

General Senate Meeting Minutes 11 October 2011

1. Call to order at 11:05 a.m.
2. Comments by the Chair B. Schmid:

There is a lot happening this year that will require a more engaged Senate. We need to get past morale issues in order to have an impact as a Senate. We'll plan to discuss issues at meetings then vote electronically as we don't typically have a quorum at meetings.

3. Announcements
 - a. Sabbaticals-
 - i. Application period extended from 10/1/2011 to 1/9/2012
 - ii. Provost will know funding status by early December

The Provost would like to approve sabbaticals this year but is unsure of funding. The deadline extension was approved by the Senate Executive Committee to avoid potentially unnecessary application work if no funding is ultimately available.

Comment made that faculty should apply for sabbatical regardless of funding, in order to indicate interest to administration. Comment made that faculty may still apply in advance of deadline, before funding status is known.

Question asked about taking unpaid leave to do research or other professional work. L. Kitazono noted that the Professional Leave Committee approves unpaid leaves.

B. Schmid noted that deadline extension was a one-time decision by the Executive Committee. If it is desired that deadline be extended permanently, that question would be brought to the full Senate.

D. Nincic suggested that faculty considering sabbatical notify their Chair informally, to help with the shorter processing time resulting from the extended deadline.

4. Discussion on “Recruitment and Appointment of Academic Administrators” Policy – see draft policy attached.

Inconsistency noted between definitions of academic administrators in preamble vs. section D7, some of which may also conflict with CBA definitions. Comment made that this definition appears to include Captain of TSGB and Chief Engineer, which contradicts past practice. Comment made that Academic Administration involves more than RTP role. Suggestion made that we remove sections D1-6 listing specific positions. Suggestion made to reword title of policy “... academic administrator or position that has significant impact on academic affairs.”

Comment made that section D7 may be interpreted to include department chairs. Suggestion made that we check the language of definition of MPPs.

Suggestion made that clarification be added to address part-time administrators. Should policy specify by percentage of administrative duties (>50%)? Or should distinction be based on whether an administrator teaches? Should the policy explicitly exclude chairs and keep language of D7? Support expressed for latter. Comment made that defining administrators by a specific percentage of duties will not accommodate future growth well.

Chairs are not included in this policy because they are elected, but suggestion made to apply this policy if there was an outside search for a chair. Response made that there is already a Chair search policy and we should keep Chairs out of this policy.

Comment made regarding “explosion” of new administrative positions in time of budget cuts. Suggestion made that we look at other CSU campus policies that offer greater transparency and greater faculty input on budget issues, vis a vis decisions to create new administrative positions.

Executive Committee will rework the sections in question a.s.a.p. and return this policy to the Senate.

5. Amendments to “Student Originated Requests for Change of Grade” policy and reformat – see draft policy attached.

This is first example of the new Senate policy format, separating policy from procedure. Included here is a procedural change of the time in which students must make their appeal, from 6 weeks to 2 weeks.

Additional discussion on issue of instructor incompetence as a basis for grade appeal, with some objecting to inclusion of that option. S. Pronchick noted burden of proof is on student.

It was moved that the policy change be put to a vote.

6. Statewide Senate Report (Steven Browne and Tony Snell)

At the September plenary the Board of Trustees proposed presidential candidates’ campus visits be eliminated. All campus Senates and statewide Senate drafted opposition resolutions. Board ruled they would recommend visits but not require them.

Resource recommendation: www.calstate.edu/AcadSen/

T. Snell serving on academic preparation subcommittee. S. Browne serving on fiscal subcommittee as well as serving as a designated lobbyist for Statewide CSU Senate.

7. Recap of Provost’s retreat by Chair

Proposed name change for Facilities Engineering to Electromechanical Engineering.

Application deadline for position of Academic Dean is Dec. 2.

One cruise in Summer 2012; non-licensed students should not plan to go on cruise.

Proposed requirement that incoming students purchase laptops.

Portal problems: IT on campus is doing everything they can; problem lies with outside vendor. Faculty should email Frazier, Pronchick, and/or Raul Lucky if they see problems.

Jim Burns gave overview of research projects happening on TSGB. If faculty have research ideas that would utilize the ship, contact Jim Burns.

Dean Pronchick is putting together list of 2010-2011 faculty accomplishments: research projects, publications, and presentations, to be made public.

Consultant's environmental scan recommended campus growth to 2500 students. Achieving this growth will likely involve an additional campus. Faculty need to stay involved in discussions and process of moving to a three-school organization.

8. Any other business

J. Chisholm will be sending out more calls for service.

9. Adjournment – at 12:27 p.m.