

Academic Senate Minutes

October 29, 2009

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Agenda approved. Minutes of 10/1/09 amended and approved. President's Report. Provost's Report. Vice President of SAEM's Report. Associated Students' Report. CFA Report. EPC Report. Chair-Elect's Report. By-Laws Revision: Charge of SAC referred back to SAC. Resolution on a Diversity Coordinator for Academic Affairs approved. Good of the Order.

Present: Susan Moulton, John Wingard, Deb Kindy, 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, Jim Christmann, James Dean, Sandra Shand, Lillian Lee, Jacqueline Holley, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Andy Merrifield, Jenny Tice, Morgan Carvajal, Dolores Bainter, Art Warmoth, Carmen Works, Paula Hammett, Derek Girman

Absent: Scott Miller, John Sullins, Mutombo M'Panya, Wanda Boda, Karin Jaffe, Laura Watt, Maria Hess, Margie Purser, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Matt McCarty, Kelly Estrada

Guests: Rose Bruce, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Barbara Lesch-McCaffry, Sharon Cabaniss, Elisa Velasquez

Chair Report – S. Moulton

S. Moulton announced that faculty could use June days for furloughs in the Spring. They did not have to take a furlough day during the first three days in January and would be able to attend the Faculty Retreat and Spring Convocation. She then reported on her attendance at the Statewide Chairs meeting the previous week. She found the meeting very helpful and noted most campuses had Chairs for more than one year. Ben Quillian addressed participants about budget issues. She noted that most campuses were planning for worse and best case scenarios for spring and fall already and she hoped to work on that at the Faculty Retreat.

Approval of Agenda - Approved.

Minutes of 10/1/09 – amended and approved.

The Chair noted that the immediate Past Chair was not present, so T. Lease was designated as parliamentarian for the meeting.

Chair Report continued

S. Moulton noted that R. Coleman-Senghor was the interim Mayor of Cotati and has asked him to report to the Senate and would also be inviting the Mayor of Rohnert Park to address the Senate. She also reported on her meeting with student leaders about sustainability and their desire to showcase sustainability efforts in the Spring.

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana reported that in the next few weeks he thought the Board of Trustees would announce an initiative dealing with increasing CSU student graduation rates to a higher percentile. He discussed the graduation rates of full time six year students. He noted that SSU was already in the upper percentile. However, he said all campuses would have to increase their graduation rates by 6% by 2015. The campus will have to develop a plan. There was already a task force on graduation and retention. He noted that among the Chancellor's office staff, Presidents and Provosts, they found, through popular vote, foci to improve graduation rates were: advising; block registration for freshman; a simplified GE program and incentives through fees. He thought the Chancellor's office would create a "delivery unit" to monitor campus progress on increasing graduation rates. The Chair asked if there was information about the affect of budget cuts on student graduation. The President said it was too soon. He noted that every time higher education nationwide increased costs, graduation and retention rates improved. This was contrary to conventional wisdom, but supported by research.

The Chair announced the upcoming Emeritus Dinner and asked people to RSVP to the Senate office.

Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa reported on the CSU LMS Task Force of which he was a member. They had been tasked with recommending a systemwide solution for LMS. They had begun surveying the national scene and scanning the industry when the budget cuts hit and they lost their consultant. The task force had recently been rebooted and had been asked to come up with a recommendation for a systemwide solution by November. He noted that Blackboard's almost monopoly in this industry was on everyone's mind. He said that this was still a pressing issue for SSU. He said the campus CIO said migrating all the current courses and training faculty could not be done by June 2010 and they were in negotiation with Blackboard to extend the license on WEBCT for two more years. He also reported on the Early Start task force that is charged with coming up with a plan for early remediation efforts by January. He expected that the full task force would be meeting with Trustee Carter to clarify their charge as early efforts at remediation were not the only strategy. He noted task force data about students that remediate in the first year at the CSU. Their retention and graduate rates were indistinguishable from students who arrive not needing remediation. Still, he noted, there were financial reasons for the CSU to stop remediation. He spoke about the achievement gap initiative presented to the Presidents and Provosts by the Chancellor's office. He said they would need to use graduation rates as the main focal point in the campus programs prioritization exercise. He noted that the Schools were still in the process of working out the specifics of the Spring schedule. The Chair asked about the process of transforming the LMS and whether programs relying heavily on WEBCT, such as Nursing, were

