

Academic Senate Minutes
April 10, 2008
3:00 – 5:00, Commons

Abstract

Chair Report. Agenda approved. Minutes of 3/6/08 approved. Revision to M.A. in Organizational Development approved. Update on WASC. Associated Students Report. Resolution re: Staffing Ratios in Student Counseling and Psychological Services – First Reading. Academic Calendar Guidelines – First Reading. Resolutions on Blood Banks and Non-Discrimination – First Reading. Course Outline Policy revision – First Reading. RTP revision – Second Reading. Ad-Hoc Committee Business – Diversity Resolution – First Reading.

Present: 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, Terry Lease, Robert Eyler, John Kornfeld, Tia Watts, Murali Pillai, Richard Whitkus, Rick Luttmann, Wanda Boda, Steve Orlick, William Poe, John Wingard, Sandra Shand, Whitney McClure, Lane Olson, Art Warmoth, Thaine Stearns, Maria Hess, Karen Thompson

Absent: Tim Wandling, Charles Elster, Margaret Purser, James Dean, Lillian Lee, Bruce Peterson, Ruben Armiñana, Eduardo Ochoa, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Jonathan White, Adele Merritt

Proxy: Phil Huang for Raye Lynn Thomas

Guests: Rose Bruce, Mary Gendernalik-Cooper, Carol Blackshire-Belay, Saeid Rahimi, Victor Garlin, Carlos Ayala

Chair-Elect Scott Miller chaired the meeting in Tim Wandling's absence. The Chair was attending a Statewide Chairs meeting.

C. Nelson announced tabling for the Alliance for the CSU (<http://www.allianceforthecsu.org/>) on Monday, April 15th to fax the governor or call via cell phones that would be provided.

Chair's Report – S. Miller

S. Miller asked the body for their help in keeping the business moving along and described the speaking limits for the day as two minutes per person. He spoke about wanting to keep the Senate informed of the costs that have to be borne during these budget cuts. He reported that the site manager and educational coordinator for the Fairfield Osborn Preserve was leaving and there were no plans to replace the position. He noted discussions are on-going. He described the important role of the Preserve to the campus and the community.

Approval of Agenda – Approved.

Minutes of 3/6/08 – Approved.

Consent item:

Revision to M.A. in Organizational Development – Approved.

Update on WASC – R. Bruce

R. Bruce reported that next week is the WASC annual meeting. Diana Grant and Andy Wallace will be presenting there on preparing for the WASC visit under the political circumstances of the campus in the last two years. The report from WASC has been received and will be released to the campus after they check it for factual errors.

Associated Student Report – W. McClure

W. McClure discussed a resolution the AS passed about the Blood Banks. The Associated Student elections are coming up and they are working on their budget. She was asked what the second resolved clause meant in their blood bank resolution. It was clarified that it referred to San Jose State University. J. White said the resolution did not reflect all the thinking of the officers of the AS and other resolutions would be forthcoming. Another Senator remarked that he thought the use of people who “may feel” they have been discriminated against in the resolution was incorrect usage and argued that discrimination either has or has not occurred. W. McClure said that the AS has created a focus group to study the issue more.

Resolution re: Staffing Ratios in Student Counseling and Psychological Services – First Reading – K. Thompson

K. Thompson introduced the item by stating that SAC was sent a letter from the Hutchins School expressing their concern about the student counseling staffing after the Virginia Tech shooting. SAC researched the issue and drafted the resolution in response. They found that the staffing levels, according to professional standards, in the counseling center were significantly below average. The resolution does not argue that increasing counselors will make the campus safer, but is seen as part of moving towards that. The floor was opened for questions, etc. There was discussion in which both the Director of the Counseling Center and the Vice President for SAEM spoke. The Chair of APC reported that APC unanimously passed a resolution calling for six more months of comment on the strategic plan and welcomed specific comments on this topic for the strategic plan.

First reading completed.

Academic Calendar Guidelines – First Reading – T. Stearns

T. Stearns introduced the item, noting that the academic calendar guidelines were referred to EPC by the Executive Committee. He said there was some urgency to

approve these guidelines, so that calendars could then be created and approved. He said that in guideline #7 it should say “spring break should” instead of “spring break shall.” He explained the documents in the packet – the existing guidelines, guidelines showing proposed amendments, and a document showing how the guidelines will look if the changes are approved. The floor was opened for questions, etc. There was discussion.

First reading completed.

Resolutions on Blood Banks and Non-Discrimination – First Reading – R. Luttmann & R. McNamara

R. Luttmann introduced the item by discussing the non-discrimination policy in relation to allowing blood banks on the campus. The resolution requests not allowing blood banks to come to campus due to their discrimination of gay men. He highlighted many arguments that had arisen since the resolution was circulated among campus constituencies and answered each argument. He then noted the second resolution in the packet, which instead of barring the blood banks notes that allowing the blood banks to come to campus violates the non-discrimination policy and that allowing the blood banks to come constitutes a waiver of that policy. They wanted both resolutions to receive first readings at the meeting. R. McNamara also spoke to issues that had been raised during consultation. The floor was open to questions, etc. Many people made statements during this time.

R. Coleman-Senghor moved to extend debate ten minutes. Second. The Chair ruled that the motion changed the agenda and called for a motion to change the agenda. Motion was offered and given a second. Approved.

C. Nelson called a point of order and asked the chair to contain the first reading to questions and clarifications as given in the Senate by-laws. The Chair concurred. There was more discussion.

First Reading completed.

Course Outline Policy revision – First Reading - M. Hess

M. Hess said that the course outline policy was before the Senate again after the Senate referred it back to FSAC. The proposed change now reads: “Course outlines shall be provided to students in ~~writing or~~ *a format that is accessible to each student. . .*” The floor was opened for questions, etc. There was discussion. It was questioned whether the “to students” was correctly still in the document as it came from the Executive Committee. It was clarified that “to students” should also have been deleted. The correct phrasing under discussion: Course outlines shall be provided in *a format that is accessible to each student. . .*

First Reading completed.

RTP revision – Second Reading - M. Hess

M. Hess introduced Carlos Ayala who would be joining her for the discussion. She moved to substitute a revised version of the RTP policy after the feedback from the Senate had been considered by FSAC. Second. Approved. M. Hess noted that she outlined the major changes in a cover sheet document and welcomed any more feedback from the Senate. There was discussion. M. Hess noted that FSAC is considering a transition year to implement the new policy. E. Newman moved to add to C. 3. *vi. A one page summary of the departmental meeting, prepared collaboratively by the candidate and department representatives.* The Chair asked if there were any objections to this change. No objections. T. Stearns moved to extend debate by 10 minutes. The Chair ruled that the item would move 10 minutes into the next time certain. No objections. Discussion continued.

The ten-minute extension was reached.

Ad-Hoc Committee Business – Diversity Resolution – First Reading – S. Moulton

S. Moulton described the creation of the Diversity Resolution through two SSU community meetings. She passed out the resolution to the body. The resolution called for a standing committee to do a review of the history of diversity on campus and to provide recommendations for remedial action that could be taken in the short term and the long term. She described the proposed composition of the committee. She described the sentiment at the meetings as one of urgency about diversity on campus. N. Byrne noted that diversity issues were a large component of the vote of no confidence in President Armiñana. The floor was open for questions, etc. There was discussion. It was clarified that the resolution was asking for a long-term ad-hoc committee instead of a standing committee. It was noted that according to the By-Laws, the Faculty Chair appoints ad-hoc committees.

First reading completed.

Adjourned.

Signed Laurel Holmström, Academic Senate Analyst

Academic Senate minutes are digitally recorded and available at this writing on the SSU-5 server or in the Academic Senate office.