Academic Senate of the California State University

Faculty Affairs Committee

Minutes

Friday, February 9, 2007
Coronado Room: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Cheyne, McNamara, Foroohar, Goldwhite, Guerin, Reagan, Sabalius, Van Selst, Vanterpool
Guests: Lorie Roth, Craig Smith
Recorder: Guerin

1. Approval of agenda

Foroohar requested to add item 6.6 to today’s agenda. McNamara will take Minutes at the next meeting. The committee will begin its next meeting at noon in March as an experiment.

2. Approval of minutes for January 17, 2006

M/S/P Goldwhite/Vanterpool approved as submitted.

3. Announcements

3.1 Jackie McClain and John Travis are attending the first fact finding meeting.
3.2 System-wide digital repository (Beth Ambos). Moved to item 6.7

4. Reports

4.1 Craig Smith, Faculty Trustee 12:00
4.4 Hank Reichman Time TBA

5. Business Items/Resolutions

5.1 Strategies for gauging faculty satisfaction [Cheyne]

Executive Committee has asked that Faculty Affairs Committee draft a resolution requesting the CSU to fund a survey of faculty satisfaction in the entire system, once the contract is resolved. Disaggregating the responses by campus/other demographics could also be informative to the system. The usefulness of surveying faculty members who have left the CSU was also suggested, and the possibility of a separate resolution on this. The possibility of a joint task force (ASCSU/BOT) was also raised, as was soliciting the assistance of Trustee Smith in advocating this to the BOT. Cheyne will draft the resolution for the meeting in May. She will also draft a resolution concerning exit interviews of departing faculty.
5.2 Workload Re-allocation: A Special Report to CSU Senate Chairs [Smith]
Smith reviewed the development of this document and suggested that Faculty Affairs Committee can help give this report more visibility across the system. Many expressed concern about the section entitled “Three Tracks to Tenure.” Smith will revise this document and bring it back to the Committee for further discussion.

Cheyne described the resolution to ask the Chancellor and BOT to support a periodic faculty satisfaction survey. Smith thought it was a good idea he could support once the contract has been settled.

6. Information/Discussion Items

6.1 International programs – broader issues [Sabalius]
Sabalius raised a concern about campus practices pertaining to approval of/or consent for faculty travel to attend conferences or conduct research at international locations. The implications for academic freedom were discussed. Roth was requested to investigate whether or not there are system policies regarding faculty international travel for academic purposes. Goldwhite will check for AAUP policies. Committee members asked to check on their own campus policies regarding faculty national versus international travel. We will continue discussion with more information at the next meeting.

Foroohar is concerned that CSU is lagging behind in international education for our students. Cheyne will forward issue to Academic Affairs Committee.

6.2 Campus support for collegial governance [Guerin]
Guerin asked if there is ASCSU data on the extent to which campuses provide resources to support collegial governance activities. Goldwhite believes such data have been collected. Cheyne will ask Thobaben for recent data.

6.3 Professional behavior in the event of a faculty job action
The recent memo circulated by Senator Hornbeck (who is also senate chair at San Diego) regarding having a campus conversation about the potential harmful consequences of faculty job action on faculty interpersonal relationships was discussed. Consensus was to leave this to campuses to address.

6.4 Audio-visual taping and other rights issues
Cheyne summarized key points from meeting with C. Helwig from meeting of January 17th. Because technology is changing so quickly, it was determined that a resolution on audio-taping or any technology at this time is not useful. Regarding the PATRIOT ACT, Foroohar will provide a report regarding the concerns of international students and faculty for the committee’s consideration at the April meeting.

6.5 Negotiating start-up packages for new faculty: Nature of consultation
A member of Executive Committee raised a concern that in some cases prospective faculty members are made promises of which the department chair or persons integral to implementing the commitment were unaware. Committee members were aware of practices such as this, but these seem to be isolated instances and the issue does not seem to merit statewide action at this time.
6.6 Dean/Department Chair evaluation policies [Foroohar]
Foroohar asked whether or not the Committee would like to put together a resolution encouraging campuses to examine their policies on evaluation of deans and chairs and identifying best practices. The Committee decided this issue was best left to individual campuses.

6.7 System-wide digital repository
The charge (dated 1/12/07) of the STIM Institutional Repository Subcommittee was discussed. This was linked to Bob Cherney’s concern that the system does not have an archive of the scholarly contributions of CSU faculty. Cheyne and McNamara will investigate further and report back to the Committee.

7. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:45.