having their voices heard and what the cost of transitioning would be. The Provost said the cost of transitioning was a constant and he thought it was just a matter of downloading and uploading content. He said the early reports from faculty using Moodle were more about support for using the product rather than specifics about the product itself. A member asked what effect the remediation discussion would have on diversity. The Provost said Trustee Carter believed earlier remediation would lead to enhanced diversity. He described other initiatives in the CSU to help with remediation. A member asked what the status was of the campus prioritizing exercise and what opportunities for participation were available. The Provost explained that they were still discussing it and outlined, in general terms, how the process would likely unfold. It would start at the department level, developing an assessment using a standard group of criteria, and then be collected at the next higher level for sorting, then move up the ranks and ultimately come to the University Planning Steering Committee for assessment and a recommendation to the President. He said there would be opportunity for comment from Senate governance. The member asked for examples of the criteria that would be used for program assessment. The Provost noted criteria that they are reviewing in the literature about this process: history, development and expectations of the program, external demand for the program, internal demand for the program, quality of program inputs and processes, etc. These were just suggestions. The Chair recognized A. Warmoth to report on this topic for APC.

A. Warmoth noted that APC had created a subcommittee to look at the strengths and weaknesses of the literature being used for the prioritization exercise and will forward their comments to JCAP and the University Planning Steering Committee. He asked that if faculty had any comments or reactions to this particular model, to forward them to him. A member argued that the prioritization exercise had enormous curricular implications and needed to go through faculty governance all the way. The CFA rep noted that the CBA, Article 38 on layoffs explicitly says that layoffs can only happen at the department level and not at the program level. The Provost noted that no one was talking about layoffs and that majors and programs were somewhat synonymous except that a program would include all the course work for a B.A. degree including GE, etc. A member found the discussion profoundly disturbing and wanted all the information about who was coming up with the criteria. The Chair noted the issue seemed to need a lot more discussion. Time certain reached.

Vice President of SAEM Report – M. Lopez-Phillips

M. Lopez-Phillips noted SAEM was in “pink week” for breast cancer awareness. They had a “flash mob” last Tuesday. They are celebrating “I week” in Residential Life which was focused on diversity themes. They had a talk on civility that was scheduled for one hour and could have gone on all night. They were working on a program with the CHP and campus police about “don’t drive to distraction” as there was one student in a coma and one student death last week. The student leadership office reported that over 12% of students were now in sororities or fraternities. They were looking at a computer program that could quantify student leadership activities and provide students with a leadership transcript. There were twenty-four days until Thanksgiving and eighteen of them were programmed through ASP. The JUMP program was looking for additional big brothers for Latino men. There is a waiting list for that group. He asked if anyone knew any students or faculty that might want to participate. In the CCGS, they were busy planning Women’s History

Month, Black History Month, Black Grad and La Raza Grad. They had a women's meeting about body image and it was so successful, the women have decided to keep meeting at 7pm on Wednesdays. They were working on having a McNair Scholar come in to the CCGS to work on academics with underrepresented groups. In April, they will be working with faculty and Graton Rancheria to bring in a program called "Strangers in our Own Land."

Associated Students Report – J. Tice

J. Tice noted that the "vent tent" event would be held on November 3rd. The AS Senate passed a resolution to keep Homecoming a tradition as it had been such a successful event. They are continuing their conversation about SB656 and how to educate students about it. She also spoke about the conversation that is starting about sustainability and noted they were discussing goals, benchmarks and events for 2010. She announced tabling for the SSU Street Team, which is a student lobby for SSU, that would be held on November 10th in front of the Zinfandel Dining Hall. A member noted that she organized the Love Your Body event at the CCGS and noted that there will be women's meetings and breakout groups every other Wed at 7pm. All students were welcome.

CFA Report – A. Merrifield

A. Merrifield reported that the next day from 1:00 – 3:00 there would be a meeting to discuss the contract of Unit 3. He noted John Travis would be on campus for this event. He and J. Travis would be available to discuss other issues that same day. He also praised the students for bringing Naomi Klein to campus the previous night, to talk about the Shock Doctrine and in her talk she noted Milton Friedman's joy at the destruction of New Orleans as a clean sweep meant they could start over. He then passed around a memo from B. Quillian, the CFO of the CSU, and noted that Ms. Klein was struck by the similarity in language between the Quillian memo and M. Friedman's characterization of New Orleans. He argued that the Provost's prioritization exercise was part of a larger world view. He also argued that graduation has replaced education and cautioned against short term changes brought on by the budget cuts that could bring long lasting and potentially negative consequences. He noted that all the news from Long Beach was grim, but the news from the faculty, students and staff did not have to be. He called Klein's Shock Doctrine an outstanding analysis of what's going on in the world. The Chair noted Ms. Klein was speaking at UC Berkeley in honor of Mario Savio's death anniversary. (*Mario Savio had been a faculty member at SSU.*)

EPC Report – C. Works

C. Works reported that the GE subcommittee finished their program review and EPC had approved it. EPC didn't normally approve program reviews, but they felt this case was different. She passed around the last chapter of the program review that listed the recommendations. She noted what was not in the program review (e.g. the pathways documents), was seen by GE as part of the regular business of the GE subcommittee. She said that the GE subcommittee was now open to changes to GE from departments. She described a new proposal coming through from the School of Arts and Humanities to change all their GE courses from 3 units to 4 units and that would collapse areas A and C. **She then noted that EPC had passed a resolution about double majors, etc. and offered it from the floor for Senate**

consideration as a first reading. She discussed the background and intent of the resolution.

It was moved and seconded for the resolution to be considered by the Senate as a first reading. No objection.

A member asked how many students had double majors, a major and minor, etc. C. Works offered that the numbers were under 1000 students. There were questions and discussion. The Provost noted his office wanted positive recommendations from EPC rather than what they objected to. First reading completed.

Chair-Elect Report – J. Wingard

J. Wingard reported that Structure and Functions made appointments to two committees: Sam Brannen and Terry Lease for the Space Committee; Heather Brace to the Alcohol and Drug Advisory committee.

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

D. Girman addressed the questions raised at the first reading. **Motion to amend: replace under membership “Student Affairs” with “Student Services Professional.” Second. No objection. Motion to amend: put “voting” in front of all student members. Second. No objection.** A member asked whether the liaisons could be any member of the Student Affairs committee. D. Girman said the practice was for faculty to be liaisons. **Motion to refer the item back to SAC. Second. Approved.**

Motion to strongly recommend to the Provost the hiring of a Diversity Coordinator for Academic Affairs – R. Coleman-Senghor

This motion was made at the last Senate meeting and not voted on due to time constraints. R. Coleman-Senghor provided a resolution to back up the motion. **He asked to substitute the resolution for the previous motion. Second. No objection. Motion to waive the first reading. Second. Approved.** There was discussion. Highlights of the discussions: change the name to Diversity Director, why the position was only for Academic Affairs, how funding indicates what the campus values, concerns about where the funding will be found, arguments for why this position was so important and specifically directed to Academic Affairs, arguments that money can be found when the campus desires certain initiatives, concern that members of the hiring committee must have extensive background in diversity issues. **Motion to eliminate in last resolution clause the phrase “with extensive background in diversity issues and affairs.” Second. Approved.** Discussion continued. **Motion to amend: Resolved, that the Diversity Coordinator for Academic Affairs be the main diversity coordinator for the university and that in the job description they be empowered to designate and coordinate liaisons to Student Affairs and Administration and Finance. Second.**

Motion to extend meeting for 5 minutes. Second. Approved.

Question called on amendment. Second. Approved. Vote on amendment. Failed.

Question called on resolution. Second. Approved. Vote on resolution – Approved.

RESOLUTION ON A DIVERSITY COORDINATOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Whereas, Diversity has been established as a major University priority in both the Academic Affairs and University Strategic Plans, and

Whereas, Diversity has been established as a major planning and implementation priority for the University by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and

Whereas, Diversity has been recognized by both President Armiñana and the Academic Senate through the establishment of Diversity Committees, and

Whereas, both of these committees have made substantial recommendations requiring resources for planning, coordination, implementation, and assessment,

Therefore be it:

Resolved, that the Academic Senate strongly urges Provost Ochoa to hire a full time Diversity Coordinator for the Division of Academic Affairs,

Resolved, that the Academic Senate strongly urges the University to find resources to fund this position that are not diverted from direct classroom instruction,

Resolved, that the Academic Senate recommends that this position be staffed by a faculty member with extensive background in diversity issues and affairs,

Resolved, that the Academic Senate recommends that the hiring committee for this position include faculty, staff and students.

Good of the Order

A member reminded the body to change their clocks this weekend.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega