we move forward, we're reducing the amount of tuition discounting that we're doing and increasing the

number of scholarships coming from donors. This will allow us to replace those funds.

Time Certain reached.

Posthumous Certificate for Luis Cid – A. Valdez

A. Valdez said Luis Cid was a nursing student in the pre-licensure program and the Department of Nursing. He started in fall with our program and, unfortunately, he was lost to an accident in the end of January on his 28th birthday. Luis was an avid hiker and a very athletic young man and he fell off a cliff while he was hiking. It's been a huge loss to our department, as you can probably imagine and has obviously been very hard on the faculty and his peers. We, as the Department of Nursing, have requested a certificate of recognition. We would love for him to have a posthumous degree, but he was not close enough to having earned his degree at the point that we lost him, so we're requesting a Certificate of Recognition and we would like to be able to share that with his family. We have purchased for him and for his family, a nursing pin that will be able to be sent with the certificate, so they have the ability to participate in our pinning ceremony. Luis was really a star. He was a rising star before he came to the Nursing program. He came to the Nursing Program having worked for many years as an emergency room technician. He came to us with a lot of skills and a lot of commitment to the community and had been serving the community, working in Healdsburg where he resides, in the emergency department for many years. He continued to work while he was going to through school, throughout COVID, putting himself at risk in order to serve the community. He was also a leader amongst our students and because he came with a lot of additional skills and healthcare experience, he was able to take several students under his wing. In particular, our Latinx students who can sometimes feel isolated in the program, he was a role model and mentor for some of his peers. He had done extra work helping them with skills or with clinical, and overall, he was a really extraordinary young man who, I have no doubt would have graduated with honors from our program. This was a big loss to our department, as well as our Community at large. She hoped the Senate will vote in support of giving him a Posthumous Certificate of Recognition. He's truly deserving and it would mean a lot to his family to have that. **Posthumous Certificate of Recognition Approved.**

Posthumous Degree for Alondra Bandt – E. Clark

E. Clark said Alondra Bandt sadly passed away in a car accident in early January. She taught Alondra in two literature classes in the Spanish department and her bright personality and insightful contributions to discussion and kind hearted spirit stood out to her. Alondra was especially interested in Mexican and Spanish literature, particularly poetry and her senior project focused on Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, a Mexican Nun and early feminist thinker. In it, she examined the importance of women's education and discussed stereotypes about women and double standards that existed in the colonial period. She planned to continue her research at UC Davis for an MA in Spanish. Just two days before she tragically passed, E. Clark had submitted her letter of recommendation. Alondra wrote to her saying how

much it meant to her to finish her degree at SSU and apply for graduate school. Alondra always had a smile and a kind word for others, and she was a resilient hard worker. Even through the challenges of moving online during spring of 2020, she was a student who asked questions after class, was involved with the Spanish club and had numerous friends in the department. She talked about her dreams for the future and shared small details about her family and pets. I know her intelligence, her sweet disposition, and her laugh will be remembered by family, friends and professors for years to come. Myself, along with other faculty members in the Modern Languages department, she hoped that that the Senate would consider granting Alondra Posthumous Degree Spanish. R. Senghas said he was working with Alondra just a couple days before the unfortunate collision and he could echo much of what Emily Clark had been saying. Alondra was in his introductory Linguistics course and he worked with her a lot outside of class as well and, and he was impressed by her cheerfulness and she was very much excited about graduating this spring. He was really pleased to see that this proposal is coming forward.
Posthumous Degree Approved.

Return to Provost Report

Motion that the Academic Senate endorse the EPC statement on administrative encroachment into curricular matters. Second. The mover said he thought it was important that we make a statement. We were asked to make a statement. He hoped everyone got a chance to read the EPC statement. It's very concerning.

The Provost pointing out that we don't have all the information. A member said she was trying to figure out what this motion was supporting exactly. Along those lines she thought we do not have all of the information, and so she did not feel comfortable at this time, supporting a particular individual. A guest from CCJS wanted to address that that we don't have all the information. The facts stated in the memo and the statement are not disputed. The Dean has not disputed the factual allegation. A member said what she was seeing is very clear. It is not a statement or an endorsement of any one person or any one particular situation. It is asking us to step forward and uphold our own policies and it's clear for those of us who have read the memo. What we're endorsing is to reaffirm Presidents Sakaki's commitment to shared governance and faculty purview over curriculum. It's a matter of principle that she thought every single person here would agree with.

