

Academic Senate Minutes
September 1, 2011
3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Announcement and Introductions. Agenda amended and approved. Minutes of 5/19/11 approved. Chair Report. Crash Course in Robert's Rules. Membership changes to the Senate Diversity Subcommittee first reading waived and approved. President Report. Provost Report. Constitutional Change: Structure of Chairship of the Faculty – First Reading completed. CFA Report. Vice President of SAEM Report. Resolution Regarding Opposition to Proposed Changes in Presidential Searches – first reading waived and approved. Associated Students Report. Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status approved. EPC Report. FSAC Report. SAC Report. Group Photo.

Present: Ben Ford, Margaret Purser, John Wingard, Terry Lease, Catherine Nelson, Brian Wilson, Rick Luttmann, Sam Brannen, Deborah Roberts, Steve Wilson, Helmut Wautischer, Marco Calavita, Parissa Tadrissi, Janet Hess, Ed Beebout, Chip McAuley, Mutumbo M'Panya, John Urbanski, Florence Bouvet, Karen Brodsky, Tom Buckley, Jean Chan, Sharon Cabaniss, Matty Mookerjee, Michael Cohen, Noel Byrne, Laura Watt, Phil Brownell, Sandra Shand, Marisa Thigpen, Ruben Armiñana, Andrew Rogerson, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Andy Merrifield, Paul Ramey, Dolores Bainter, Kelly Estrada, Armand Gilinsky, Jennifer Mahdavi

Proxies: Viki Montera for Richard Senghas

Absent: Don Romesburg, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth

Guests: Elaine Sundberg, Dan Condron, Susan Kashack, Cynthia Boaz, Thaine Stearns, Carlos Ayala

Announcement and Introductions – B. Ford

B. Ford began the meeting by saying he was honored to serve this year. He thought there were challenges and opportunities. He thanked Administration and Finance for providing refreshments. He introduced new members to the Senate and those returning in new role. He then asked each member to introduce themselves, what department they were from and what position they held on the Senate. He then asked the body to recognize the recent loss of faculty member Carlos Benito of Business and Economics and the Senate held a moment of silence in his honor.

Approval of Agenda – items added: Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Revision to the CSU Presidential Selection Process; Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status – no objection. Agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes of 5/19/11 - Approved.

Chair Report – B. Ford

B. Ford discussed his plans to begin a conversation with the faculty about SSU's academic story as he described in his convocation speech. One mechanism was to hold open forums over lunch with the Provost and sometimes the President. They would be held in the new faculty center in the Library, 1125 Schulz, every other Wednesday. He had met with three of the four Standing Committees about their role in this conversation. He planned to send out emails to all faculty about every two weeks, updating faculty on faculty governance issues and the academic story conversation. He had also set up a blog on the Senate website. He encouraged the representatives to start the conversation with their constituents. He laid out the ground rules for the Senate meetings for this year to help facilitate discussions. His remarks: would start on time, first time speakers would be privileged, remarks should be addressed to the Chair, motions should be written down, rules about calling the question. He then spoke about the resolution in the past semester that called for a workgroup to be created from the Senators to write a letter to an impartial third party regarding the student fee referendum in the past year. He asked for volunteers for this workgroup. Sharon Cabaniss and Terry Lease volunteered. He asked that any other senators that were interested to let him know.

Crash Course in Robert's Rules

The Senate was shown a PowerPoint presentation about Robert's Rules to help them learn Robert's Rules for Senate meetings.

Membership changes to the Senate Diversity Subcommittee – First Reading – A. Zagelbaum

A. Zagelbaum introduced the item. The proposal was to change the by-laws membership of the Senate Diversity Subcommittee to add two At-Large members for two reasons: many other faculty had expressed interest in serving and that the nature of the work required more members. There was some discussion. **Motion to waive the first reading. Second. Approved. Vote on by-law change to add two At-Large members to SDS – Approved.**

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana said he thought it was more probable that the budget "trigger" would be pulled in January and result in a further budget cut of 2.3 million dollars to the campus. He said it was not clear if this cut was one-time or permanent. A member asked if the trigger is pulled, does it have to be pulled for the CSU. The President responded that by the Budget Act, the CSU was included.

