

Academic Senate Minutes

February 21, 2008

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Minutes of 10/25; 11/8; 11/29; 12/13 and 2/7/08 – Approved. Agenda approved. Geography/Global Studies revision – approved. Request for endorsement of SSU production of the Vagina Monologues – Endorsed. Associated Student Report. Chair-Elect report. Vice President of Administration and Finance Report. EPC report (GE assessment). RTP revision – First Reading Completed. University 150 (FYE) – First Reading Completed. Ad-Hoc Remedies on Response to the Vote of No Confidence – First Reading Completed. Sustainability Resolution Approved. Update on WASC. Questions for the President.

Present: Tim Wandling, Scott Miller, Elaine Newman, Edith Mendez, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Sam Brannen, Susan Moulton, Noel Byrne, Birch Moonwomon, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, Kristen Daley, Ronald Lopez, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Janet Hess, Ada Jaarsma, Robert Eyler, John Kornfeld, Raye Lynn Thomas, Tia Watts, Murali Pillai, Richard Whitkus, Rick Luttmann, Wanda Boda, Steve Orlick, William Poe, Margaret Purser, John Wingard, James Dean, Bruce Peterson, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Whitney McClure, Jonathan White, Art Warmoth, Thaine Stearns, Maria Hess, Karen Thompson

Absent: Lillian Lee, Sandra Shand, Adele Merritt, Lane Olson

Proxies: Doug Jordan for Terry Lease

Guests: Elaine Sundberg, Rose Bruce, Elaine Leeder, Susan McKillop, Ian Hannah, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Carol Blackshire-Belay, Dan Condrón, Becky Soler, Eva Oliver, Nathan Rank, Carlos Ayala

Chair Report – T. Wandling

T. Wandling reported back on the Executive Committee's discussion of curricular items on the Senate's consent calendar. The opinion of the Executive Committee was that the process was fine as it stands. If a curricular item does appear on the consent calendar that means it has gone through the appropriate curricular channels and does not warrant a presentation at the Senate. He reminded the body that any Senator can object to a consent item and move it to business, but to move it just because a presentation is not given, is not our Senate's policy. He then reported on the new Student Union building and suggested a full report on it at some time in the future. He commented about who he had actually talked to regarding the no confidence vote. He said the Statewide Executive Committee was instrumental in putting together a meeting between the members of Statewide Executive Committee and the SSU Senate leadership in June. He spoke about his private meeting with Board of Trustees Chair Roberta Achtenburg, Scott Miller, Chancellor Reed and Jeffrey Bleich also during the summer. At that meeting he had made it very clear he

thought a campus-wide meeting was in order. But since then, even after repeated contacts, neither Chancellor Reed nor Chair Achtenburg has said they would come to campus. The Statewide Senate, helped by our Statewide Senators, passed a resolution asking the Board of Trustees to be more responsive to no confidence votes. Their response to that was that they had met with the campus in July! He applauded the Statewide Senators' work on this issue. He then said after commendable service, C. Nelson had resigned from the Ad-Hoc Committee. He appointed S. Miller to serve on an interim basis until the Senate could vote another person onto the committee in two weeks time. He suggested a re-ordering of reports on the agenda. He asked for feedback on whether the Senate wanted a report from the CFO on the audits. He asked the body to listen with an open heart today to the hard work coming forward.

Consent items:

Minutes of 10/25; 11/8; 11/29; 12/13 and 2/7/08 – *Approved.*

Approval of Agenda – a comment was made to the Executive Committee that they not put so many first readings on an agenda. **A motion was made to move items 5, 7 and 8 to positions of 1, 2 and 3. Second. Discussion. Vote – *Failed.*** Agenda approved.

Geography/Global Studies revision – approved.

BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Request for endorsement of SSU production of the Vagina Monologues – E. Oliver

E. Oliver handed out a packet of information. She gave an eloquent speech about the production of the Vagina Monologues for the 10th anniversary of V-Day (<http://v10.vday.org/>) and asked for the Senate's endorsement of the production. **Motion that the Sonoma State University Academic Senate endorse the Sonoma State University performance of the benefit production of the Vagina Monologues on February 28, 29 and March 1st and further that the Senate encourage the campus community to participate in this important endeavor in support of women's rights. Second. *Approved.***

Associated Student Report – W. McClure

W. McClure noted that the Associated Students have a new speaker, Jonathon White. She reviewed the resolutions they had just passed. They passed a resolution to stop supporting the CSSA. They passed a resolution that the Board of Trustees not pass a fee increase for Business students. She noted the resolution they passed supporting the University Center and offered to give a presentation on that if the Senate desired. They also sent a resolution to Northern Illinois University in sympathy of the shooting on campus. She noted at their next meeting they would be considering the Blood Bank resolution that is going around. She announced their meeting time and who was invited to speak to the Blood Bank resolution. The Chair

asked for the AS to send their resolutions on CSSA and Northern Illinois University to the Senate Analyst for the Executive Committee agenda.

Chair-Elect report – S. Miller

S. Miller said that even though there was a wonderful slate of candidates this year, there were still a few positions without the requisite number of candidates. He asked the Senate to certify the election since not all the positions were contested. *There were no objections.* The body asked which positions did not have the requisite number of candidates – Secretary, Statewide Senate and At-Large rep to the Senate budget committee.

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

L. Furukawa-Schlereth reported on the Governor's budget and its implications for the campus. He noted the effort by the CSU, and all the Unions, to work together to advocate for more revenues from the State. He urged the Senate to pass a resolution in support of the advocacy effort. He then reported on the external audit that the university has done each year for the past few years, and noted that he could have the auditor come and explain their statements and their interpretation of them and people could ask questions of the auditors. He recommended three audits be presented in that way. He asked for advice on the how to best facilitate the presentations or if they were needed. The Chair asked the body to think about the question and give the Executive Committee feedback.

EPC report – T. Stearns

The Chair introduced N. Rank, the Chair of the GE subcommittee, to give a report on the GE assessment. N. Rank said the GE subcommittee wanted the campus community to be aware of and engaged in their efforts to develop learning outcomes for the different GE areas in preparation for a full program review in '09-'10. They are gathering data and hope to have an external reviewer to assist in the review that will be modeled after department program reviews. This spring they will have workshops to develop the learning objectives in areas B, D and E. He noted a flow chart in the packet that described the process. He also noted a chart he created that shows the kind of data they are looking at. There were a few questions about the chart.

RTP revision – First Reading – M. Hess

M. Hess provided an overview of how the RTP revision came about and provided a timeline of events since the Provost proposed changes to the policy. She noted that after three years of work, the policy was now before the Senate. She noted that C. Ayala was present to help answer any questions. It was confirmed that departments developing RTP criteria should send them to FSAC. There was praise for the work of the committee. There was a concern that advising was not explicit in document. There was a question about how many departments actually have RTP criteria. It was noted that there was no criteria in the RTP document, so it was really up to the departments to provide that. There was a question about conditional one-year

appointments. The Provost asked for a clean copy of the policy for the next reading and one showing all the changes. A Senator noted that a lot of work had gone into this complex document and encouraged patience as the Senate works its way through the document. A Senator noted that with regard to advising, it would be one of the most challenging areas to collect objective data. One of the student reps noted that if the SETE's are used to gather data on advising, it was important to know that a student may never take a course from her/his advisor.

