Faculty Affairs Annual Summary 2012-2013

The Faculty Affairs Committee 2012-2013: Kevin Baaske (Chair) Los Angeles; Karen Davis, Monterey Bay; Manzar Foroohar, San Luis Obispo; David Hood, Long Beach; Judith Lessow-Hurley, San Jose; Harold Goldwhite, Emeriti; Saeed Monemi, Pomona; Romey Sabalius, San Jose; Marshelle Thobaben, Chico; Jodie Ullman (Vice Chair and Recording Secretary), San Bernardino.

The Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) had a very productive year, although it authored few resolutions. In September FAC reviewed each of the resolutions it had authored in 2011-2012 and carefully reviewed the responses provided by the Chancellor’s Office (CO). FAC concluded that resolutions were not always a particularly effective a means of influencing what happens as the system level. Instead, FAC chose to meet with CO administrators to discuss issues of concern to the faculty. Then, if warranted, a resolution would be crafted. One exception to this approach was the creation of a faculty showcase. This joint endeavor between the ASCSU and the CO administration created a webpage where each CSU campus could highlight the campus-wide awards presented on an annual basis to faculty. Categories include scholarship, teaching, service, and advising. On a quarterly basis CSU campuses will update their listings and faculty, students, staff, alumni, Trustees, state legislators, and the public will be encouraged to see the many and widespread outstanding accomplishments of CSU faculty.

One CO administrator with whom FAC met was John Swarbrick, Associate Vice Chancellor for Labor Relations. We had the opportunity to thoroughly discuss the implementation of the new mandatory reporting requirements for Child Abuse and Neglect. FAC raised many salient concerns about Executive Order 1083 that sought to implement the new law. It is our understanding that this EO is now being revised.

FAC also met several times with Margaret Merrifield. Topics discussed included problems with recruiting, training, and supporting department/division/school chairs, the flexibility provided in the contract to hire tenure-track faculty who specialized in teaching or clinical work, and the declining number of tenured and tenure-track faculty in the CSU. The latter discussion led to the FAC’s Chair writing an article documenting the decline across the CSU for the “Faculty to Faculty” newsletter. Although the FAC crafted a resolution enumerating our concerns, FAC voted instead to submit a resolution next fall calling for a commitment to hiring new faculty. Next fall the CO will be constructing its 2014-2015 budget request. It is hoped that a resolution at that time will have greater impact.

Christine Helwick, University Counsel, met with FAC to discuss the problems of students using cell phones and laptops to record class lectures and discussions without permission. Ms. Helwick assured us that faculty control the classroom and that if a faculty member desires to prohibit such recordings, a policy to that effect is enforceable if it is stated in the syllabus.
Rather than write a resolution, the Council of Senate Chairs list-serve was used to get this word out. Similarly, after a thorough discussion, FAC used that Chairs list-serve to remind campus senate chairs of the importance of explicitly stating in campus policy the voting rights in department elections of temporary faculty.

FAC spent considerable time crafting a resolution calling for a change to the ASCSU bylaws. Specifically, the resolution provided for the ASCSU to elect Standing Committee Chairs, rather than having the Executive Committee select them. This resolution, AS-3096-12/FA was not approved by the ASCSU.

FAC also discussed faculty rights and control over online course offerings. Again it was thought best to communicate our concerns to campuses directly via the Chair’s Council list-serve and to remind campuses of the importance of campus-based Intellectual Property policies.

Ray Murillo, Associate Director of Student Programs in Academic Affairs at the CO, spoke with FAC about mental health issues facing CSU students. FAC expressed concern about the low number of counselors on some campuses. Mr. Murillo shared with FAC the “Red Folder” initiative, an effort to use grant funding to provide CSU faculty with information about how to handle distressed students or to guide them during an emergency situation.

Dr. Andy Merryfield met with FAC on multiple occasions and shared what the latest news from the California Faculty Association. FAC perceives such reports to be very valuable. Dr. Merryfield also provided his views on many of the topics we discussed.

Leo Van Cleve, Director of International Programs, and Gerry Hanley, Senior Director of Academic Technology Services, served as our CO Liaisons. Catherine Nelson, Sonoma State, was our Executive Committee Liaison. All were wonderfully helpful in providing information and assistance.