

Academic Senate of the California State University

Faculty Affairs Committee

Annual Report for 2010-2011

Submitted by *Bernadette Cheyne*

Membership: Glen Brodowsky (vice-chair), Bernadette Cheyne (chair), Karen Davis, Steven Filling, Manzar Foroohar, Judith Lessow-Hurley, Hank Reichman (September only), Romey Sabalius, Tony Snell, Marshelle Thobaben

CO Liaison: Leo Van Cleve

Executive Committee Liaison: Diana Guerin

Regular Guests: Beth Ambos, Gail Brooks, Margy Merryfield, Lorie Roth, John Travis

Additional Guests: Christine Helwick, Elizabeth Hoffman, Eileen Klink, Chris Mallon, Barry Pasternack, Craig Smith, John Tarjan, Sheila Thomas

RESOLUTIONS

Faculty Affairs Committee recommended and co-sponsored a number of resolutions during the 2010-2011 academic year. These included:

- Endorsing the October 7, 2010 National Day of Action in Defense of Public Education
- Public Education Leadership and Political Neutrality
- A Call for Governor Brown to Appoint a Faculty Trustee
- Implications of the United States Supreme Court's Decision in *Garcetti v. Ceballos*
- Investing in Faculty Resources to Ensure Quality Education in the California State University
- Sale, Distribution or Publishing of Class Materials for Commercial Use (with FGA)
- Recognizing the Joint Committee Report on Student Evaluations of Teaching
- Amending the Constitution of the Academic Senate, the California State University (CSU), to Include a Statement Upholding Academic Freedom
- Condemnation of the Suspension of the Faculty Senate at Idaho State University (with AA and FGA)
- Support for Public Employees and Collective Bargaining (with FGA)
- Reaffirmation of CSU System-wide Policies Governing Special Sessions (with FGA)

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

FAC also dealt with issues that resulted in actions other than resolutions which included:

- **Strategic Vision and Goals for Human Resources:** Discussions occurred with Gail Brooks regarding a final version of this document that now includes five (rather than seven) strategic goals, and which incorporates suggestions made by FA.

DISCUSSED BUT NO FORMAL ACTION TAKEN

Many issues received detailed discussion by the Faculty Affairs Committee but, for various reasons, received no direct action. These topics and their disposition are briefly outlined below.

- **RSCA Grants:** FA had a number of discussions throughout the year with Beth Ambos regarding both the dissemination of and reporting on these grants. This topic appears again below as a “pending” item.
- **Contract Negotiations:** At all meetings held in Long Beach FAC received reports from CO and CFA representatives (usually Gail Brooks and John Travis) regarding the progress of contract negotiations. These presentations always included a Q & A session with the committee.
- **Access to Excellence and Global Awareness:** At the September meeting the Executive Committee requested that FAC review this issue. Senator Sabalius researched the topic and provided a detailed report, which was augmented by Leo Van Cleve who possesses a depth of knowledge on the subject. The committee concluded that, overall, findings indicate that Access to Excellence’s goals are being met in this area and that no action is needed at this time.
- **Observance of Religious Holidays and Campus Calendars:** This topic addressed concerns regarding how to maintain separation of church and state while respecting and being sensitive to students’ religious preferences. It was acknowledged that currently some religious holidays are acknowledged by campus calendars and others are not, but also that there are more religions and holidays than possibly could be accommodated by any calendar. FAC determined that a resolution on the issue would be unwise given its complexities.
- **Presidential Searches:** A number of concerns were expressed regarding the search process for campus presidents, with special focus on what was occurring on one campus in particular. Although an important topic, FAC did not see a direct role for the ASCSU to play in this issue.
- **Repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” vis a vis ROTC:** After discussing a number of issues surrounding this topic, the committee decided not to take any action at this time.
- **COACHE survey re faculty satisfaction and morale:** Currently a number of campuses are involved in the COACHE project, however there are costs involved that depend upon the size of the campus. Although there was some interest in recommending a system-wide participation in this project, given the current budgetary situation it was decided that the committee would not pursue the issue at this time.

PENDING FOR 2011-2012

The Committee proposes carrying over a number of issues to the 2011-2012 academic year.

- **RSCA Grants:** A request of campuses to report on 2007-2008 RSCA grants has gone out, which will result in the compilation of a system-wide report. The report should be available for discussion at the September FAC meeting.
- **Additional Support for Faculty Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities (RSCA) within the CSU:** The committee had intended to put forth a resolution requesting additional funding for RSCA grants but, after discussion with Beth Ambos, decided to wait until campus reports are received as noted under the above bullet item. Next year's committee may wish to take this up, depending upon the fiscal realities at that time.
- **Garcetti v. Ceballos and Academic Freedom:** FAC viewed its resolution on this case as a means of bringing this issue to the attention of faculty on individual campuses. Committee members believe that it would be valuable to create a follow-up resolution for campus distribution that outlines best practices as related to the Carcetti v. Ceballos decision, as well as academic freedom in general. In discussions with Chris Helwick it was pointed out that the current Academic Freedom policies and statements from the AAUP contain very male-oriented language. The issue of more gender neutral language might also be addressed under the broader umbrella of academic freedom. In addition, it was noted that requirements and training differ from campus to campus regarding public record requests (such as e-mail), and that this is worthy of additional consideration. It also was suggested that ASCSU representatives initiate a discussion with the campus chairs regarding system-wide policies relative to academic freedom.
- **Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights Pertaining to Sponsored Research:** A draft resolution was prepared for discussion by the newly-constituted FAC in the fall. A copy of that resolution is attached to this report.
- **Response to Recent and Current Legislation:** This issue regularly appears on the agenda as a discussion item in the event that legislation has been past or is being considered that has implications relevant to the committee's charge.
- **Faculty Control of the Curriculum:** Given ongoing and recent developments (such as AI), this item is of continuing concern and it was suggested that it remain an agenda item so the committee continues to monitor relevant issues.