

Academic Senate Minutes
November 12, 2009
3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Approval of Agenda. Chair Report. Minutes of 10/15/09 approved. Changes to the concentration on Geography approved. CALS revision to existing program approved. New MA concentration in TESOL approved. Resolution Endorsing CSU Fullerton Academic Senate Resolution ASD 09-177, "Resolution in Support of Shared Governance at Dominguez Hills first reading waived and approved. Provost Report. Vice President of SAEM Report. Chair-Elect Report. Statewide Senators Report. FSAC Report, Resolution from EPC: Opposition to Imposition of Restrictions on Double Majors, Minors and Major Changes approved. Resolution: Faculty Response to RSCAP Funding approved. CFA Affirmative Action Committee Report. By-Laws Revision: Change to Charge of SAC – First Reading.

Present: Susan Moulton, John Wingard, Scott Miller, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Noel Byrne, Sam Brannen, Edith Mendez, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Janet Hess, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Terry Lease, Steve Cuellar, Charles Elster, John Kornfeld, Rick Robison, Cora Neal, Nick Geist, Tia Watts, Wanda Boda, Jim Christmann, Karin Jaffe, Maria Hess, Margie Purser, Sandra Shand, Jacqueline Holley, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Jenny Tice, Morgan Carvajal, Matt McCarty, Dolores Bainter, Kelly Estrada, Carmen Works, Paula Hammett, Derek Girman

Absent: Mutombo M'Panya, James Dean, Laura Watt, Lillian Lee, Ruben Armiñana, Andy Merrifield

Proxies: Melinda Barnard for Eduardo Ochoa

Guests: Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Sharon Cabaniss, Barbara Lesch-McCaffry, Erma Jean Sims

Approval of Agenda – Resolution Endorsing CSU Fullerton Academic Senate Resolution ASD 09-177, "Resolution in Support of Shared Governance at Dominguez Hills added. *Approved.*

Chair Report – S. Moulton

S. Moulton reported on the Diversity Forum held that day. It was a lively philosophical and practical discussion. At the forum, L. Holmström Vega volunteered to coordinate a network of diversity mentors for students. She reported that the President's Diversity Council approved the Diversity Coordinator position as a faculty position and that it be a university wide position, not just in Academic Affairs. She noted the students were very interested to see more funding for the CCGS. She announced there would be more forums in the future. She said she

received information that CSU Stanislaus had authorized a vote of no confidence in their President.

Minutes of 10/15/09 – amended and approved.

Consent items:

Changes to the concentration on Geography – emailed – approved
CALS revision to existing program – emailed – approved
New MA concentration in TESOL – emailed – approved

**Resolution Endorsing CSU Fullerton Academic Senate Resolution ASD 09-177,
"Resolution in Support of Shared Governance at Dominguez Hills – First Reading –
C. Nelson**

C. Nelson asked the body if they wanted to consider the resolution she was putting forward that was specifically about Dominguez Hills or would they want a more general resolution addressing the prioritization and elimination of programs. The general feedback from the Senate was that both could come before the body.

Motion to waive the first reading. Second. Approved.

Question called. Second. No objection.

Vote on resolution – Approved.

**Resolution Endorsing CSU Fullerton Academic Senate Resolution ASD 09-177,
"Resolution in Support of Shared Governance at CSU Dominguez Hills"**

Resolved: That the Sonoma State Academic Senate endorse the 10-29-09 CSU Fullerton Academic Senate Resolution (ASD 09-177), "Resolution in Support of Shared Governance at CSU Dominguez Hills."

Resolved: That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the CSU Board of Trustees, Chancellor's Office, Academic Senate CSU, the CSU Dominguez Hills President, Provost and Academic Senate, the CSU Fullerton Academic Senate, and the California Faculty Association.

Rationale

All CSU campuses have been directed by the CO's office to undergo a process of program prioritization in anticipation of further significant budget cuts in the 09-10 year. (see Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Ben Quillian's memo at http://daf.csulb.edu/offices/univ_svcs/budget/docs/fy1011/exhibit1.html). The context within which prioritization is occurring warrants faculty vigilance for both the effort and the process. (see for example CSU Stanislaus President Shirvani's Chronicle of Higher Education piece at url: http://0-www.lexisnexis.com.iii.sonoma.edu/us/lnacademic/results/docview/docview.do?docLinkInd=true&rIsb=21_T7845612292&format=GNBFI&sort=BOOLEAN&startDocNo=1

[&resultsUrlKey=29_T7845612297&csib=22_T7845612296&treeMax=true&treeWidth=0&csi=171267&docNo=1](#); and Provost Ochoa's post to Senate talk of 10/31/09 regarding a review of George Keller's book, "Higher Education and the New Society"). The CSU Fullerton "Resolution in Support of Shared Governance at CSU Dominguez Hills" expressed concern about the lack of faculty consultation in the CSUD administration's pursuit of budget reductions that employ program elimination as a primary strategy. The Fullerton rationale contained details of the situation at CSUDH, and emphasized the importance of faculty maintaining a "significant and meaningful voice in developing and implementing any process that may affect curriculum, academic programs, and the instructional integrity of the university." SSU Statewide Senators have consulted with their counterparts at CSUDH, who welcome the support for shared governance from sister campuses. Endorsing the Fullerton resolution would also set a marker for the importance of faculty responsibility for curricular matters as SSU faculty governance begins its consultation with our local administration about the prioritization process.

Provost Report – M. Barnard for E. Ochoa

M. Barnard reported on the Spring furlough plan for faculty. She said she would be sending out information to faculty on this plan soon. She noted that faculty would be able to take furlough days on the last three work days of January and the first three work days of June. They will also take the six Friday closure days designated by the President in February, March and May and furlough two days in April of their own choosing. She reported on the Course Repeat, Withdrawal and Grade Change policy change from last spring. She said the implementation of these new policies would be in Fall 2010. They needed more time to inform students and test it out in CMS due to lack of staff. She noted that her Faculty Affairs report was completed and had been presented to FSAC and given to CFA. She provided actual numbers of lecturers lost from the past year and the difference in cost of lecturers from last year. Though it was a large number, she said, it was only 1/3rd of the way toward dealing with the budget cuts.

Vice President of SAEM Report – M. Lopez-Phillips

M. Lopez-Phillips thanked the Chair for the Diversity Forum. He noted his desire to create a bias incident protocol so that incidents of hate can be tracked and communicated to the campus community. He thought that unless such incidents were addressed by the entire campus, they would continue. He noted that International Week was coming up and a transfer orientation.

Chair-Elect Report – J. Wingard

J. Wingard reported that Structure and Functions had appointed Vincent Richman to the Student Union Board. He also noted that a call was out for faculty to participate on a conflict of interest panel requested by Vice President Schlereth.

Statewide Senators Report – R. McNamara and C. Nelson

R. McNamara reported that the Statewide Senate met last week and dealt with 22 resolutions. He reported on a few of them. (<http://www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/>) C. Nelson reported on comments given by B. Quillian, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer of the CSU about the budget. He reported that the CSU gave layoff notices to 20 MPPs systemwide in IT. He also expressed some concern about the balance between administrative and academic technology resources. He leaned more toward resources for academic technology as a way to deal with the budget cuts. He noted that budget reduction plans were due from all the campuses by mid-February and discussed his comments about what he thought that might entail. He noted that CFA has concerns about programs moving from state support to self support and prioritization exercises and that both had bargaining implications. A member asked if at the Statewide level there was any protest about prioritization efforts across the CSU. C. Nelson said there was a resolution pending statewide that she would send out on Senate-Talk. R. McNamara said there was a lot of concern statewide as some campuses have already gone through the process. The member argued that the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor had been derelict in their duties and that warranted a resolution of no confidence in both. R. McNamara described the politics on the Statewide Senate and said it was not always possible to bring business forward easily. The member noted that the Council of Statewide Academic Chairs could also initiate a no confidence resolution. The Chair said she would bring it up at the next Statewide Chairs meeting. There was further discussion about how such a resolution would come forward and possible retaliation at the Statewide Senate level.

The Chair noted that she wanted the mayors of Cotati and Rohnert Park to come to the Senate. She also said after hearing that the campus holiday party was cancelled, she was in discussion with the students about still having a Christmas celebration, but doing a food drive instead. She asked for feedback on this idea.

FSAC Report – P. Hammett

P. Hammett reported that they reviewed the Ad-Hoc Diversity Committee's report, particularly on faculty and staff and endorsed the recommendations. They talked about FSSP doing some strategic planning about identifying areas of need for faculty support, especially sponsored programs. FSSP will have a report by the end of the year. FSAC was reviewing the following policies: Periodic Review of Temporary Faculty; Role of Lecturer Faculty in Departmental Governance; and faculty civility to staff. She noted a question had come up about the SETE's and she read the minutes from FSAC of 4/4/09 regarding SETE results comparison. "Beth reminded us that we had discussed about departmental (or other level) comparisons previously, and that Bruce Carp in IT does the scanning and reporting, and the data produced are not stored, and therefore are not available for ready comparison. Rose Bruce mentioned in a letter replying to Beth's inquiries that in the past, the current SETE processing was established because we wanted instructors evaluated on a standard of excellence, not evaluated relative to each other (i.e., what if all faculty are "excellent"). There is concern about the quality of the SETE data. There is concern that operationalizing assessment in increasingly quantitative and universalist terms,

especially in comparative terms, could have counter-productive effects. Qualitative assessments are increasingly recognized as useful. Departments are welcome to use quantitative data provided by SETEs in ways they wish, including generating departmental-aggregate statistics. This does not seem desirable across the university." FSAC was looking at their charge as well. Clarification was asked for regarding quantitative and qualitative data. A member asked if the discussion meant that departments could aggregate their SETE data, but it would not be provided by IT. P. Hammett said IT does not store any SETE data. A member gave some background on the SETEs and argued that they were not designed to be used for RTP. Discussion continued on the desirability of comparing SETE data.

Resolution from EPC: Opposition to Imposition of Restrictions on Double Majors, Minors and Major Changes – Second Reading – C. Works

C. Works reported that EPC agreed to charge the University Standards committee to develop a policy about majors. They also discussed suggestions from the Senate from the first reading. **Motion to add resolved clause to send the resolution to the Statewide Academic Senate. Second. Approved.** There was discussion. **Question called. Second. Approved. Vote on resolution – Approved.**

Opposition to Imposition of Restrictions on Double Majors, Minors, and Major Changes

RESOLVED: The Academic Senate of Sonoma State University (ASSSU) recognizes the value of encouraging students to proceed expeditiously toward completion of their baccalaureate degrees and has supported recommendations for advising of students to that objective; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASSSU supports the individual aspirations and educational goals of students who choose to pursue multiple majors, minors, and multiple minors, or who choose to change majors during their time at the university; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASSSU opposes the coined designation "Super Seniors," as it does not have any defined status in the SSU Catalog; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASSSU opposes the imposition of restrictions on student access to double majors, minors, or major changes; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASSSU reaffirms its commitment to students that SSU faculty will provide curricular excellence, diversity, and accessibility for their needs and expectations; and be it further,

RESOLVED: That the ASSSU urges the SSU President and Provost/Vice-President of Academic Affairs to explore other means to reduce FTES, rather than restricting curricular options for matriculated students,

RESOLVED: That the ASSSU forward this resolution to the State Wide Academic Senate of the California University System.

RATIONALE: *During the Summer of 2009, the CSU Chancellor sent to the campus a memorandum regarding "Super Seniors." That memorandum has already begun to affect SSU students; Admissions and Records has sent notices to students who have exceeded 120 units informing them that they must graduate, and discussions have been initiated at faculty governance committees (including the Educational Policies Committee (EPC) regarding whether students who have more than 120 units are impacting other students' access to class sections, and whether there should be a policy regarding double majors, minors, or major changes.*

CFA Report – unintelligible on the recording

Resolution: Faculty Response to RSCAP Funding – First Reading – P. Hammett

P. Hammett introduced the item and read the three resolved clauses. **Motion to waive first reading. Second. No objection.** There was discussion. **Motion to amend:** ~~"calls upon the Chancellor's Office to give priority to the restoration of reinstate the funding for RSCAP..."~~ **Second. Approved.** There was discussion. It was noted that RSCAP funding was more important to SSU than some other CSU's due to the size of the campus. **Question called. Second. No objection. Vote on resolution – Approved.**

RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO RSCAP FUNDING CUTS

Resolved: That the Academic Senate of Sonoma State University (SSU) calls upon the Chancellor's Office to reinstate the funding to Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Program (RSCAP); and be it further;

Resolved: That the SSU Academic Senate calls upon our representatives to the Statewide CSU Academic Senate to raise this concern within that body; and be it further;

Resolved: That the SSU Academic Senate forward copies of this resolution to our faculty, the SSU Provost and President, all CSU Academic Senates, the CSU Chancellor, the CSU Executive Vice Chancellors, and the CSU Board of Trustees.