University 150 (FYE) – First Reading - T. Stearns and J. Kornfeld

T. Stearns said EPC has aspired to bring forward to the body a complete and thorough document and encouraged the members to read the information closely. He was available to answer questions about curriculum and process and J. Kornfeld was available to answer questions about the substance of the proposal. N. Rank was available to speak to the GE part of FYE and T. Shaw was available to speak to the assessment of FYE. J. Kornfeld then gave an overview of the course and its context. He said he was at the Senate to have the course approved at its current size as a permanent course. He listed the various committees that have vetted the course so far. The Chair of APC noted work going on in that committee that related to FYE and noted that so far there are no major objections about the curriculum, but there are concerns that all programs available to freshman need to be assessed. A Senator noted he hoped that the FYE faculty would remember that there are social scientists in the School of Business and Economics. When the curriculum was being discussed, he hoped they would take that into account. W. McClure said the AS had not taken an official stand on the course yet. There were questions about how students could take the course and how they could get credit. J. Kornfeld said student have to take the whole year to get the GE credit as the GE areas are integrated all through the classes. A Senator said that if they were changing from A2 to A1, he didn't know how to look at the proposal and other advising issues. He also brought up resource allocation issues for SSPs to participate. A Senator argued that FYE was a good example of what can happen if a course gets more money. He also questioned whether the Senate should get the assessment of GE first and then look at granting permanency to the course. A Senator argued that there was a structural problem with FYE in its independence from any School. A Senator asked what happened to the speech element. A Senator asked why was it necessary to grant it permanency now and if it was ramped up why only qualified first year students could take it. T. Stearns said in the 1985 Curriculum Guide, available on the Senate website (<http://www.sonoma.edu/Senate/CurriculumGuide/CurriculumProject.html>), it states that an experimental course may be offered for two years and after that it needs to come through faculty governance for permanency.

Ad-Hoc Remedies on Response to the Vote of No Confidence – First Reading – S. Moulton

S. Moulton introduced the item and thanked C. Nelson for her efforts on it. She said the document represented the thinking of the committee so far on the reasons for the no confidence vote for the Senate to see and for the administration to respond to. The APC chair said he saw some overlap with committee work in the document and suggested that it be seen by committees before it comes back to the Senate. The

Chair thought it was a good consensus document. Two Senators offered wording suggestions. The Past Chair argued for the Senate to pass the document and then have it go to the committees. Another Senator argued that the document be seen as the Senate's formal response to the no confidence vote and that all the items could be referred to various faculty governance committees with a report back in May on progress. S. Moulton stated that the Ad-Hoc committee would continue to present items to the Senate as it was charged originally. A Senator argued against sending the document to committees and offered language changes. A Senator argued for moving on with our own response as a campus to the vote of no confidence. W. McClure asked questions about statements made in the document and their relationship to the Associated Students. The Chair said he thought the local administration has heard the faculty and has made some changes. He noted that the document was a list of talking points and urged the body to adopt it on the second reading.

Sustainability Resolution – Second Reading – A. Warmoth

A. Warmoth introduced the item and noted the document in the packet contained the amendments previously moved and passed about the resolution. He also noted that the addendum had been revised in accordance with comments of the first reading.

Question called. Second. *Failed.*

Motion to include substitute addendum. Second. Question called. Second. *Approved.*

Vote on motion to substitute: *Approved.*

Question called on resolution. Second. *Approved.*

Vote on resolution: *Approved.* Two abstentions

Sustainability at Sonoma State University

Adopted by the Academic Senate on February 21, 2008

Whereas, in 1987 the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development introduced the term *Sustainability*—now commonly used as in the present context—when it declared that “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”¹ And,

Whereas, Sonoma State University embraces principles of sustainable development that promote:

¹ http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23543&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

- A vital and sustainable economy based on the “triple bottom line” (attention to environmental, social, and financial performance).
- Commitment to social justice that includes the rights of future generations.
- Respect and care for the greater community of life in all its diversity, including protection and restoration of the earth's ecosystems. And,

Whereas, the Talloires Declaration² and American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment³ can serve as guiding documents to Sonoma State University in these efforts. And,

Whereas, Sonoma State University aspires to be a national and international model for sustainable practices in all dimensions of its operations (teaching, research, business and finance). And,

Whereas, Sonoma State University has an obligation to help prepare citizens for participation in a democratic society. And,

Whereas, Sonoma State University has an obligation to help students become environmentally literate citizens who understand the principles of sustainability. And,

Whereas, the State of California has adopted Executive Order S-20-04⁴, which recognizes that state institutions such as the California State University are major consumers of energy and natural resources, and asks these institutions to reduce the use of non-renewable resources as well as increase energy efficiency. And,

Whereas, the State of California has adopted Executive Order S-3-05⁵, which recognizes that California is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and that we must take action to reduce the use of fossil fuels and reduce our carbon footprint. And,

Whereas, the California State University has an obligation to the citizens of the state of California to be wise stewards of scarce resources and to assure the continued economic and ecological viability of the state. Be it therefore

Resolved that the Sonoma State University Academic Senate support actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum (including campus facilities and grounds as learning laboratories) and other educational experiences for all students. And be it further

Resolved that the Sonoma State University Academic Senate support the expansion of research or other efforts necessary to achieve climate neutrality and sustainability including sustainability practices on the SSU Campus. And be it further

² http://www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires.html

³ <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>

⁴ <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/energy/ExecOrderS-20-04.htm>

⁵ <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/energy/ExecOrderS-3-05.htm>

Resolved that the Sonoma State University Academic Senate charge the Structure and Functions subcommittee to explore the appropriateness of, and charge to, a Committee on Sustainability as described in the Addendum. And be it further

Resolved that the Sonoma State University Academic Senate call upon the California State University to make sustainability a major focus in its new strategic plan. And be it further

Resolved that the Sonoma State University Academic Senate transmit this resolution to President Ruben Armijnana, Chancellor Charles B. Reed, and to the Board of Trustees of the California State University.

ADDENDUM

Committee on Sustainability:

1. Sustainability refers to practices designed to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It encompasses teaching, research, and practice in a variety of areas including but not limited to policy development, building design and construction, waste management and recycling, energy production and use, water use, and transportation.

2. The charge to a standing or ad hoc Committee or Subcommittee on Sustainability could include:

- Coordinating various planning efforts in the sustainability area.
- Study sustainability issues related to the campus and make recommendations to improve sustainable practices,
- Receive copies of executive orders or other instructions to the campus dealing with sustainability and report on them to the senate,
- Develop resources to assist faculty wishing to undertake research or propose curriculum in sustainability,
- Maintain a sustainability web site.

3. Such a committee should explore with the administration and the Associated Students the feasibility of a campus sustainability coordinator position.

4. In the interim, the Sustainability Work Group, which began as a subcommittee charged with making recommendations to the University Planning Steering Committee (UPSC) in the Sustainability Goal area of the University Strategic Plan, will continue to coordinate and support sustainability initiatives on campus and to maintain the SSU Sustainability Web Site.

Rationale:

1. Sustainability has become a national and state-wide concern. In response, the CSU has issued Executive Order [987](#)⁶ and established a Sustainability Advisory Committee. The State and the CSU Chancellor's Office have mandated specific sustainability goals. It is important that the University Senate be kept aware of the issues in order to participate in these conversations.
2. Given its faculty and resources, Sonoma State is in a position to become a leader in research and teaching on sustainability and to help the community benefit from our expertise.
3. The Sustainability Work Group currently involves representatives of various campus constituencies committed to sustainability, and it invites the participation of other interested programs and groups.

Update on WASC – E. Sundberg

E. Sundberg announced that there would be an open forum on the WASC visit next week. She alerted the body that they may be receiving emails inviting them to meet with the WASC team. The itinerary for the team was being put together and will be coming forward very soon. She reminded the body that the team will be here March 12-14th.

Questions for the President

A Senator noted there was a job announcement for faculty in "University Studies" and asked where this department was and if it had ever come to the Senate or any faculty body? The Provost said he had not seen the posting and the Senator gave it to him. One of the Statewide Senators asked the President about a memo from the Chancellor making reference to an Executive Order of the Governor reducing current general funding spending by one hundred million dollars. The Chancellor outlined his response in terms of faculty hiring and travel. She asked if the President had taken any additional steps in this direction. The President said the Executive Order of the Governor does not affect the university. He noted that faculty hires have been reduced and there is a freeze on most other hires. In terms of travel, they are asking everyone to be judicious and he said he has always had to approve international travel.

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström

⁶ Executive Order [987](#) Policy Statement on Energy Conservation, Sustainable Building Practices, and Physical Plant Management for the California State University