

## Academic Senate Minutes

March 10, 2011

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

### Abstract

Agenda approved. Minutes delayed. Two curricular [revisions](#) from Kinesiology approved. Chair-Elect Report. Staff Report. Special Presentation: New Student Center. Request for endorsement of Report with recommendations from FSSP regarding the survey of faculty needs in support of externally funded research and scholarship referred back to FSAC for endorsement statement. Senate Diversity Subcommittee Report. Special Report: President's Diversity Council Diversity Strategic Plan. CFA Report. Special Guest: Mayor Gina Belforte, Rohnert Park.

**Present:** John Wingard, Ben Ford, Susan Moulton, Maria Hess, Catherine Nelson, Brian Wilson, Michaela Grobbel, Sam Brannen, Deborah Roberts, Steve Wilson, Helmut Wautischer, Sarah Baker, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Janet Hess, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Terry Lease, Forence Bouvet, Kathy Morris, Sharon Cabaniss, Karin Jaffe, Laura Watt, Margaret Purser, Sandra Shand, Edie Brown, Alex Boyar, Collin Yballa, Nicolas Carjuzaa, Dolores Bainter, Kelly Estrada, Elaine Newman, Richard Senghas, Jennifer Mahdavi

**Absent:** John Sullins, Don Romesburg, Rick Robison, Noel Byrne, Marisa Thigpen, Ruben Arminana, Saeid Rahimi, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Andy Merrifield

**Proxies:** Barbara Lesch McCaffry for second half of meeting for Janet Hess, Nathan Rank for Nick Geist, Murali Pillai for Michael Cohen, Tony Mountain for Mutombo M'Panya, Richard Whitkus for second half of meeting for Richard Senghas, Matt James for Matthew Mookerjee

**Guests:** Dan Condrón, Katie Robinson, Bridgette Dussan, Elaine Leeder, Joyce Suzuki, Meng Chi Su, Peter Neville, Gina Belforte, Leslie Witter

### Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Minutes delayed.

### Consent:

### Two Kinesiology curriculum revisions – approved.

The Chair noted that Dan Condrón was present for the administration at this meeting to take back any questions.

### **Chair-Elect Report – B. Ford**

B. Ford announced the results of the recent faculty governance election: Chair-Elect – Margie Purser; Secretary – Maria Hess, At-Large Senator – Deborah Roberts, Statewide Senator – Catherine Nelson, Member to URTP – Armand Gilinsky, At-Large to APC – Deborah Roberts, At-Large to SBS – Mark Perri. The Chair thanked everyone who participated and voted. He noted the importance of faculty governance participation during the coming years. The Chair also announced an upcoming Town Hall meeting on the budget the following Monday in the Cooperage. He thought there would be a representative panel and lots of time for questions. He encouraged everyone to go and participate.

### **Staff Report – D. Bainter**

D. Bainter announced a Diversity Meeting for staff that would take place on March 18<sup>th</sup>. [The Director for Diversity organized it](#) and the President had given time to the staff to attend as professional development. She said information from this meeting would generate ideas for workshops and trainings for staff. She asked the members to encourage their staff to attend.

### **Special Presentation: New Student Center – B. Dussan, L. Witter**

B. Dussan introduced herself as the ASI President. L. Witter introduced herself as the Chair of the Student Union Board. B. Dussan said both the ASI and the Student Union were involved in the process of the new student center. L. Witter said the Student Union Board proposed the new student center to the Fee Advisory committee. B. Dussan noted that the presentation was meant to dispel rumors and provide factual information to the Senate. They reviewed the history of how the idea of the student center came about. The original idea for the student center was to create a “heart” of SSU, where students could come together for a variety of activities. They discussed what would be in the student center – everything that is now in the Student Union, the bookstore and all dining besides Charlie Brown’s Café. The dining choices would be expanded from what there was now. It would be constructed next to the Recreation Center. They contrasted the current Student Union with the proposed new student center. B. Dussan noted that the students who live on the campus think of SSU as their home and how the residential community had changed the needs of students at SSU. L. Witter noted that each Auxiliary Board over each building that the student center would replace would decide on the use for the old buildings. They reviewed the budget for the project and the sustainability efforts of the project. They noted there would be a vote in April among the students for the new fee that would partially pay for the student center. They reviewed the timeline and approvals needed to break ground on the project. They discussed the timing of the project and noted that construction materials were less expensive currently. If they waited, they thought the fee would be higher. The Chair asked when the pro and con sides of the issue would be discussed. B. Dussan responded that pro and con statements had been printed in the Star. They were in the process of setting up a moderated session for pro and con statements. A member offered the floor to a student who wanted to speak to the issue. The student, Anthony Gallino, said he was organizing a group of students opposed to the student center and

appreciated being recognized by the Senate for introduction. A member asked about what things the Auxiliaries were using their money for now and if the student center would take something away from them. B. Dussan said she would check on that and report back. A member suggested what kind information might be posted online about the proposal. A member brought up concerns about the increase in fees for low-income students. B. Dussan responded that they were definitely thinking about such issues and elaborated on the ASI thinking on the matter. A member asked for the history of student government at SSU to be included in the discussion.

**Request for endorsement of Report with recommendations from FSSP regarding the survey of faculty needs in support of externally funded research and scholarship - First Reading – R. Senghas**

R. Senghas noted that the full report was posted on the Senate website. He introduced Karina Nielsen, who was the leader on the report. He said the report was a joint effort between the Academic Affairs office and the Faculty Subcommittee on Sponsored Programs (FSSP). They had a good response to the survey, 24% of the faculty responded. One of the findings in the report that came up over and over was that faculty did not have time to pursue such activities. He said the report gave Academic Affairs the faculty priorities for sponsored programs and research, so that when money was available again, the priorities would be in place for spending. **He asked for the Senate's endorsement of the findings.** There was discussion of the order of the priorities. A member asked how the report articulated with the other planning documents. K. Nielsen responded that the report included reference to the Academic Affairs strategic plan and R. Senghas noted that the report was done jointly with Academic Affairs. K. Nielsen also commented on the order of the priorities. She said that they were arrived at by a consensus of FSSP and FSAC. A member brought up a concern about language used about faculty "needing help" in two of the Schools. K. Nielsen noted what the survey data showed to draw that conclusion. A member praised the document for emphasizing the shared issues among the schools. A member noted that she would like faculty to have assistance writing grants. There was a procedural discussion about whether the Senate could amend the report.

**Motion to waive first reading. Second. Approved.**

The Chair provided some parliamentary reminders. There was discussion about how to create an endorsement statement and what to put in it. **Motion to refer an endorsement statement of the FSSP Report back to FSAC for creation. Second. Approved.**

**Senate Diversity Subcommittee Report – S. Cabaniss**

S. Cabaniss announced events for Women's History Month that had not made it on to the Women's History calendar poster. She announced the Tunnel of Oppression event from the MCC. She also announced the Saving Ethnic Studies tour on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. A group of faculty from [Arizona](#) would be talking about the elimination of Ethnic Studies in Arizona universities and what was being done about it. It would be held from 3-5 in Schulz 1121 (or a larger room).

**Special Report: President's Diversity Council Diversity Strategic Plan – E. Leeder, J. Suzuki, A. Boyar, M. Chu and P. Neville**

E. Leeder introduced the presentation. She provided a history of the President's Diversity Council (PDC) and noted it was fully representative of the campus. She discussed the activities of the PDC during the first two years. She said that the PDC was not an action group, but was acting more as a "yoking" activity, to be the umbrella over all the campus diversity efforts. Thus, it was important for the PDC to know what was happening on campus and the mapping project helped the council with that effort as well as forums, and summits held in the previous two years. She noted the mapping project would be on display in the Library in the near future. She thought the plan was a living document and had been highly collaborative. She said the presentation would show the goals and objectives of the plan and in the Senate packet were matrices of action plans. She noted that letters would be going out soon to follow up on diversity efforts and help with accountability. She then showed a timeline of diversity efforts since the year 2000. She noted the PDC was divided into four groups – Relating Across Differences; Recruiting Diverse Faculty, Staff and Students; Diversity in the Curriculum and Institutional Infrastructure. J. Suzuki presented on the Relating Across Differences. A. Boyar presented on Recruiting Diverse Faculty, Staff and Students. M. Chu presented on Diversity in the Curriculum and P. Neville presented on Institutional Infrastructure. The text of the [PowerPoint](#) slides of the areas are included below.

**RELATING ACROSS DIFFERENCES**

**GOAL:** To improve the ability of members of the campus community to relate across differences by raising our multicultural competence, promoting civility in campus discourse, and developing effective crisis management structures and protocols.

**OBJECTIVES:**

**Multicultural Competence: Awareness, Competence and Skills**

- A. Workshops in multicultural competence; Faculty share "best multicultural practices"
- B. Campus adopts and appreciates a new cultural norm of multicultural competence

**Civility**

- A. Campus is informed of policies and procedures regarding incidents
- B. "Difficult Dialogues" facilitated

**Campus and Classroom Crisis Management**

- A. Bias Related Reporting Handbook

**PROMOTING DIVERSITY OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF: Attracting, Recruiting and retaining**

Goal: SSU is committed to recruit and retain diverse faculty, staff and students to enhance the educational experiences of all students and advance the mission of access and opportunity for all Californians by developing a [long-range](#) plan for retaining diverse faculty, staff and students

Objective: To create a protocol to support retention of diverse faculty and staff

- A. Retaining Diverse Faculty and Staff
- B. Recruiting

Objective: To increase conversion and enrollment of diverse populations by five per cent per identified group per year for the next five years"

- A. Retaining Diverse Students
- B. Recruiting Diverse Students

**DIVERSITY IN THE CURRICULUM**

SSU is committed to a sustained effort to offer curriculum that reflects the diverse world in which we live. We support [curriculum, which](#), through both course content and pedagogy, fosters understanding, appreciation and inclusion across groups to enable all members to attain cultural competence.

Goal: To provide information pathways that inform our efforts towards diversifying curriculum content; To teach in such a way that allows for discussions of diversity issues and that models multicultural competence and a welcoming community; To provide support for the development of curriculum, programs and pedagogy that celebrates and values diversity

Objectives:

- A. Content
- B. Pedagogy
- C. Development

**Enhance the institutional structure in support of inclusive excellence efforts**

Goal: Develop a funding pattern to support the implementation activities identified in the Diversity Action Plan

**Objectives:**

- A. Identifying Resources:
  - Work with campus constituencies to identify permanent funding for the Director of Diversity and Inclusive Excellence,
  - Identify funds for underrepresented minorities graduation celebrations
  - Identify funds and staffing for MCC
  - Work with ASI to examine scope and funding for Heritage Lecture Series
- B. Development

E. Leeder closed the presentation by talking about the letters that would be going out as well as the PDC continuing to gather information and feedback for this living document. There were some questions.

**CFA Report – C. Nelson reporting for A. Merrifield**

C. Nelson reported that bargaining continued and so far proposals from the CSU were all take backs, nothing given or moved forward. The CSU was using a consultant in bargaining to “improve the relationship between the CSU and faculty and staff.” She announced the CFA Women’s Caucus Wine and Cheese Mixer on March 16<sup>th</sup>. She said that to stay current on bargaining CFA encouraged faculty to check their perspective on bargaining on the CFA website: <http://www.calfac.org/>.

**Special Guest: Mayor Gina Belforte, Rohnert Park**

G. Belforte started by talking about the state of the city. She discussed the raising of sewer rates in the city and the complications and reasons for raising the rates. She discussed the on-going issues with the city’s general fund deficit. She discussed the exploratory communications going on with the city manager about using the Sheriff and using County resources. She noted that Rohnert Park was looking for an Economic Development Manager and discussed how that would help Rohnert Park. She then discussed the impact to Rohnert Park when the Green Music Center opens and how the city wanted to come up to speed with the services that the people attending GMC events would want. She also discussed how she wanted the city to look during campus orientations and how the city could welcome students better. She noted that the City Council voted that Sonoma State University was a partner with the city. She said they wanted everyone to know that they appreciated SSU being here. She praised Dan Condrón’s efforts with the city to build a better relationship. She discussed the poster session from the University Retreat on Community Engagement that was on display in the city to let the city know what people do at SSU. She noted that some of the faculty were starting to sit on non-



profit Boards in the city, which was very welcome and she noted movement forward on some mural programs with the Art Department. She also said they had called for interns for the city. They had 60 applicants and now have 5 interns in the city offices. She then spoke about the State taking over the school district. From the city's point of view, the reason was a lack of funding and they thought it was extremely unfortunate. A member asked about the Casino. G. Belforte noted that the Casino group went into bankruptcy, but only to re-distribute money. Once they break ground, the Casino would be built in 18 months. A member asked about the impact to Rohnert Park of the State takeover of redevelopment funds. G. Belforte said it would be a million dollar cut to Rohnert Park and she clarified that RDA funds were used for job creation and economic development. She discussed how California was "bleeding" jobs and why RDA funds were so important to the city. She noted that the city had taken back properties that were in the RDA [fund](#), as they would have had to have been sold. She called the State take back of the funds a "travesty." She discussed the value of job creation. A member asked about the Smart Train project. G. Belfort said the train would start in approximately 2013 and would start with freight. There were conversations in the City Council about having the train stop in the middle of Rohnert Park. A member asked about the Spreckles Performing Arts Center. The Mayor responded that the city came down a bit hard on them, but it had brought out more creativity. It had been turned into a rental facility and was now doing more productions than before. A member asked about community input into the Smart Train project and the Mayor responded that there were many opportunities and many meetings for people to comment. She referred members to the Vice Mayor, Jake Mackenzie, who had much more information about the Smart Train. The Chair thanked the Mayor and presented her with complimentary tickets to a production from SSU's Performing Arts. Applause.

## **Adjourned.**

*Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström*