

Senate Executive Committee
February 26, 2009
3:00 – 5:00, Sue Jameson Room

Present: Scott Miller, Deb Kindy, Catherine Nelson, Andy Merrifield, Terry Lease, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Sam Brannen, Sunil Tiwari, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Thaine Stearns, Tim Wandling

Absent: Susan Moulton, Karen Thompson, Art Warmoth, Matthew Lopez-Phillips

Guests: Derek Girman, Steve Wilson, Derek Pierre

Approval of Agenda – *Approved.*

Minutes of 2/12 – *Approved.*

Correspondence – The Chair noted he received a thank you letter for reappointing Robert Train to be SSU's ACIP rep.

Chair Report – S. Miller

S. Miller reported on his meeting with other Senate Chairs statewide the past week. He listed the reports they heard. There were discussions of faculty workload issues, and continuing share governance in tough budget times. He shared what they learned about ATI – system wide there are more realistic expectations. Trends in faculty workload have not been good. There was a report about career education and the Chair asked the President to elaborate on it. The President explained the issues from the perspective of the legislators proposing it and from Schools of Education. The Chairs heard budget news. There may be a system wide Teach-In on budget issues. He reported that the CSU is moving towards a system wide policy on IT security and emphasized what an important issue it is. He reported on the PPI Appeals committee. There was no objection from the full professors canvassed to have the URTP committee act as the PPI Appeals committee this year. He noted the Faculty Governance election is underway and said that the tenure-track and tenured faculty were almost at a 50% turnout. He encouraged everyone to vote.

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana reported on the state budget. It was passed as a 17-month budget. He overviewed the various components of the budget - \$15 billion in cuts, \$14 billion in taxes and \$12 billion in borrowing. There will be a vote on May 19 on a number of measures related to the budget. He discussed some of the measures of interest to the CSU. In the CSU, \$31 million was taken away mid-year and there is an additional \$66 million cut. For next year the \$31 million comes back and the \$66 million is a permanent cut. He said the net deficit of the system, after factoring in the fee increase and mandatory costs, was \$22 million. SSU's share of \$22 million is roughly about \$1 million. There might also be a reduction to the CSU and UC of \$50 million dollars that will go away if the State receives \$10 billion from the Federal Stimulus package. The State should know by April 1st about the stimulus money. In addition,

there is a \$255 million reduction in the general fund, but that should come back under the Stimulus plan. He reminded the body that the Stimulus money is one-time money. He said there will be no growth for '09 – '10, '10 – '11 and maybe for '11 – '12. The President said he has heard from other campuses that they may find themselves in a lay-off position. A member asked if a campus could go bankrupt. The answer was no.

Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa noted they are putting together a retention task force to improve retention for students and balance out the student body among the various class levels. He noted there was a perception that we were pretty good at retaining freshman, but the data shows that there is a drop-off after the freshman year and then after the sophomore year. He reported on the work of the President's Diversity Council. He noted the Town Hall on Diversity on March 19. And there will be a campus-wide retreat on diversity on April 3rd. He discussed an interesting finding in analyzing the unit load change this semester. Their goal had been to distribute classes more equitably among students and it had succeeded. They have also found some interesting practices from other campuses for managing enrollment and are working with the campus bookstore to utilize their database functionality. They will take advantage of these kinds of improved efficiencies in re-working registration. He discussed the faculty development funding. He reminded the body that WASC will be visiting in October. WASC is strongly suggesting a poster session at the ending reception. The Provost's office is gathering information about activities on campus that are meritorious or noteworthy for the WASC visit. He updated the body on the textbook ordering issues. A member asked if students could be assessed fees based on unit load. A member asked how the retention task force was being constituted, if consultation with faculty had occurred for the book ordering issues and if faculty did not comply with the directive to not shop book orders around, what would be the sanction. The Provost said in terms of faculty not following the directive, they would take that as it comes. The Provost described his consultation with the Faculty Chair and the informal Executive Committee meetings about the matters the member questioned.

Statewide Senator Report – C. Nelson

C. Nelson reported on Statewide Committee meetings last week. The CLA Task Force primarily looked at the CLA in context of two other tests and is formulating an argument for the CLA. They are also concerned about implementation of the CLA and are working on creating system wide guidelines for consistency across campuses. Another suggestion was made that the CLA results should be reported as a system rather than campus by campus to avoid some of the methodological problems associated with the test. The Fiscal and Governmental Affairs committee also met and discussed upcoming legislation. She noted two of issues of interest – the McCauley Public Employee Pension Reform Act (http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/ballot_source/BalDetails.aspx?id=726), that could lower pensions, which is in the initiative signature stage, and AB 69 (<http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi->

bin/postquery?bill_number=ab_69&sess=CUR&house=B&site=sen), a student fee cap policy. She reported on the Chancellor's General Education Advisory Committee that discussed Executive Order 1036, (<http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1036.html>) which uses military service to fulfill area D – lifelong learning. She discussed some of the issues this brought up including that students may be treated differently on different campuses for military service.

