

Academic Senate Minutes

April 6, 2006
3:00 – 5:00 Commons

Abstract

Agenda amended and approved. Minutes of 3/9/06 approved. Special Guest Trustee George Gowgani. Resolution on Workload from Art History first reading. Student Suffrage discussion. Strategic Priorities Resolution first reading. Provost Report. Vice President of Administration and Finance report. Associated Students Report.

Present: Elizabeth Stanny, Elaine McDonald, Melanie Dreisbach, Edith Mendez, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Rick Luttmann, Noel Byrne, Birch Moonwoman, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Kristen Daley, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Robert Train, Thaine Stearns, Liz Thach, Steve Cuellar, Bob Vieth, Raye Lynn Thomas, Tia Watts, Murali Pillai, Wanda Boda, Sandra Feldman, Myrna Goodman, Melinda Milligan, John Wingard, Bruce Peterson, Sandra Shand, Ruben Armíñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Lindsey Simoncic, Sara Statler, Greg Tichava, Art Warmoth, Perry Marker, Doug Jordan

Absent: Paul Draper, Elizabeth Martínez, John Kornfeld, Richard Whitkus, Sunil Tiwari, Glenn Brassington, Marguerite St. Germain

Guests: Susan Moulton, Rose Bruce, William Babula, David Abbott, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Barbara Butler, Susan McKillop, Leslie Deming, Elaine Leeder, Carol Blackshire-Belay, Stephen Galloway, George Gowgani

Chair's Report – E. Stanny

The Chair handed out some notes regarding student suffrage. She noted that the CSU Board of Trustees has given primary responsibility to the faculty over educational functions which are specified in the Statement on Collegiality. Sixteen out of twenty- three campuses have chosen to give away some of their authority to other members of the university community – students, staff and administrators. As it has been presented, it looks as though only two campuses do not give students the vote, but actually it is seven out of twenty-three that don't. Of those seven, five do allow students to vote on committees. In the University of California system, students do not even sit on the Senate. Here students are on our committees and have a voice and input into recommendations to the President. We do value student input. We have to decide whether as a campus we want to give up some of our authority. The same holds true for the administration. The President has primary authority over fiscal matters. Because budget and educational decisions are linked, we want to have input into fiscal decisions, just as students have input into educational decisions. This is the CSU's shared governance model. As we have our discussion today we have to ask whether we want to be a faculty Senate or a university Senate. As a Senate we have to think of other stakeholders too – taxpayers, staff, administrators. We want their input, but not necessarily their vote.

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She noted the variance across campuses in terms of students sitting on committees and their voting rights.

Approval of Agenda – a time certain of 4:20 was requested for the Strategic Priorities item. Second. Approved.

Approval of Minutes of 3/9/06 – Approved.

SPECIAL REPORT: Trustee George Gowgani

The Chair introduced Trustee George Gowgani. Trustee Gowgani was an undergraduate ~~at~~ Cal Poly and was a faculty member there for 20 years. He was also an Associate Dean and now a Trustee. The Senate welcomed Trustee Gowgani.

(Trustee Gowgani's full talk can be heard on the digital minutes of this meeting. Highlights are provided for these minutes.)

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The Trustee thanked the body for being invited and said he was delighted to be at SSU. He said his appointment to the Trustees was based on qualification, not any donation made to the Governor. He has not donated any money to the Governor's campaign or anybody else. He has a special feeling for the CSU and understands what's ~~going~~ on. He is pleased his fellow Trustees acknowledge that. He said the Trustees do not ~~micro~~-manage the campuses. He used the issue of diversity to illustrate how the campuses are different from each other and noted that one campus with a high amount of Latinos and African Americans was very polarized. He was pleased the Chair noted the Collegiality statement and noted that "primary responsibility" does not mean "only responsibility." He said that the three priorities of the CSU Board of Trustees are students, students, students. He expressed his opinion that if the Senate finds that students have the time and are serious he would let them vote. He talked about his experiences on the Fairness Board at Cal Poly. He found students were hardest on students. He said that the Board of Trustees ~~is~~ committed to closing the pay gap ~~within five years~~. He said they needed the faculty's help by supporting a gradual, predictable student fee increase. He explained his reasons. He discussed his relationship with CFA and said if the CFA and Board can work together, better days are ahead for the CSU.

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Questions for the Trustee:

A Senator talked about the Statewide Constitutional amendment being driven by a budget deficit and asked the Trustee what his thoughts were on shared governance and if the amendment came to the Board, what his response might be.

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The Trustee said he is not on the budget committee. He has made it very clear to the Chancellor his position on faculty compensation. He told the Chancellor that the 22 points for facilitating graduation needs resources behind it. He believes it will happen, but not overnight.

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The Senator reiterated that the question was about the funding for the Statewide Senate. The Trustee said he supported the Academic Senate and that things cannot happen overnight.

The Chair asked what changes the Trustee would like to make for General Education. He gave an example of two students who had their transfer units treated differently because their courses were not both GE certified, and offered other ideas.

The Chair thanked the Trustee and gave him a token of the Senate's appreciation.

Resolution on Workload from Art History – S. Moulton

S. Moulton said that the resolution was not just about Art History, but thought Art History provided an example of what they thought was going on university-wide. Increasing SFR and increasing workload is having a detrimental affect on students. They can't get the classes they need to graduate in a time-frame that is reasonable. She read the resolved clauses of the resolution. She noted that Art History students are having to go to other campuses to take classes to finish their degrees. She noted other issues of workload due to lack of resources.

