

Academic Senate Minutes

October 9, 2014

3:00 – 5:00, Ballroom A

Abstract

Agenda approved. Minutes delayed. President Report. Vice Chair Report. Questions for the Vice President of Administration and Finance from the Senators to J. Wenrick. Associated Students Report. SSU SETE Policy – First Reading completed. Statewide Senators Report. EPC Report. FSAC Report. SAC Report. Discussion Item: Textbook Alternative Pilot. Classroom revamp report. CFA Report. Follow up question about service awards from the Staff Rep. Good of the Order.

Present: Terry Lease, Margaret Purser, Maria Hess, Catherine Nelson, Deborah Roberts, Michaela Grobbel, Sam Brannen, Matthew James, Birch Moonwomon, Jess Hazelwood, Joshua Glasgow, John Kunat, John Palmer, Ed Beebout, Jennifer Roberson, Florence Bouvet, Murali Pillai, Mary Ellen Wilkosz, Matty Mookerjee, Lauren Morimoto, Tia Watts, Laura Watt, Michelle Goman, Rheyne Laney, Melissa Garvin, Michael Pinkston, Donna Garbesi, Ruben Armiñana, Andrew Rogerson, Elaine Newman, Christian George, Cynthia Figueroa, Brandon Mercer, Katie Musick, Melinda Milligan, Richard Whitkus, Julie Shulman

Absent: Richard J. Senghas, Kathleen Rockett, Jennifer Mahdavi, Viki Montero, Laura Krier, Edie Brown, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Matthew Lopez-Phillips

Proxies: Sandra Shand for Marisa Thigpen

Guests: Melinda Barnard, Jeffrey Reeder, Anthony Gallino, Adam Rosenkranz, J. Wenrick

Vice Chair T. Lease chaired this meeting.

T. Lease announced that at the next meeting the Mayor of Rohnert Park would be visiting the Senate and the meeting after that the Mayor of Cotati would be visiting. The Senate office and the President's office were working on having the Faculty Trustee visit sometime this academic year. He noted an email that had gone out that morning about the GMC academic integration grants. He encouraged Senators to apply and to encourage other faculty to apply.

Approval of Agenda – Update for the Classroom revamp added. No objection. Approved.

Minutes delayed.

T. Lease noted that the Chair was at meeting with other CSU Senate Chairs and was having an active meeting, asking for documents to be sent to him as they talked about governance around the system.

President Report – R. Armiñana

R. Armiñana clarified the reports in the media about issues with two student groups – the Intervarsity Council and the Student Athletes in Action, which were two Christian groups on campus. For the past several years there had been discussions with those groups about Executive Order 1068 that states California law. It requires that students groups who wish to receive benefits of recognition in the CSU must comply with the non-discrimination policy. These groups are saying they are complying in terms of membership, but their leadership had to certify that that they follow Christian beliefs. He said this would apply to every group, not just these groups. Last year the Chancellor gave them an additional year to change their by-laws. The groups were unwilling to do that, so they are no longer recognized as a campus student group. The remedy does not rest with the campus, but with the Legislature.

Vice Chair Report – T. Lease

T. Lease said that next semester; the position he held could be theirs! They were still looking for a Vice Chair replacement for next semester. He said it as a great position and he encouraged someone to come forward.

Questions for the Vice President of Administration and Finance from the Senators to J. Wenrick

A member asked when the furniture would arrive for the courtyard of Toast and Charlie Brown's. J. Wenrick said he knew it had been ordered, but did not know when it would arrive. He would find out. A member asked about the progress of the computer refresh program. J. Wenrick said they were hoping to have it out by now, and they were working closely with HR on the people actually eligible and hoped to have that list out in two weeks to both faculty and the AMs. A faculty member asked for more gigabytes for his email account. J. Wenrick said any faculty member can request a seawolf.sonoma.edu account to use with their students, but needed to retain their sonoma.edu account for formal email from the campus. Storage was a big issue in IT and he was working with his staff and other CSUs to address this.

Associated Students Report – C. George

C. George reported on the monstrous posters on the Campus Rec Center about the spirit week called LoboFest. He said these events have been helpful creating more community on campus. They were reviving Midnight Madness. He noted ASP events that were targeted towards self-development and community development. He reported that JUMP had sent out 500 students, faculty and staff to the community for a community service day called Sonoma Serves. This was helping SSU's relationship with the community as a whole. A member said she was getting feedback from transfer students that they think that events are just for resident students and thought perhaps more could be done to include them.