Provost Report – A. Rogerson

A. Rogerson reported that the Chancellor's office would not be funding the RSCAP grants this year and he announced that Dean Butler of the Library would be funding that for this year. He said that Academic Affairs was about to start a search for a new Director for Research and Sponsored Programs. He noted this would reinforce

the importance of research including SSU students. A member asked if he had any information about the implementation of the American Institutions waiver in the AA transfer degree. A. Rogerson said all he knew about was the latest Executive Order, which gives the campus the ability to waive the requirement for students coming in under SB1440. The member asked the Provost to comment on the implementation of the AI waiver, particularly an 8/26/11 memo to provosts asking that departments that have said "no" to the transfer model curriculum (TMC) in their discipline, be asked whether they could change the "no" to a "yes" if the American Institutions requirement were waived for their department. E. Sundberg said that as of this point, the Transfer Model Curriculum proposed so far would not be 60 units, so a waiver would not be needed in some cases. There were about 8 more TMCs to come in. She reiterated that the Executive Order requires the campus to grant the waiver if it is needed. She also said there was some time before students come in under SB1440, so they would have time to study the order. A member asked if campuses have discretion for the waiver and the Provost said no. A member asked if any delegation of authority to campuses had been given to not grant the waiver. E. Sundberg responded that there had been no delegation of authority in this matter.

Constitutional Change: Structure of Chairship of the Faculty – First Reading – A. Zagelbaum

A. Zagelbaum introduced the item. He reviewed the current structure of Chair-Elect, Chair and Immediate Past Chair. The proposal was for the structure to be a Chair and a Vice Chair, both re-electable for two years. He gave the rationale for the change and noted that if the amendment was passed, then Structure and Functions would write by-laws for Senate approval reflecting this change. A member noted that arguments should also be presented why not to change the structure. A member remarked that Chairs in the past had been re-elected. There were more questions. First reading completed.

CFA Report – A. Merrifield

A. Merrifield passed out a document that showed a letter from the Vice Chancellor Gail Brooks to the CFA President, Liz Taiz, regarding CFA's recommendations for language to be included in syllabi and the response from the CFA President. He noted the CFA Board of Directors passed a resolution that if there was no contract in the Fall, there was a possibility of an "action" on the part of the faculty. CFA was suggesting two sentences for faculty to include in their syllabi: "The faculty union is in the midst of contract negotiation and there is a possibility of work interruption. Updates of this situation will be provided throughout the course." He noted that Vice Chancellor Brooks had interpreted these sentences as "political" and was asking the CFA to "cease and desist." The CFA President Liz Taiz, pointed out in the handout that the syllabus was to inform the students of anything required and things that might affect the course during the semester. He noted that it was the CFA's position that faculty had every right to include this factual information in their syllabi. He argued that this was an attempt by CSU management to intimidate faculty. He had heard nothing about it from the local campus and appreciated that. He noted that recently Vice Chancellor Brooks dropped the "cease and desist" language. He announced that he was now Chair of the bargaining team and that

they were very willing to sit down with management to negotiate a fair contract and did not want to do a work action.

Vice President of SAEM Report – M. Lopez-Phillips

M. Lopez-Phillips recognized M. Thigpen for receiving a Fulbright grant to visit Germany for two weeks to meet with other International Program directors and possibly recruit students. He thanked the President and Vice President of Administration and Finance for directing funds to the Multicultural Center and they were drafting a job description for a full time Director. He said his division was looking for a person to do that job interim until a Director was hired. A member asked if the student fee for Counseling and Psychological Services was enacted this semester and if so, how much it was. M. Lopez-Phillips said yes, \$50. M. Lopez-Phillips then described the stats for the first year class regarding reported diversity for this year, 37%, and the efforts that helped bring this about. For the transfer population, it was 30%. He thanked everyone for their help in diversifying the student body.

