

## Senate Executive Committee Minutes

January 31, 2008

3:00 – 5:00, Sue Jameson room

**Present:** Tim Wandling, Edie Mendez, Susan Moulton, John Wingard, Thaine Stearns, Robert McNamara, Karen Thompson, Eduardo Ochoa, Art Warmoth, Larry Furukawa-Schlereth, Maria Hess, Scott Miller, Elaine McDonald-Newman

**Absent:** Ruben Armiñana

**Guests:** Steve Wilson, Victor Garlin, Tim Dondero, Whitney McClure

**Approval of Agenda** – typo corrected on agenda; #8 removed – AFS policy. *Approved.*

**Approval of Minutes of 10/18/07** - *Approved.*

### Chair Report – T. Wandling

The Chair reported on the convocation and faculty retreat. He noted that he had heard nothing but praise for the convocation format (panel discussion). He thought a larger table would be better next time and recommended the format to future chairs. He thought the format and having the microphones for the audience was a very good idea. He commented that he thought that, in the future, the Executive Committee might want to look at the Faculty Retreat more as an in-service day, in lieu of classes in the middle of the semester, instead of when everyone is working to get ready for classes. He then summarized the discussion at the Retreat. He noted a few issues that arose – potential opposition to the CLA; the inclusion of a more multicultural type question on the SETE. The actual SETE language is very weak and the notion of intellectual diversity is being co-opted by people who want higher education to hire more Republicans, not encourage multiculturalism. He thought FSAC might look at that. He said that at the peak of the Retreat there were about 40 people there, and so that needs to be looked at. He welcomed everyone to the second semester of his Chairship.

The Chair also asked for a time certain for the Focus the Nation discussion. *No objections.*

### Provost Report – E. Ochoa

The Provost noted that the President was off campus. He reiterated that because of the anticipated budget cuts they are scaling back faculty searches. The number has not been settled yet. The ones in question are on hold until the Deans can get back to him. The Chair asked why hires are being scaled back, as he thought the searches were primarily for replacement faculty. The Provost responded that they are part of cost reductions. It's more expensive to have tenure track faculty than it is to have lecturers. The Provost discussed the budget scenarios that lead him to consider scaling back the number of lecturers. He argued that if the campus hired tenure-track faculty they would have large amounts to cut by raising class sizes and SFRs. A member asked if the campus added faculty for the 300 FTES over-enrollment this

year. The Provost said lecturers were hired to cover the over-enrollment. The member argued that she thought the campus was still down in terms of replacement faculty. The Provost said they had done the calculations of the number to hire to replace faculty and grow. Now that we are shrinking, he will re-do the calculations. On the positive side, he said we will have a healthy tenure-track to lecturer ratio. On the negative side, it will mean increased workload. Another member asked about functions in the departments that only tenure-track faculty do - was that work being taken into consideration in the analysis? What if the budget scenario is better than it looks by the end of the budget cycle and we don't have those hires in place? The Provost said cost cutting measures were easier to do early than at the last minute. If more money comes than is expected, he was sure they could handle that by hiring more lecturers than anticipated and release tenure-track faculty from teaching. Another member asked about the meaning of permanency as discussed in the convocation, as the President said there would be no lay-off of permanent employees. She argued that faculty and some staff go through a thorough vetting process while other employees receive permanency by just being hired. She saw that as an inequity. She argued that cost cutting measure should come from another part of campus, as students are not able to get the classes they need. She argued for wait lists to see where course impactions are. The Provost said he would relay the comments to the President and take them under advisement. The APC chair said APC is gearing up to do an assessment by department and School of the relationship between pedagogy and workload and other related issues. It was based on growth, so now they need to re-group a bit. The Chair encouraged the Provost to also look at the number of people who are leaving this year or being hired away and to take that into account. For the overall health of our campus, he argued, we need enough tenure-track faculty here.

### **Planning for Focus the Nation – T. Wandling and T. Dondero**

The APC chair gave his update on what he was aware of about the planning so far. Their Sustainability Resolution is ready to go. He was hoping to have a report from the Outsourcing Study Group, but there are some complications that have developed because the staff union has filed a grievance about the group. L. Furukawa-Schlereth provided more detail about the grievance. He noted that University Counsel has suggested they stop meeting for now due to the possibility of an unfair labor practice. There was more discussion about the work of the Outsourcing Study group. The committee then discussed the format of the Senate for the Focus the Nation activities. The Chair asked T. Dondero who has been invited and how he saw the activity. There was more discussion. The APC chair noted that the time split needed to be worked out for Senate business and for the Roundtable. More ideas were proposed. It was suggested that the first half hour of the meeting be for Senate business and the last hour and a half be devoted to Focus the Nation. It was also suggested that the sustainability resolution have a time certain in the first half hour of the meeting and that there be a moderator for the roundtable. The Chair noted that he and the Senate Analyst would figure out the logistics. He also asked for many copies of the Sustainability resolution to be available at the meeting. A member asked that the resolution go out on Senate-Talk. The Chair thanked T. Dondero. He also asked W. McClure to let him know if the AS wanted to play a specific role.

## **Statewide Senate Report – R. McNamara**

R. McNamara said all the talk at the Statewide Senate was about the budget. He discussed the budget presentations that were given by CSU administrators and from CFA leadership. The Faculty Affairs committee he sits on will be dealing with the State Auditor's report on hiring practices in the CSU that recently came out. They passed a resolution not supporting parts of the report from the task force on drops, withdrawals and incompletes. He enumerated their concerns.

## **Chair-Elect Report – S. Miller**

S. Miller reviewed the agenda of Structure and Functions for the Spring. They are working on the policy for Faculty Representation on Administrative Hiring Searches, discussing CFA representation on the Senate and other committees, will be holding an election and will put into place the Dean Review Committees. They are also looking at providing for faculty referenda within the Senate's constitution.

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

L. Furukawa-Schlereth reported on the budget situation and said they will hold two budget summits during the Spring semester during April and May. He noted the hiring freeze for staff and administrators. He noted that two of the CMS analysts for the student module are going out on maternity leave. After discussions with Matthew Lopez-Phillips and the President, they have decided to integrate that module into the central CMS system to provide support. The Chair noted that a wait list for courses within PeopleSoft was critically needed for Chairs and Deans to make decisions. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said the student module had that capability and they hoped to be able to bring that functionality to the campus during this transition. He noted that the CRC will hopefully put into place a Faculty-In-Residence program that he thought would be linked to the FYE program. If that comes to pass, we would have our first faculty living in the residence halls in the Fall. The Chair said he hoped the Faculty-In-Resident program would exist independently of University 150, which has not been approved yet, and is only a course, not a program. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said he asked about that and that C. Rhodes said that they have a back up plan. M. Hess asked if the program would come to FSAC. L. Furukawa-Schlereth said it was his understanding that the appropriate consultation had happened. The membership voiced a concern that the program be referred to FSAC.

## **APC report – A. Warmoth**

A. Warmoth noted that he was concerned whether the campus was at the breaking point in terms of faculty positions. APC is looking at re-thinking what they are doing this semester due to the budget news. He noted two items that will require Senate action. One is the University Strategic Plan. The other is the proposal for a new academic unit coming from EPC. They are planning to report on the progress of the Core Academic Priorities. He said APC, EPC and the GE committees are talking about coordination of their approaches to the GE curriculum. The Provost remarked

that while growth has paused, the resumption of growth in the CSU is inevitable. He would not re-cast our long range thinking into a no-growth path. He also thought that the generality of the Strategic Plan was a strength in times of volatility. He thought the university had a blueprint from which to draw as resources become available, one that represents the university's aspirations. The Chair appreciated the Provost's broader perspective.

### **EPC report – T. Stearns**

T. Stearns reported on two “chunky” items coming forward from EPC. One is the Singapore program that had a split vote in EPC and will come as a business item. The second one is the University 150 course. They are having their second reading at the next meeting. There are other small program changes coming through. He said he would not characterize the idea for a new academic unit as a proposal yet. He drafted a memo gathering up ideas from different discussions that he sent to APC because it seemed out of the purview of EPC. He passed out the memo for the body's information. He also said they passed a resolution about the CLA which will be brought forward next time. T. Stearns argued that it was a good idea for a new academic unit to be initiated by faculty.

### **FSAC report – M. Hess**

M. Hess asked whatever the Executive Committee could do to get the RTP policy on the Senate agenda would be great, as a lot of people are asking her about it. FSAC is also looking at the SETEs, and a request to S&F for an expanded URTP committee, and apparently will be looking at a Faculty-In-Residence program.

### **SAC report – K. Thompson**

K. Thompson said she wanted to meet with her committee before she knows for sure about their agenda for the spring, but thought there were four things that might be on their agenda. They are: the status of advising, a resolution related to the ratio of students to student counselors, implementation of the Fairness board, and discussion of services for students during evenings and weekends.

### **Alumni on Senate-Talk – L. Holmstrom**

L. Holmstrom said she received a request from an alumnus to be subscribed to Senate-Talk. She had a discussion about it with the Alumni Office and they would like alumni to be able to subscribe to Senate-Talk. However, the rules the Senate set up for Senate-Talk do not include alumni. She asked for the Executive Committee's guidance. There was discussion. There was a general sense that the body did not want to allow alumni or change the rules for Senate-Talk. The Chair volunteered to talk to the Alumni office.

### **Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status**

There was one faculty member eligible for emeritus status – William Guynn from Art. *The item was approved for the Senate agenda's consent calendar.*

## Consent items at the Senate process

A Senator had raised an issue about consent items at the Senate and wanted short reports on curriculum items. The Chair had said he would discuss it with the Executive Committee. A member suggested the Chair have some short statement to make if the issue arises again and questioned at what point does a consent item become a business item. There was discussion. It was decided that to keep the tradition of consent items the same and perhaps find another way to celebrate the curriculum changes of a year in another way.

## Excellence in Teaching Award Committee – L. Holmstrom

L. Holmstrom asked for recommendations about whom to ask to serve on the Excellence in Teaching Award committee this year. The body recommended Jean B. Chan and Elizabeth Martinez or Suzanne Toczyski.

## Course Outline Policy revision – M. Hess

M. Hess pointed out one short sentence that required revision in the policy. There was discussion and it was noted that the change was really just one word. *No objection for the item to be on the Senate agenda.*

## RTP policy revision – M. Hess

M. Hess noted the email she had sent out with the legislative history of the document. A member asked if FSAC was really committed to bringing it to the Senate soon. She thought perhaps another round of written comments might be useful since it had changed a lot since the last time they put it out. There was discussion. The Chair ruled that the discussion would continue at the next meeting since the policy could not be brought to the Senate the following week anyway because of the Focus the Nation activities.

The Chair asked that the Provost address how the process of Transforming Course Design came to campus at the next meeting.

## Senate Agenda

### AGENDA

Report of the Chair of the Senate - Tim Wandling

Correspondences

Consent Items:

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Faculty Eligible for Emeritus Status -attachment

➤ Update on WASC

## BUSINESS

1. Sustainability Resolution – Second Reading – A. Warmoth – attachment T. C. 3:10
2. Course Outline Policy revision – First Reading – M. Hess - attachment
3. APC recommendation: Schools to Colleges – Second Reading (11/8 agenda)
4. TESL Discontinuance – Second Reading – T. Stearns – attachment (12/13 agenda)

### **Focus the Nation Roundtable – T. C. 3:30**

**Approved.**

*Respectfully submitted by L. Holmstrom*