The Provost reported that the Academic Council is working on the SFR issue at the department and program level with benchmarks. He noted the issues that complicate the matter.

S. Moulton argued that the distribution of SFR was not equitable across campus and that needed to be redressed.

A Senator argued that what the resolution presented seemed to be in conflict with our standing as a COPLAC campus.

The Provost noted that most COPLAC schools are smaller than SSU and have a richer funding mechanism than we do. He did say that Academic Affairs is aware that SSU's SFR is above the system average and they are working on why that is and what to do about it. He described a couple of ideas for addressing the situation.

First reading concluded.

Student Suffrage discussion – L. Simoncic and S. Statler

L. Simoncic described the two Associated Students resolutions that have been passed asking for student suffrage.

Highlights of the discussion:

Students cannot formally voice their opinions or make motions due to lack of a vote.

The tone of the second resolution has been criticized. The students responded that they were frustrated and angry.

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| The ~~s~~tudents did not feel heard about asking for the vote.

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| The ~~s~~tudents said they want to be engaged thinkers. Everything that happens at the university affects the students.

Faculty say they want to be nurturing, but by denying the vote they are not being nurturing of students' critical thinking skills.

| The ~~s~~tudents suggested that the governance issues between the faculty and administration are influencing the faculty on the student suffrage issue.

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| The ~~s~~tudents felt they were unbiased in the committees because they were not getting paid.

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| The ~~s~~tudents said that if they felt their voice was heard on the committees they would not be asking for the vote.

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A Senator asked what the students thought about having a university Senate instead of a faculty Senate.

L. Simoncic responded that she supported a university Senate. S. Statler responded that she didn't think the administrators needed a vote as they have the authority to enact policy.

A Senator noted that he had been on many faculty governance committees and has never seen student voices being dismissed. He asked if faculty could vote on their Senate.

L. Simoncic said they invited the faculty to participate more in student committees. She felt there needed to be more communication. S. Statler thought faculty did not want to attend their meetings and if they wanted the vote, then they could go through the process to ask for it.

A Senator argued that if the faculty want to be respected by the administration, then the faculty needed to respect the feelings expressed by the students.

A Senator noted that in a discussion of a university Senate it would be important to define staff clearly.

A Senator argued to have the committees offer their recommendations on student voting.

| A student guest spoke to her experience of being let down by her mentors - faculty who do not support the vote. She thought the relationship between faculty and students needs repair.

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It was suggested that if student suffrage didn't work out, it could always be reversed.

A Senator remarked that in his estimation, about half the time students did not attend the SAC committee meetings.

S. Statler said it was the nature of Associated Students to be in flux.

A Senator noted the professional responsibility and academic freedom issues that would come up with students voting on EPC and was eager to hear from EPC on this issue.

L. Simoncic thanked the body for discussing the issue.

Strategic Priorities Resolution – First Reading – A. Warmoth and E. McDonald

A. Warmoth introduced the items. E. McDonald said that the documents address what the faculty think are the core academic priorities and should be the core priorities for the university as a whole. She reviewed the four priorities to date that had been identified, but stated that this was not a comprehensive list. They are attempting to gather faculty support for these priorities and gain common agreement. They hope for collaborative work with the administration to make these part of the core priorities of the university. She described the committees that have endorsed the documents and the committees that are looking at it.

A. Warmoth said that APC has a recommendation about the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan, but felt this Core Priorities document was worth endorsing as well.

A Senator noted that the priorities did not include any of the professional or graduate programs. E. McDonald said she invited specific language from the Senator and that the priorities were meant to be inclusive.

A Senator asked about issues the GE Subcommittee had about the document. A. Warmoth responded that the intention of the document was to say that assessment and planning should precede any new initiatives, but not hinder anything already in progress.

First reading concluded.

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Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa reported that SSU's revised proposal for WASC was accepted. The Accreditation Review Steering Committee met and assigned the areas responsible for the four standards. They have a sense of the expenses the visits will create. They are contemplating creating faculty assistants to lead the self-study and present to the accreditation agency.

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

L. Furukawa-Schlereth gave an update on the faculty/staff housing initiative. The City of Rohnert Park is arguing about providing sewer service to the land as it is out of their urban growth boundary. They have been engaged in meaningful and

productive dialogue with our attorneys and their attorneys. Assuming it goes positively, then we will have the environmental impact report. He reported that the campus now knows how much money the campus will be given with the Governor's budget. He described the increase in the marginal cost formula. He reported the compensation pool in the budget will probably be 3%. The PBAC will be recommending a university reserve so assessments will not come to the Schools.

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A Senator asked if the university has given up on other possibilities for the faculty/staff housing. L. Furukawa-Schlereth described what was happening with each possibility.

A Senator asked about the enrollment targets, and if we did not meet them, what will happen.

L. Furukawa-Schlereth said we did not meet our enrollment target and will return \$256,000 to the Chancellor's office on July 1st.

A Senator asked if the reserve fund would be drawn from the general fund. L. Furukawa-Schlereth responded yes. The Senator noted that it is just a timing issue then. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said the budget managers think this is a more prudent way to proceed for planning. The Provost said that they also want to raise the bar for what the reserve is used for.

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Vice President for Associated Students – L. Simoncic

The Chair congratulated L. Simoncic for being nominated for Woman Student Leader of the Year. L. Simoncic reported that the Associated Students just began the budget process. They held their student elections and reported the results. They passed two resolutions on diversity.

The Chair thanked Trustee Gowgani again for his visit to the Senate.

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström