

Academic Senate Minutes

April 15, 2010

3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Agenda amended and approved. Minutes delayed. Global Studies revision to major and concentrations approved. President Report. Provost Report. Special Report: Interim Mayor of Cotati – R. Coleman-Senghor. New Section 6 of Article V of by-laws recommendation approved. Creation of a Senate Diversity Subcommittee approved. Revision to the Periodic Evaluation of Temporary Faculty approved. Vice President of SAEM Report. CFA Report. Resolution to hold a Referendum of No Confidence in the Financial Management of Sonoma State University and a Call for the Resignation of President Ruben Armiñana and CFO/VP for Administration and Finance, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth – First Reading. Vice President of Administration and Finance Report. Arts and Humanities GE Reform proposal approved. Good of the Order.

Present: Susan Moulton, John Wingard, Scott Miller, Robert McNamara, Catherine Nelson, Noel Byrne, Sam Brannen, Edith Mendez, Michael Pinkston, Steve Wilson, John Sullins, Robert Coleman-Senghor, Janet Hess, Ed Beebout, Terry Lease, Florence Bouvet, Paula Lane, John Kornfeld, Rick Robison, Nick Geist, Michael Cohen, Karin Jaffe, Laura Watt, Maria Hess, Margaret Purser, Sandra Shand, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Andy Merrifield, Morgan Carvajal, Dolores Bainter, Art Warmoth, Carmen Works, Richard Senghas, Derek Girman

Absent: Chip McAuley, Cora Neal, Tia Watts, Wanda Boda, James Dean, Lillian Lee, Jenny Tice, Matt McCarty

Proxies: Barbara Lesch-McCaffry for Mutombo M'Panya, Edie Brown for Jacqueline Holley

Guests: Barbara Butler, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Elaine Sundberg, Steve Orlick, Saeid Rahimi, Susan Kashack, Dan Condron, Elaine Leeder, Tim Wandling, Andy Wallace

Chair Report – S. Moulton

S. Moulton thanked R. Coleman-Senghor and Oliver's Market for providing food and coffee for the meeting. She noted the written summary she provided about the Statewide Chair's meeting. She asked Senators to note the topics of GE reform and discontinuance of programs at other campuses. She said a committee of Presidents and Provosts were tasked with GE reform by the Chancellor's office, with the thinking that it would be approved by the Board of Trustees more easily, however, it completely circumvented faculty governance and she thought the Statewide Senate was now reviewing it. She discussed Foundation issues among the campuses and that there would be a Statewide Chairs study of Foundation practices. The issue of oversight was of prime concern. She noted everyone would get another budget advocacy email.

Consent items:

Approval of Agenda – the order of items 4 & 5 switched. Resolution recognizing Norooz postponed to next meeting. *Approved.*

Minutes delayed. Senate Analyst offered to outline the minutes until she was able to get caught up on the minutes. Furloughs were affecting this process.

Global Studies revision to major and concentrations – Approved.

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana noted state revenue reports said there was 1.2 billion dollars more than expected coming to the State. He said more will be known after the May revise.

Provost Report – E. Ochoa

E. Ochoa reported on the President's Diversity Council. He said they were finalizing timelines and responsible parties for implementation of the Diversity Plan. He thought they would be able to put out the plan very soon. He then talked about the planning for next year's budget and noted the current scenario was that the CSU would not receive the \$305 million. He noted the extraordinary effort by the President and the CFO to support instruction. The current planning had no cuts to Academic Affairs and all stimulus money would be put toward instruction. He thanked his colleagues for their support of the academic mission.

Special Report: Interim Mayor of Cotati – R. Coleman-Senghor

The Chair thanked R. Coleman-Senghor again for the food provided by Oliver's Market. R. Coleman-Senghor noted that the owner of Oliver's was a graduate of the MBA program at SSU. He said he wanted to dedicate his presentation to Lloyd Draper who was very instrumental in the founding of Cotati and bringing SSU to the area. He spoke further about other people from SSU participating in Cotati governance. He noted city budgeting was a very tricky business and they often had to defend themselves from the State taking their money or impositions of unfunded mandates. He spoke about the recent sales tax increase that was approved by Cotati residents. He discussed the business environment in Cotati and declining sales. He spoke about the connection between Cotati and SSU. He hoped to see an end to the "Cotati crawl" – SSU students partying in downtown Cotati without finding designated drivers. He spoke about the upcoming Smart Train station and asked that the university assist Cotati in supporting the Smart Train. He noted people came from all over the world for the Cotati Accordion Festival and spoke about Cotati's illustrious musical history. He talked about another conversation going on among SSU colleagues about service learning in Cotati. He noted an on-going service learning project in the Cotati City Planning department. He announced the celebration that weekend of the 100th anniversary of a building in Cotati that had been the Women's Improvement Club, the Cotati Cabaret and currently Congregation Ner Shalom. The Chair asked about student reports of racial profiling by police in Cotati. R. Coleman-Senghor responded that he would first want to verify that it was occurring and would be happy to look into it. He offered some suggestions. The Chair thanked R. Coleman-Senghor and the body applauded.

New Section of by-laws recommendation – Second Reading – J. Wingard

J. Wingard reviewed the item and noted that when S&F was reviewing the Senate Diversity committee proposal, they noticed that a new section of the by-laws was needed for subcommittees of the Senate. There was some discussion.

Vote on new Article V, Section 6 of Senate by-laws – Approved.

Recommendation for Senate Diversity Committee – Second Reading – J. Wingard

J. Wingard reviewed the recommendations from S&F regarding the creation of a Senate Diversity Committee – that it be a subcommittee of the Senate, that the Chair of the Faculty not be a member of the committee and that it have a broader charge for more flexibility. The Past Chair read the following statement with the intention to have it in the minutes:

“Because the Past Chair of the Faculty has, I believe, both official and moral responsibility to be specially caretaking of processes and structures in Senate process, I feel that I must register a formal note of concern as we come to a vote on a Senate Diversity Committee. As I have said several times, I believe that the creation of committees of the Senate is a very serious question, as that question concerns the work and disposition of other committees and the hard work and good will of our colleagues who will serve on the committee. Such a question is always serious; at the present moment of workload crisis, the question is monumental. A Senate Diversity Committee in particular will of necessity require the collaboration, participation, and goodwill of all other Senate committees and subcommittees as well as the faculty in general and other units on campus because, housed as it will be within faculty governance, that committee will have little or no power independently to conduct substantive business on the matters under its charge. To vote such a committee into existence without formal consultation with those bodies therefore strikes me as highly concerning, and I feel it my duty to register this as an official position.”

There was further discussion in favor of creating the Diversity Committee. **Motion to amend the membership section to include a non-voting member of the CFA Affirmative Action Committee representative. Second. Approved.**

There was discussion about having Senate committees as watchdogs; the moral authority of Senate recommendations to the President and the need to exercise that authority, the passionate desire of a member to see the campus demographics mirror the State of California, disappointment in the President’s Diversity Council, and diversity being a major concern to the campus and to WASC.

Question called. Second. No objection.

Vote on creation of Senate Diversity Subcommittee – Approved.

Periodic Evaluation of Temporary Faculty Policy – Second Reading – R. Senghas

R. Senghas introduced the item and reminded the body that FSAC was only trying to bring the policy into alignment with the CBA. The only substantive change was that contributions to the campus could be included in the evaluation of temporary faculty. A member asked why the criteria for evaluation was struck. R. Senghas responded that they were trying to streamline an already convoluted policy and that evaluation criteria could still be used in departments. There were other specific questions clarifying aspects of the policy.

Motion to amend II. D. Evaluations shall be conducted at least once during the three year contract and may be ~~evaluated~~ conducted more frequently upon the request of either the employee or the President. Second. Approved.

Vote on revision to the Periodic Evaluation of Temporary Faculty – Approved.

Vice President of SAEM Report – M. Lopez-Phillips

M. Lopez-Phillips noted it was Seawolf Day that weekend and thanked the people he knew were going to participate and encouraged others to attend. He reported that students from the central Los Angeles area would be visiting the campus and be encouraged to make a final decision. These students were predominately African-American and Latino/a. He said 90% of last year's seniors from central LA were matriculated. He noted that 1200 people had signed up for Seawolf Day. He announced the Children's School was putting on a mini-conference about outdoor environments for children and it was already full. He spoke about the student elections and said this was the first time all seats were contested. He spoke about the development of a co-curricular transcript for student leadership. A member asked for an update on the achievements of students athletes. M. Lopez-Phillips reported that the men's volleyball team was number one and that the women's softball team was doing very well.

CFA Report – A. Merrifield

A. Merrifield reported that the fact finding report for the '08 –'09 contract dispute was coming out tomorrow. He said the options were that they could go back to bargaining or the CSU could impose the last best offer. If they imposed, that would void article 9 of the CBA about concerted action up to and including strike. He reported on the bargaining for '09 –'10 and the successor bargaining for the contract expiring in June was on-going. He reported on the CFA semi-annual meeting and talked about CFA's current concerns about budget and the graduation initiative. He highlighted a new report that was more concerning than deliverology – the Zemsky report (<http://www.calfac.org/deliverology.html>).

Resolution to hold a Referendum of No Confidence in the Financial Management of Sonoma State University and a Call for the Resignation of President Ruben Armiñana and CFO/VP for Administration and Finance, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth – First Reading – N. Byrne

N. Byrne reminded the body that first readings were for questions and clarifications. He noted that the resolution was not a redundant resolution from the 2007 no confidence referendum about leadership, but was more narrowly focused on financial management. He said it did not ask the Senate to take a position. Further it

was not a response to the economic climate in California, rather an expression of long standing concerns of faculty about financial matters. It was a proposal to give all faculty a voice. Highlights of the discussion: a substitute resolution would be proposed at the next meeting for a vote of no confidence in the Chancellor; an argument that the Senate Constitution did not allow for this kind of referendum and a request of the Chair to rule the resolution out of order; concerns whether this was the correct thing to put before the faculty as a whole and what the maker of the resolution thought would happen if the referendum passed; the value of the faculty voice even if ignored; achieving outcomes through persistence; concern about the "curious" behavior of the Board of Trustees; if the resolution maker would consider a Likert scale for the referendum; and a suggestion to put in the rationale of the resolution specific instances of financial management concerns. The CFO discussed his review under the Periodic Review of Administrators policy and noted that under the policy a special review could be conducted if the President chose.

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

The CFO gave a report on the question the Chair has posed about salary increases in Administration and Finance. He noted that by collapsing positions, the salary savings to the campus were \$446,000, even though individual salaries may have gone up. He said he some of \$446,000 would be used to meet the budget reductions. Some ideas for the remaining monies included using the money for the faculty workstations refresh program or for reassigned time for faculty who were skilled in technology to help in the schools. He also reported the Chancellor's office would now be billing the campuses \$85,000 for the CSU wide audited financial statements. He noted that SSU had done stand alone financial statements itself for the past 15 years, and in the Campus Reengineering Committee he had discussed the matter of continuing this practice given the budget situation. The CRC decided to recommend doing stand alone financial statements every three years and he would be bringing that to the PBAC. He asked the Senate to take a position on this matter. He then reported on decisions from the Campus Planning Committee. They had decided to name the tennis courts after former Vice President of Student Affairs, Rank Link. They named the bridge that goes over Copeland Creek, the Bruce Walker Bridge. He talked about the discussion concerning the naming of Customer Service, noted it was a good discussion, and thanked the ASI for helping facilitate it. He said he recommended to the President changing the name to the Seawolf Service Center. He talked about the SETC apprenticeship program and how active SSU has been with SETC to help employees progress in the trades.

The Chair reported that the Constitution did have language for referenda, though it had not been updated online.

Arts and Humanities GE Reform proposal – C. Works

C. Works reminded the body of what motion was on the table – to **amend the language in the proposal – 1) waiving the 3 unit standard for all Arts and Humanities GE courses to 1) waiving the 3 unit standard for all Area A and C courses**. Highlights of the discussion: reasons for waving the 3 unit standard was only made possible by collapsing the areas; concerns from departments who could not mount 4 units GE courses in area C; clarification of how the new areas would provide content based on learning outcomes; appreciation for the work of EPC and

the GE subcommittee on this topic; acknowledgement that the proposal was not asking the Senate to approve specific classes; clarification that no one was asking anyone to change the number of units in their courses; clarification that the proposal was a framework only; the new model better supported the way human beings develop, particularly in Area A; that faculty remain cautious that GE reform stays in the hands of the faculty; comments about the institutional change the proposal presupposes and that the GE reform process has a long way to go.

Question called. Second. Failed.

Further comments included concern about articulation issues for native students that take courses at the Junior College as a matter of course; **Motion to extend for 10 minutes. Second. Approved.** It was noted that: University Standards could easily take up any issues resulting from course repeat restrictions, etc.; the GE subcommittee would be looking for substantive changes in courses moving to 4 units; A & H was having on-going discussion about the proposal, a complicated process but a good start; the Dean of A&H did promise that 3 unit courses will remain in the GE program; course changes would come from departments and there was a year to work out implementation questions. E. Sundberg talked about the implementation questions, how she would approach them and what was known so far.

Motion to extend 1 minute. Second. Approved.

Question called. Second. No objection.

Vote on GE Reform proposal:

- 1) waiving the 3 unit standard for all Area A and C GE courses;
- 2) take the seven areas in Areas A and C, and combine them into five areas;
- 3) reduce all GE units from 51 to 50. – *Approved.*

Good of the Order

The Chair announced the CSA Art Gallery opening and invited everyone to attend.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Laurel Holmström Vega