The Chair noted that on the matter of endorsing something that was just brought to the body's attention, shortly before the meeting, which is a grave matter - he would like to be comfortable waiting on a grave matter with either all of the facts, or at the very least a little bit more time to deliberate the matter at hand. He was very uncomfortable at the moment about endorsing something that has just landed on our radar. A member said it seems like the facts of the matter are correct. He was curious, though as to the motive. He didn't know to what degree the Senate would find that interesting, but he thought it was. There's one line in the memo about asking to reverse the action which he thought has some merit, theoretically, although we are now talking about a class that now currently exists with 22 students in it. He was a little bit hesitant if the composition of the class was in potential limbo. Another member said she supported much of what's written in the memo, however,

she cautioned the Senate because some of it seems to lead into personnel issues and that is a fine line. She was very much in support of continuing the discussion and thinking about this, but not comfortable supporting this statement. A member asked if anybody could speak to the particular factor about what this might mean we if we reversed the decision, what does that mean logistically?

A guest from CCJS said he had this discussion with Deborah Roberts last Friday, because we were exploring a possible way to move forward. She asked me if we have faculty that can take over the class that Dean Carlton assigned to herself. Our only point is that an individual who is not a member of our faculty, our department, and does not have a retreat rights in our department and yet she's teaching in our department is not right. We're ready to handle that class to ensure that those students graduate. We have faculty capable and available to teach that class. All we're asking is that we honor procedure and policies that we have in place on curricular matters.

Motion to postpone vote on motion to next meeting. Second. Approved.

Vice Chair Report – L. Krier

L. Krier reported that in Structure and Functions, we discussed the search for members of the Provost Search Committee. Voting is open through February 22 and it is a contested election. This is one of the more important search committees that we elect faculty to, so please vote. We also discussed guidelines for committees conducting business outside of the formal meeting times. The guidelines we came up with went out to all committee chairs and the determination was essentially a committee can decide for themselves, but the goal should always be to work more efficiently, *not to increase workload*. If you can conduct business outside of meetings via email or Google document editing and that saves time, go for it. If it increases workload, maybe you don't do that. We also started discussing how committees might work in our post-pandemic future. Will we continue to be virtual and what challenges might we face. No determinations were made about that at all. It's a little too soon to know anything, but we're starting to talk about that. A member said he didn't know about anyone else, but he liked having Zoom Senate meetings. We get better attendance. Faculty could attend from their office, if they wanted it or maybe people who wanted to socialize can show up with laptops and other people could attend virtually. Just something to consider.

Vice President for Student Affairs Report – A. Munayer for Wm. G. Sawyer

A. Munayer reported that our Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) does not have a waitlist. CAPS is doing same day urgent and crisis management appointments for any student. Please make sure that students reach out to CAPS on their website, via email or by telephone and somebody will set up an appointment. CAPS has individual, group and single appointments on the same day, so let's make sure that our students get access to CAPS. We also wanted to stress that REACH, our housing and educational department, has three faculty residents. Those faculty will be returning for the academic year and we are currently in discussion on what that curriculum will look like and how it will look like in terms of

supporting students, faculty, and residents on campus. A member asked when we will we know who those three faculty members will be next academic year. A. Munayer said she would ask VP Sawyer and bring back the answer.

Statewide Senators Report – W. Ostroff, R. Senghas

W. Ostroff said the Statewide Senate also received the announced that we are going to get \$299 million restored to our budget. This is great news. It's not a one-time thing. The funds are being restored to our ongoing budget. In the next plenary session, the Statewide Senate will be working to nominate a faculty trustee to the Board of Trustees. The finalists have been identified and we're going to interview them as a group, and then we will vote on which finalists to send as faculty trustee nominees to our Governor. Our new Chancellor has approved \$2.5 million for research, scholarship and creative activity, the RSCAP award at CSU level. For SSU, that comes to \$47,000 and campus allocations are based on full time equivalent faculty. The campus administrators are going to notify us of how to apply for those funds.

The Chair said he wanted to underscore something in the report that Senator Munayer delivered for Student Affairs about our CAPS professionals and add his voice to what an amazing job they're doing. He had heard anecdotal and seen statistical reports of the kind of work that they're doing there. They have a very hard job to do, a very important job to do, and they do it very well. I've met several of the counselors and they're just amazing and outstanding people and doing great service. He thanked everybody for all of their attendance, participation, and thoughtfulness. We've had some difficult matters today to discuss and he encouraged everyone to continue thinking about them and continuing asking those difficult and challenging question, looking for information, seeking out what we need to seek out and building a better stronger place for us to work, for us to be collegial with each other, and to provide service to the students. And to provide education, a beacon of light in the north Bay or Lux Mentis, Lux Orbis – light of the mind, light of the world.



Adjourned.

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