Resolution Regarding Opposition to Proposed Changes in Presidential Searches – First Reading – C. Nelson

C. Nelson stated that the Board of Trustees had a special meeting to discuss the policy on presidential searches. Out of the meeting came a proposal to revise the policy, in particular, to drop from the policy the requirement for those under consideration for being hired as presidents to have to visit the campus where they would be acting as president. She said there was a lot of activity among other CSU Senate writing resolutions in opposition to this change. She wrote one for the SSU Senate in opposition and discussed the rationale. She said the reasoning of the Board was about confidentiality of internal candidates. **Motion to waive the first reading.** **Second. Approved. Motion to add “all CSU Senates” to the second resolved clause.** **Second. Approved.** The Chair then stated there would be two votes – one the resolved clauses and one on the rationale. **Vote on resolved clauses – Approved.** **Vote on including rationale – Approved.**

Resolution In Opposition to Proposed Revision to the CSU Presidential Selection Process

Resolved: That the Sonoma State University Academic Senate oppose the proposed revision to the Board of Trustees Policy for the Selection of Presidents that would eliminate campus visits by the final slate of candidates for a campus presidency; and be it further

Resolved: That this resolution be sent to the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor, the Academic Senate CSU and all CSU Campus Senates.

Rationale

The current Board of Trustees Policy for the Selection of Presidents provides for campus visits by the final slate of candidates for a campus presidency. While not a formal part of the evaluation process, the visit is designed to encourage candidate interest in the position through engaging in dialogue with the campus community. At their September meeting, the Board of Trustees will consider a revision to the selection policy that would eliminate the requirement for a campus visit.*

Eliminating campus visits would greatly diminish the role of the campus community in the presidential search process and make it virtually impossible for campus constituencies to provide meaningful feedback to members of the Advisory Committee to the Trustees Committee for Selection of the President. In the absence of a campus visit, and with reliance solely upon the input of the Advisory Committee, the depth and breadth of consultation provided for in the current policy disappears.

Campus presidents are presented with a wide variety of difficult challenges. The California State University should take advantage of any opportunity to allow potential presidents to meet all members of the campus community, develop an understanding of the challenges they may face, and build support in their respective communities. Arriving on campus without having the support and legitimacy provided by such a process would put the chosen candidate at a significant disadvantage in building a successful transition.

*The current policy can be viewed here

http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/Aug11/3_CURRENTPOLICYfortheSelectionofPresidents.pdf

*The proposed policy can be viewed here

http://www.calstate.edu/bot/agendas/Aug11/2_PROPOSEDNEWPOLICYforSelectionofPresidents.pdf

Press release from the CSU:

<http://calstate.edu/pa/News/2011/Story/specialcommittee.shtml>

Associated Students Report – P. Ramey

P. Ramey reminded the Senate about the re-structuring of the AS Senate in the past year. He said it was working out very well. He gave an example of how the Diversity Senator was working with the MCC Director hiring. He said the AS was discussing a smoking ban on campus. He asked the faculty for help creating councils of students for the special interest Senators. A member asked how many students they wanted on the councils. P. Ramey said about 15. A member asked for a list of the issue Senators to assist the faculty in helping direct students. P. Ramey also discussed the freshman leadership program in the AS and noted it was a really broad based program. The Chair noted that last year the Senate approved then Chair Wingard to serve as the Senate rep to the AS Senate. They found last year that the close working relationship with the Student Senate was very effective. **He asked the**

Senate to confirm M. Purser as the rep to the Student Senate this year. Approved.
P. Ramey said interested students should contact Jason Fitzer for the councils. There was some discussion about the no smoking ban.

Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status – B. Ford

B. Ford noted the handout showing the faculty eligible for emeritus status and noted that C. Benito should now be posthumously as well. **Motion to approve list of eligible faculty. Second. Approved.**

EPC Report – A. Gilinsky

A. Gilinsky noted that the past Chair of EPC had submitted an end of year report and had also given him a 10 page bullet point list of items EPC should take up this year. He said he would report on those as they came to the Senate as consent or business items. A member asked if the bullet list could be sent around on Senate-Talk, but A. Gilinsky said the list was in script and with the invention of the personal computer, he had lost his ability to read script. (*not the funny!*)

FSAC Report – V. Montera

V. Montera reported that FSAC had met that week.

SAC Report – J. Mahdavi

J. Mahdavi reported that SAC would be working on revisions to the grade appeal, student grievances and cheating and plagiarism policies, revising the student fee referendum process and working with FSAC on a disruptive student policy.

Group Photo



Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström