ASCSU, Academic Affairs Committee  
Interim Meeting Minutes, February 21, 2014

Present: Simone Aloisio, Julie Chisholm, Bill Eadie, Kimberly King, Judith Lessow-Hurley, Jim LoCascio, AVP Chris Mallon, Christine Miller (Chair), Catherine Nelson, Darlene Yee-Melichar

Absent: Patricia Kalayjian, Mark Van Selst, Ken O’Donnell, Jodie Ullman

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Agenda: Approved

III. Approval of Minutes: Approved

IV. Chair’s Report: A written report was provided to the committee under separate cover. Oral report summarized discussion during Extended Exec meeting, which took place prior to AA meeting: 1) ASCSU Vice-Chair Steven Filling attended the Council of Senate Chairs meeting, where a discussion of GE policy occurred: a concern was voiced that campus policies are being written by administrators, not faculty. One example: GE double-counting is becoming overly broad, which might have an impact on the 120/180 unit cap. Bill Eadie: At the meeting, campuses shared their policies of double-counting with each other, and any concern about administrators making policy didn’t come up. AS-3158 included the creation of a task force on GE: this could be the group to refer the problem to. If any further follow-up on this referral is requested, the committee would like more information. 2) Exec asked for response from AA on the CO’s responses to the resolutions (tabled until later in the agenda). 3) Written reports from Chris Mallon and Darlene Yee-Melichar are in the committee’s email boxes. Time in the agenda will be provided to ask both of them questions about their reports. 4) Ken O’Donnell will join us at noon.

V. Executive Committee Liaison Report: Darlene Yee-Melichar (in addition to written report) 
COERC: In addition to Kathryn Harris (chair), the committee includes Diego Bonilla (Sac State) and Larry Hanley (SFSU). The committee still needs another member, one representing Southern California. Under ICAS: Legislative lobby days are April 24-5, 2014. CSUEU is also doing their legislative lobby days at this time. ACSCU Executive Committee wants to hear AA Committee input on the CO responses to our resolutions, and input on the CSU task force on ethnic studies. Campus senate chairs meeting yesterday talked yesterday about campus fees paid by students and used for faculty hiring. Question: Was this used to hire tenure-track or probationary faculty? Chris Miller (to Darlene): Our CalState Online representative was Jodie Ullman. Currently, we don’t have anyone from AA on the commission on online education, and we should. Darlene: I’ll bring this back to Executive Committee.

VI. Systemwide Committee and Task Force Reports: Tabled due to lack of time (reports will be emailed).

VII. Chancellor’s Office Responses to ASCSU Resolutions:
   a. AS-3154-13/AA: Recommendations Related to Nursing Preparation
      The response was discussed. No follow-up is needed.
   b. AS-3158-13/AA: Recommendation to Amend Title 5 to Establish Appropriate Unit Limits for Engineering Degrees
Bill Eadie: Campus senate chairs also got the responses yesterday, and they came to the conclusion that this response indicated that the CO was not particularly interested in forwarding this proposal to the BOT and was planning on going ahead with the process already outlined. Julie Chisholm: What does it mean to “unfold and mature over time”? On our campus, our engineering programs are happily cannibalizing upper-division GE…. Chris Mallon: We’re just proceeding with business as usual, and there may be some campuses holding back, but we have plenty of work to do. Plenty of campuses have come down in units. Catherine Nelson: Given the information that Chris has sent to the committee, are there proposals at the CO under consideration for an exemption? And if so, is the CO going back to the campus saying, “Can we work this out”? Mallon: I haven’t processed all of them. We are checking degree proposals with degree compliance. We don’t just say, “You can’t do this.” Sometimes it takes a couple of times before it hits the target. I have seen proposals from Bakersfield for GE exceptions for four or five programs. I had to turn them down. It seemed arbitrary. CSUN requested exceptions with a curriculum map, but it showed that every course introduced, developed and mastered the outcomes. That didn’t make sense. Think in terms of the components and the level of proficiency. I don’t say, though, “It’s not at 120, so try again.” We’re trying to show a transparent process of what’s going on in those courses, and how outcomes are met. We’re looking to see whether there are courses which are redundant. Chris Miller: Something you said yesterday (during a meeting between EVC Smith, AVC Mallon, and Exec—Miller was a guest) perked up my ears: What was it you said about ABET and oral communication? Mallon: ABET said that there is no minimum unit count for engineering degree, that they are based on an outcomes framework, and it doesn’t have to be that every component has a course dedicated to it. If they’re taught oral communication and performing in front of a live audience, and if they have considered their audience and message, and if, by the end of a capstone course or culminating course, students can demonstrate their proficiency, then that would be acceptable to ABET. Miller: How would an engineering program show that they are meeting these requirements? Mallon: You’re going to have to contact ABET. Miller: Engineering programs find that they are having difficulty teaching existing engineering requirements, and would have an even harder time embedding GE in their courses. Mallon: No one is asking engineering to do this. They don’t want to stand in the way of innovation. Jim: We did notice that Long Beach double-counted their senior thesis as their writing requirement…. Mallon: I’m sending you’re the names of the ABET people. Chair Miller will pass on comments to the Executive Committee.

c. AS-3163/AA: Concerns Regarding a Community College Baccalaureate Degree Pilot
Chris Miller said she was shocked that so many senators were fine with CCC’s offering baccalaureate degrees. Jim LoCascio: The Mercury News said that De Anza or Foothill wanted to offer a degree in computer science. This is a whole different ballgame than auto-mechanics. Mallon: We did a study of all of the CC degree programs that had been authorized throughout the US, and they did start very often in a limited way. The only way California would limit it, would be one degree per campus, but not by program. Nothing is off the table, and while they talked about applied baccalaureate degrees, they were going really hard after nursing, and I’ve heard there is some concern. We’re not sure that we’re going to see a limitation to the vocational. LoCascio: What is the measure of success with this 8-year program? Mallon: We have to be careful that whatever we propose, they may make us subject to the same thing. Bill Eadie: This is the case of the camel getting its nose under the tent, and once it happens, there it goes. I have mixed feelings about this: there are some places where it might be appropriate for CCs to offer these degrees; perhaps education, for example, so that students didn’t have to go away from their local communities to pursue that. But I think that we probably
aren’t going to be able to stop it. There are some powerful people behind it, including the chancellor of the CCs. What are our concerns in terms of the proposal? If it remains vague and has little criteria to improve things, it’s just a fishing expedition. The other thing I’m concerned about is how the CCs are funded, and that it would be more of a K-12 model as opposed to ours, and it could be seen as a way to grab entitlement of funding from Prop 98. We could express some scholarly concerns on this, rather than remain neutral on whether it’s a good policy or not. Catherine Nelson: Have we consulted with our nursing colleagues on this? And were the concerns of the CO’s office folded into this resolution? Chris Mallon: Yes, the nursing and the deans of health and human services have been consulted. My concerns came from these places. We aren’t just afraid of losing enrollments, but also we’re afraid we’ll lose faculty. CCs pay more than we do. This is very real and urgent for us. Marty Block called me a hypocrite: they are waiting for us to oppose, so they can call us hypocritical because of our doctoral degrees. We have just said that we are happy with the master plan and the transfer pattern. Chris Miller: Should the whole framework of the resolution be refocused? Judith Lessow-Hurley: I’m not that worried about education programs because we have a BA in that already. Nursing rises to the surface because it’s an applied field, and since the CCs firmly have their feet planted there, they might have leverage there. However, I forwarded the article because De Anza is one of the best CCs in the state or country, and I would argue that their GE programs are probably better than ours. As a result, if they’re leading the charge, it’s a pretty big charge. My issue is that limiting this to one program per campus is kind of irrational. The place where we could focus our concern would be limiting it to what kinds of things they offer, rather than how many they can offer. And also, reminding people that the UC’s didn’t want to teach our doctoral degrees. We should assert the right of first refusal, and limitations to which kinds of degrees they offer, and issues about funding. Simone Aloisio: I’m fine with the resolution as it is. People talking in the senate were ok with it, but I’m not sure this is widely held. On my campus it isn’t. Bill Eadie, Jim LoCascio, Julie Chisholm, Chris Miller and Catherine Nelson would be happy to work with it.

d. AS-3164-14/AA: In Support of Ethnic Studies, and Ethnic Studies Task Force Charge
Catherine Nelson: This (charge) is murky. I’m concerned about phrasing: what specifically is the chancellor is looking for. Policy? Recommendations? Judith Lessow-Hurley: Other things are murky. The rationale needs serious work. It needs refinement. We need to divide the two issues. Advancing ethnic studies is important, but it did strike me as odd that the chancellor wants a task force, and really what this resolution does is to promote ethnic studies. Kimberly King: The ethnic studies council is comprised of faculty who have organized themselves, and they are strong advocates throughout the CSU for ethnic studies. Chris Mallon: There was a group of faculty a few months ago who wrote to the chancellor, and the creation of the task force was a response to this. Chris Miller: What should I share with exec? Questions about what the outcome will be: will there be policies, or recommendations to campuses? Will those affect autonomy and academic freedom? How was the group formed? I will pass these issues and questions on to Exec.

VIII. Potential First Reading Resolutions
a. Proposal to amend Title 5, Section 40410 (the master’s degree): Chris Mallon: It’s not going to get to the Board of Trustees this year. Chris Miller: I’m happy to make the changes and bring it to the committee in March. I’ll work on revisions to it.

b. Resolution: Designation and Compilation of Online Course Modalities. Julie Chisholm distributed draft language to the committee earlier in the day, but discussion of it was tabled due to lack of time.
c. **Engineering unit limit requests for exception**: This was covered in the chair’s report. Feedback was received from Bakersfield, shared on the powerpoint slide. Exec is continuing to work on issues raised by Chair Miller about the process for considering exceptions.

d. **Revised program proposal template feedback**: No progress on this issue from Simone Aloisio or Jim LoCascio has been made. Chris Miller asked AA to make contacts on their campuses for feedback on this important form, with the goal that in March, it can finally be put to bed. Chris Mallon: I appreciate it. It is already being used in draft form.

**IX. New Business:**

a. **Awards for innovation in Governor Brown’s budget**

Miller reviewed a list of brainstormed ideas that had been distributed to the committee.

Judith Lessow-Hurley: I don’t know if these things fit the parameters, but other ideas are: 1. Some years back, there was talk of creating a passport to education, where you could collect units towards graduation at different places, without being tied to a particular campus. 2. We (SJSU) tried to give away the store to Udacity: all I could see that we were getting from them was technical assistance…but it was far more sophisticated than anything we currently have. We aren’t set up for online instruction: why not, rather than create a revenue stream for Udacity, create a production facility and shop it around? The CSU doesn’t have a sophisticated facility for online instruction, in house--perhaps one north and one south, perhaps real IRCs?  3. There is a program called AVID: college prep for high school students, getting underrepresented high school students to college. They inventory their IGESTE stuff. Most kids can’t go online and look at their stuff and see where they stand. There should be a statewide system for kids to do audits and get intrusive advising. Catherine Nelson: Diversity of curriculum, since this is one of the missions of the CSU. We need to find ways to integrate diversity into the curriculum. Chris Miller: I will pass these suggestions on to Exec.

b. **Statewide disciplinary councils similar to English and math**

Jim LoCascio: Department chairs used to convene once a year, paid for by the CO, but this was cut. Bill Eadie: Communication department chairs have been doing this, but funding has been a major issue. Simone Aloisio: Chemistry dept. chairs meet once a year. This usually gets funded by the dean’s office.

**X. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julie Chisholm