SSU SETE Policy – First Reading – R. Whitkus

R. Whitkus introduced the item. Since SSU went to electronic SETEs, this raised a number of issues that needed to be addressed in policy. FSAC reviewed a number of similar policies in the CSU and modeled this policy after Long Beach and San Francisco's policies on electronic SETEs. He noted that this policy was sun shined previously and had been sitting online for feedback for almost a year. He thanked everyone for his or her feedback. He described the three main parts of the policy: how to implement the instrument; how it will be administered and in which courses; how it will be advertised to students and faculty; and the data that would be generated and who will have access to it. He said the policy was short to provide guidelines to give individual programs the ability to work out the details. A member thought that having two deadlines for SETEs was confusing. He also asked if there was a way to mine the data collected that provided anonymity. R. Whitkus responded that the two deadlines for SETEs had to do with Schools who use finals week as the last week of instruction. There needed to be flexibility, but he hoped that the emails that went out to the students would be clear. In terms of data mining, he did not think they would be doing any data mining. The data was only available for official university business. More data could probably be derived from the electronic SETEs, but this policy was not promoting that. A member suggested that perhaps it should be spelled out under what circumstances SETEs may also be administered during finals week. She also did not understand why classes with 5 or fewer students would not be evaluated. R. Whitkus said that excluding classes with 5 or fewer students was to maintain student anonymity, which was required. A member asked about steps that could be taken on the policy side to increase response rates. R. Whitkus said they had discussed this in FSAC, but decided they did not want to "force" students to do the SETEs. He noted that M. Barnard did a report on the response rate last year and found that even if the response rate was low, it did not affect the quality of responses. He said it was on the faculty member to encourage their students to do the SETEs. A member suggested a wording change. He also asked what it meant that "An instructor will receive for each of their courses, the summarized results of closed-ended questions and the complete verbatim responses to open-ended questions, along with comparative summaries of all courses in the department in the current semester." R. Whitkus said faculty would receive all their SETE scores along with a department response for all courses. A member asked about the access by committee members that might need the data. R. Whitkus said that was currently being worked on. They did not want use email and wanted to use a log in process instead. There was further discussion about summaries of all department courses each faculty member would receive.

Extended by five minutes.

There was further discussion about the summaries in departments. **First Reading completed.**

Statewide Senators Report – D. Roberts, C. Nelson

D. Roberts reported that the Statewide Senate committees were looking at the Student Success fees and a resolution about that might be forthcoming. They would use comments from the forums being held around the CSU and she appreciated the feedback from the Senate and would accept more. C. Nelson said the resolution the Senate passed about moving the Academic Conference from the Hilton had helped and the conference would now be held in the Chancellor's office. She thanked the Senators.

(<http://www.sonoma.edu/senate/resolutions/2014AcademicConference.html>).

EPC Report – M. Milligan

M. Milligan reported that EPC had approved two certificates. One non-academic credit certificate on WordPress Website Development and an academic credit certificate on Advanced Practice Clinical Education. The academic credit certificate had the first reading waived and was approved. This certificate had a grant attached to it, so Nursing needed to get it going to not lose the grant. They also had first readings on the proposal to create a University Studies curriculum committee and a GE course in Engineering being put forward for permanent status in A3. The GE proposal was bringing up questions about whether it met the A3 criteria and also what did A3 mean on the campus. A member noted that a Math course had been approved for A3 and wondered why this course was having issues in EPC. M. Milligan said anyone on the committee could move an item from consent to a business item and that was what had happened. She said to some extent, similar issues were discussed at GE and there was a division among the members there, even though it was ultimately approved unanimously. She could not explain why this course was having this discussion and the Math class did not.

FSAC Report – R. Whitkus

R. Whitkus reported that FSAC completed their work on the Lecturers in Departmental Governance policy that they would bring the Executive Committee the next week. They continued to talk about broad outlines for the revision of the RTP policy. They had ideas they would bring to the Ex Com for further guidance. FSAC was charged with finding out if the service awards could be re-calculated for faculty. They were told that the service awards would now be based on the fiscal year instead of the calendar year. This would allow the first year of a faculty member to be counted. He was not sure how this would be implemented. It was clarified that this change would affect all employees.

SAC Report – J. Shulman

J. Shulman reported that alcohol problems with students, such as passing out or overdosing, were up this year and the campus was further along numerically this year than all of last year. They were not sure if this was due to greater reporting or more actual incidents. This caused a lively discussion in SAC about alcohol education on campus and since the Alcohol and Drug coordinator had been de-funded, they might advocate for that. They continued to work on a resolution about

Student Affairs gaps at SSU compared to other CSU's. Dr. Leslie Shelton visited them and noted that most of her staff and a third of her salary was federally funded. A member asked for more specific data about the alcohol issues they were seeing this year such as student's class level and gender breakdowns. J. Shulman said she did not have that, but would try to obtain that information.

Discussion Item: Textbook Alternative Pilot – C. George and A. Rosencranz

C. George said that he invited the AS VP of Finance, Adam Rosencranz, to also help with the discussion. C. George gave background on the textbook alternative pilot program that they had endorsed working on with the Faculty Center. The pilot's goal was to find alternative, out of the box, ways to reduce the cost of textbooks for students. He said the resolution was an endorsement and they wanted to get all the major players on board with this idea. They thought if students could afford the textbooks they would be more prepared. They also were exploring alternative ways to present information to increase pedagogical approaches to connect with students. A. Rosencranz said that over their research they found that textbook prices had grown exponentially and they also found that students were not getting the materials they needed for the courses, were suffering academically and were not absorbing the materials as well as they might. C. George said seven members of the faculty were part of the pilot, which could reach 1000 students. C. George said the TAP program was just created this semester. The pilot group would brainstorm different solutions and assess sources for faculty. They would then present their findings for the Spring semester so other faculty could choose to adopt some of the solutions they find. M. Barnard said that the faculty selected were paid a stipend and were chosen because they would reach a large number of students. A member asked if the statement that SSU students pay 152% more than the national average for books was due to faculty ordering more books or that the books were more expensive or was the bookstore charging more for those books. C. George responded that they used data from the SSU website and compared it to the national average to get to the 152%. They did not know why. A member noted that low income students had a hard time with online texts, particularly if the book had to be purchased and included online tests. A. Gallino said that part of this pilot was about the Affordable Learning Solutions (<http://als.csuprojects.org/>) out of the Chancellor's Office, where open source textbooks were available now. The Associated Students wanted to reduce the cost of education. A member asked that they work with the bookstore to be able to provide older editions of textbooks. A member questioned the quality of open source textbooks due to faculty not being paid well for those materials. She had found lower quality open source textbooks in her discipline. C. George validated the faculty's purview over providing the appropriate academic quality of materials in their courses. A member was curious about any research about whether students do better with online sources or with books. A member asked that the pilot workgroup look at difference disciplines. There was substantial discussion about the numbers used in the resolution and how those might influence the solutions to the "problem." A. Rosencranz suggested that the focus on the numbers was detracting from the mission of the TAP program that is to find alternative methods of presenting course information. They would certainly not present any information they found not to work. A. Gallino noted that the numbers came from the Financial Aid website: http://www.sonoma.edu/finaid/cost_of_attendance/1415_costs.html.

He also noted that some of the Affordable Learning Solutions textbooks were negotiated to be open source to students by the CSU with the publishers or authors. A member noted that supplies for certain majors were costly and part of the reason they were costly was the cost of living in Sonoma County. A member argued support of the resolution. The President spoke about the reported “cost of education” being based on the amount of federal aid one could receive. Therefore, the campus would want to present the highest possible defensible cost, so that financial aid could be higher. That cost cited in the resolution for books may not represent actual costs, but what the Financial Aid office figured they could use and was not an average. A member suggested that there might be other places to look to reduce the cost of education, and thus the numbers used to make the argument were important.

Classroom revamp report – D. Roberts

D. Roberts said she was happy to report that they received 107 responses on their survey. The committee was working on looking at themes in the responses. She noted the difference between classroom revamp or classroom refresh. Revamp was for classroom that did not have any tech in them now. Refresh was updating classrooms that already had tech. For the revamp, they were looking a budget and priorities from the survey. She discussed some of the responses from the survey that were described the terrible conditions in some of the classroom. She noted that if there was a problem in any classroom, such as, sharp objects, holes in the floor, leaking ceilings, or filthy classrooms that faculty should email Carol Ingerman and she would take care if it. D. Roberts noted that the construction needed would be done when classrooms open up for extended periods of time. She said that they were looking at all classrooms regardless of size. A member asked for the completion date. D. Roberts said it would be on going and that the revamp would probably be done by Fall 2015. J. Wenrick said that if anything was broken, faculty could also put in a work request with Seawolf Services. A member asked if the budget were reached, would the project stop? D. Roberts said it was her understanding that there was a commitment on the campus for the revamp program, but she did not have a specific budget number. D. Roberts said that they wanted the tech to help with teaching and add value, not take away from teaching.

CFA Report – E. Newman

E. Newman reported on the CFA event they held on Tuesday. They had a lot of fun. They feed a lot of students and faculty. They marched and chanted. They heard speakers give ‘poignant testimony about salary inversion, the inability to attract quality faculty and the problems of class sizes for student. They also delivered 141 letters to President Armiñana asking him to rectify the situations they were describing by helping close the gap between the CSU and CFA contract proposals. She was happy to report that the organizing efforts were working and the CSU and CFA were back at the bargaining table. She reported that the bargaining team said there had been progress.

Follow up question about service awards from the Staff Rep

The Staff Rep asked if the new process for the service awards had already been approved. R. Whitkus said yes, it had been approved, but not implemented yet. The Staff Rep voiced concern about the switch for staff. R. Whitkus said that was not in FSAC's purview.

Good of the Order

J. Wenrick said that the chairs and tables for Toast and Charlie Brown would be set up within six weeks. M. Purser announced a non-profit conference would be held at SSU on October 30th and was a great opportunity for faculty to network in the community. In the afternoon, there would be an expanded version of the Career Fair for Non-Profits for students and later a panel talking about the future of careers in non-profits around three themes: sustainability, health and wellness, and social justice.

Adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Laurel Holmstrom-Keyes