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

L. Furukawa-Schlereth said he would like to visit with Department Chairs again this year and offered to visit with the Senate's Standing Committees. He said his area is going through administrative assessment from an outside consultant to look for greater efficiencies. They have completed the IT assessment and one of the recommendations calls for an Administrative Information Technology Advisory Board. He asked S&F and the ASI about how to best identify people to serve on that committee. He reported on the Common Financials System and said he'd been asked to give a report to the Statewide Senate about this project and offered it to the local Senate. The EPC Chair said that there used to be a subcommittee of EPC that dealt with computer related courses. The Provost noted that an Academic Technology Advisory Committee was recently formed and is co-chaired by Barbara Butler and Brett Christie. He thought perhaps that committee could be built on. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said he wanted the process of constituting the committee to have integrity.

CFA Report – A. Merrifield

A. Merrifield said it was announced today that AB 656 (<http://www.calfac.org/legisagenda.html>) – the Oil and Natural Gas Tax for Higher Education proposed by CFA would be carried by a legislator. The money generated from this tax would go to the community colleges, the CSU and the UC. He discussed a measure on the special election that would protect K-12's prop 98 funding first. He said that AB 656 was an attempt to carve out a permanent funding source for higher education in California. It has been very successful in other states.

Continued questions for Provost Ochoa

D. Pierre asked if students would sit on the retention task force. The Provost said they would consider that. D. Pierre also asked about what had been learned from the 16-unit cap this semester. The Provost said they were still vetting the data, but in general they were looking at doing registration in three passes and not having such short registration periods in a batch system and instead doing it more in real time. A member asked if some of the spike in the number of units taken by students in the Provost's handout was due to more four unit courses being offered. The Provost said he thought some of the spike was due to that and offered other interpretations. The Chair of FSAC asked the Provost specific questions about the faculty development money. The Provost said he would send him the template spreadsheet. A member asked if a process could be set up to notify faculty if their books have not been ordered by the bookstore.

Approval of faculty governance assigned time '09 – '10 – S. Miller

S. Miller noted the distribution of faculty governance assigned time needed to be approved each year. A member discussed issues with the units for lecturers on the Senate. There was some discussion about the change from units to course release.

Motion to approve governance assigned time for '09 –'10. Second. It was suggested that the issue with the lecturers units be taken up. *Approved.*

Revision to Policy on Representation on Administrative Search Committees – S. Miller

S. Miller introduced the item. He provided background on why the policy was being revised. Student and SSPs had asked for more representation on specific search committees and the policy had not been updated since 1989. **It was approved for the Senate agenda.**

Definition of Faculty in Senate Constitution – T. Stearns

T. Stearns said this was a recommendation. He outlined the problem in EPC with courses initiated by non-faculty. He asked for a motion to refer the issue to S&F and perhaps FSAC. He passed out additional documents referring to collective bargaining agreements. He argued that the Senate Constitution was not in alignment with the collective bargaining agreements. There was discussion. **Motion to refer the issue of the definition of faculty in the Senate Constitution and the collective bargaining agreements to S&F and FSAC. Second. No objection.**

Senate Block in Newsbytes – S. Miller

S. Miller said there was a suggestion that the Chair write a blurb for Newsbytes. There was general support, but there was a strong sentiment that it not be institutionalized as a Chair duty.

Senate Agenda

AGENDA

Report of the Chair of the Senate - Scott Miller

Correspondences

Consent Items:

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes –2/5/09 and 2/19 emailed

➤ Update on WASC

BUSINESS

1. Resolution on Emeriti – Second Reading – N. Byrne – attachment
2. Resolution in Support of Low Cost Books for Students – First Reading – R. Luttmann – attachment T. C.
3. Revision to the Excellence in Teaching Award policy – First Reading – S. Tiwari – attachment
4. Revision to Faculty Representation on Administrative Search Committees policy – First Reading – S. Moulton

There was a discussion about having the recruitment officer report to the Senate. This was a recommendation from the Chair of SAC. There was discussion. Generally, the report was not supported for the Senate. The Chair asked if the Senate should discuss GE again. The EPC Chair suggested that it would be better to have GE back once they complete their self-study.

Good of the Order

D. Pierre announced that the closing ceremonies for Black History Month were that evening.

Agenda approved.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega