ASCSU Extended Executive Committee
Minutes
CSU Chancellor’s Office – Munitz Room
September 3, 2014

Present: Julie Chisholm, Bill Eadie, Steven Filling, Denise Fleming, Manzar Foroohar, Susan Gubernat, Diana Guerin, Thomas Krabacher, Christine Miller, Praveen Soni, Steven Stepanek

1.0 Call to order: 8:35

Reports:

2.0 Chair’s Report

The Chair noted that his plenary report was distributed to all yesterday via email.

In a meeting with Chancellor a few weeks ago he noted that he had again brought up the 120/180 exception report due this fall. The Chancellor said that he would not be able to comment on the report until the end of September when he was due to receive it. Yesterday, Dean Chris Mallon had reported she had received reports from every program but one and will have a spreadsheet available. The questions was raised: Was there a letter of disagreement sent from San Jose State? AA Chair Eadie was asked to follow up on a possible delay from that campus where a faculty recommendation may have been blocked as President Qayoumi is supposed to send a letter of dissent.

The Chair will serve on Executive Vice Chancellor search committee, which, as of now, hopes to complete its search by the end of the year (December). The current Executive Vice Chancellor Ephraim Smith, who will be retiring, will continue to serve in that capacity part-time until the new person arrives. The plan is to get the search results to the Board of Trustees by January, but there could certainly be a delay in the new EVC’s assumption of the position.

In response to concerns that there have been ongoing problems with communication with Academic Affairs at the CO, the expectation is that such problems will evolve along with personnel changes, though things could worsen should a “lame duck” remain in place.

About the Access to Excellence plan: The Chair emphasized the need for the Chancellor to collaborate with faculty and students if he intends to revisit A2E. It was suggested that this be followed up on by a resolution to that effect either from the Executive Committee or another committee or committees. Committees could co-sponsor such a resolution.
On graduation rates: potentially there is lots of information on people who leave and complete elsewhere, and there might be some use in pursuing data on those who stop out and finish at other schools through a national clearing house where such data is available.

System Budget Advisory Committee: There will be a conference call with the new CFO on performance measures/metrics and there will be further teleconferences with SBAC before meetings of the BOT to provide an opportunity for faculty input on budget matters. Notes that have been taken by Steve Brown for FGA should also be provided to the full senate.

Gerry Hanley, who originally been scheduled is unable to attend the plenary on Friday. Sheila Thomas will substitute for Hanley, in particular, to update the senate on Cal State Online and CourseMatch. Chairs should advise their committee members to prepare questions in advance of that session.

3. Vice Chair Miller
   Miller reported that Academic Conference planning is ongoing; there will be a meeting of the planning group at lunchtime to continue its discussion.

4. Secretary Gubernat
   Final versions of approved (vs. draft) minutes should appear in a Dropbox file. There was a discussion of the usefulness and some of the pros and cons of using Dropbox as opposed to email attachments.

5. At-Large Senators Soni and Chisholm
   They will be collecting the fee for the ASCSU socials; envelopes have been given to committee chairs to help with collection. Cash only.

6. Trustee Stepanek
   There will be a major Graduation Initiative event, sponsored by the CO, on October 15; Trustee Stepanek will be attending and ASCSU representation has been requested. An invitation has gone out to campus senate chairs; the meeting will include provosts, chairs, student affairs vice presidents, and assorted others.

7. Bill Eadie, Chair, Academic Affairs (AA)
   To prepare for the year’s planning a survey was given out to his committee members to suggest priorities for the year. The two largest areas of response were the use of technology in academic programs and the nature of the baccalaureate; in terms of the latter should there be potential changes, reforms, innovations? And what is the role of community colleges in terms of transfer and course offerings? Eadie will break up the committee into working groups to tease out specific projects from the larger themes and determine who will be assigned specific responsibilities for further work. The committee will decide what work products should result and time lines for should products should be. Eadie also floated the possibility of dinner meetings of the committee to enhance their socialization process.

8. Manzar Foroohar, Chair, Faculty Affairs (FA)
   The committee would like to pursue old business from last year, in particular, the request from the committee for a special committee on academic freedom (see the handout: bylaw #4
which references the formation of special committees). Foroohar says expertise beyond FA is needed for this endeavor, and membership of such a committee could well include people outside the ASCSU, including administrators. Foroohar noted that the UC’s have such committees on each campus as well as an all UC-committee. Charges and recommendations for such a committee are also listed on the handout. Questions were raised about whether or not to make this a single special committee’s purview or the singular focus of FA. Foroohar would like the Executive Committee to discuss this further.

The committee’s agenda, as given, also includes the topic of sexual violence on university campuses. This could involve much discussion but may not result in a resolution; that will depend on how the committee proceeds. The committee may also present a resolution on political attacks on campuses within the CSU; Foroohar has received a number of reports of such. The committee will also meet with the General Counsel for an hour, having briefed him on the CSU’s academic freedom’s policy document history and to find out seriousness of a commitment to a new policy on academic freedom. Should the CO not be on board there could be a resolution to the effect that such a policy is needed.

9. Denise Fleming, Chair, Academic Preparation and Educational Programs (APEP)

Fleming discussed how the committee has functioned in the past and what changes she expects to initiate this year. Per Bev Young, EVC Smith has instructed Academic Affairs liaisons to attend full days of committee meetings, so Fleming expects to work more closely with APEP liaisons to work more closely. Fleming detailed her plans to change the structure of APEP committee meetings to eliminate the campus reports of the past, which have been generally irrelevant to the committee’s charge. They are working on a commendation resolution thanking the Bechtel Foundation for its support of common core. Former Senator Postma and Senator Chong have formulated the resolution; Postma has been invited to brief the senate on the background.

10. Tom Krabacher, Chair, Fiscal and Governmental Affairs (FGA)

Krabacher thanked Tracy Butler for a helpful edit to the committee’s printed agenda. In an earlier conference call re. the agenda there was a new ask from the Chair to look at fiscal reports showing up on this month’s BOT, and Krabacher will report on these. He is providing a disposition report from legislative calendar to date in order to report on where things stand. The broader goal is keeping CSU issues, particularly budgetary, in front of the legislature:

Krabacher will prepare a letter of appreciation under the Senate Chair’s name to be sent to those legislators who signed on to “Stand up for the CSU” and the failed 95 M budget augmentation. It will be important to ensure that higher ed is an issue in this November’s election. While the ASCSU is not supporting particular candidates but in key races it will be important to make sure higher ed is kept before the public through op-eds, letters to the editor, etc. Krabacher plans to review the FGA charge with the new senator members. There could be resolutions asking to set budget priorities, such as hiring and funds for RSCA. It was suggested to reprint Gubernat’s op-ed reprint of the July 25 Sacramento Bee op-ed. It was suggested that there could be data and work on “time to completion” to inform legislators re. the appropriateness of a six-year vs. a four-year rate measure of graduation rates. In the past, legislators have advanced narratives or anecdotes anot data. There is a need to build better messaging system, with help from the CO’s Laurie Weidner in communications. Another
questions raised; could there be a placeholder for discussion on those qualified students denied admission in 2014? Krabacher will ask Ron Vogel to get the number of denied eligibles by campus—will look at these numbers and work on them together with APEP. Doing so could involve resource allocation, priorities; a case to make is the cost of not admitting them and the advantages to doing so: a so-called $4.50 return for every dollar invested. Krabacher will report to the September plenary on various bills and their disposition.

Miscellaneous matters:

Re: Performance metrics: there are now 16 metrics in the Ed Code; Vice Chair Miller will forward these. There was a discussion on how to approach metrics. It was noted that it will be important to be proactive in addressing metrics, as well as important that all stakeholders respond to Access to Excellence (A2E), not just in terms of a “tweaking” at the CO. ASCSU had invited a conversation earlier by asking for information from the CO, narrowing down which metrics will be highlighted and focused on.

Liaisons are scheduled to meet with committees at 3:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Gubernat
Secretary, ASCSU