RATIONALE:

In a letter of 10/15/09 to the Executive Committee of the SSU Academic Senate, the Faculty Standards and Affairs Committee (FSAC) has expressed its concern about the decision at the Chancellor's Office to not fund the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Program (RSCAP) for 2009-2010.

RSCAP funds have been an important source of small grant funding to support the research, scholarship and creative activities of SSU's faculty. Although limited, these funds have been one of the few steady sources of faculty development funds to facilitate small research projects (many of which include student researchers), travel to research

sites, travel to conferences to present research findings, and other resources for creative activities. RSCAP grants often allow new faculty, still in the process of making their transition to SSU, to get their research programs up and running, which can also set the stage for seeking larger grant funding from outside agencies. Summer RSCAP fellowships have allowed many faculty to spend focused time on their research, which regularly resulted in articles, book chapters, edited volumes, grants proposals, conferences and other scholarly activities, which are necessary to meet the requirements of the reappointment, tenure and promotion (RTP) process.

The loss of the RSCAP funds disproportionately affects the newer probationary faculty, at a time when their paychecks have already been reduced by 9.3% and their scholarly activities are impacted by furloughs, lack of equipment funds, larger class sizes, and lack of other professional development funds due to extraordinary budget fallouts.

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) and the Faculty Subcommittee on Sponsored Programs (FSSP) are to be commended for their hard work in identifying limited funds (carryover from prior grants, private donations, etc.) to provide some scholarly opportunities for the faculty. Associated Students allocated additional funding for RSCAP projects from Instructionally Related Activities to support the inclusion of students in research projects because participation in research is recognized as a crucial form of education for our students. The Provost of SSU, recognizing research as crucial to the professional development of our faculty, also had already allocated additional funds from Academic Affairs to supplement the state-level funding –prior to the Chancellor's cuts– because the levels had been deemed insufficient to meet the actual needs.

FSAC recognizes the importance of the RSCAP funds in providing critical support for the development of faculty as teacher-scholars. Therefore we urge our Statewide Senators to bring this matter to the State Academic Senate as a priority item. We heartily endorse any efforts to restore that funding from the Chancellor's Office.

There was a parliamentary discussion about whether or not the rationale could be amended. The Parliamentarian argued that Robert's Rules does not encourage preambles to resolutions. Another member argued that rationales could be amended after the vote was taken on the resolutions and unless the question of the rationale was pursued then the matter would be considered closed and the rationale would stand as is. A Statewide Senator offered how it was understood at the Statewide Senate. **Motion to refer the issue to Structure and Functions. Second. Approved.**

CFA Affirmative Action Committee Report – Erma Jean Sims

E. Sims reported on the work of the committee since Fall of 2008. In that semester, they put on a workshop called Rhetoric or Action: the way forward for diversity for SSU. They had a number of panelists offer a variety of perspectives. The Affirmative Action caucus drafted guidelines for recruitment of diverse faculty and shared those with Faculty Affairs. They were hopeful a joint program of training around guidelines for searches would develop. She spoke about participating in the Town Hall on Diversity. Currently, CFA had created a variety of Affirmative Action caucuses to keep diversity alive at SSU, to generate activism and bring about some

change. She noted an idea in process for a Unity Day Summit. She noted the Chairs of all the caucuses. She noted that people were feeling heard and supported. A member noted the need for support of religiously invested students. A guest noted the report at the Affirmative Action Committee meeting by students from the CCGS that was very moving and informative. She recommended their report to the Senate.

By-Laws Revision: Change to Charge of SAC – First Reading – D. Girman

D. Girman noted the changes they had made to the charge due to Senate suggestions. They designated faculty, student services professionals or library representatives specifically to serve as liaisons. They changed membership from Student Affairs to Student Services Professionals and specified voting status for students on SAC and its subcommittees. There was discussion. There was a question about whatever the committee wanted the SSP classification on the committee or whether they wanted an SSP from the Division of Student Affairs.

The Chair asked that comments about the budget prioritization be communicated to APC or members of JCAP.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega