Faculty Affairs Committee

DRAFT MINUTES
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Chancellor’s Office – Room 210

The meeting was called to order at 10:46 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Brodowsky, Cheyne, Davis, Filling, Foroohar, Lessow-Hurley, Sabalius, Snell, Thobaben, Van Cleve

Executive Committee Liaison: Diana Guerin

Chancellor Office Guest: Christine Helwick

1. Approval of the agenda – Gail Brooks will be unable to attend. Margy Merryfield will take her 1:00 time certain slot.

2. Approval of the minutes for April 8, 2011 – Approved as presented with one abstention.

3. Announcements:

   SenEx will draft a thank you to Chris Mallon regarding her efforts on behalf of the faculty concerning the Extended University. Committee member Lessow-Hurley recently was honored for 30 years of service at SDSU.

4. Review of Chancellor's Response to March Plenary Resolutions: There is no response as yet to the Senate’s March resolutions due to delays in transmission because of ASCSU staff vacations and illnesses.

5. Reports

   5.1 Beth Ambos: Addressed our concerns about sponsored research and intellectual freedom and rights. There are many unintended consequences that result from certain terms and conditions, such as export controls (to particular countries). There is an academic exemption to these policies, but the academy cannot opt in and out of the exemption as it suits our needs or desires.

      We are in the 25th year of the Student Research Competition held at Cal State Fresno which, at the same time, was celebrating its 100th anniversary.
A request of campuses to report on 2007-2008 RSCA grants has gone out. There is an excel spreadsheet tracking publications, grants, and their influence on teaching that is rolled out from campuses and aggregated into a system-wide report. This report should be placed on the FAC agenda for the September meeting.

One campus is having an issue concerning research and creative activities between the faculty and provost which is proving contentious. Therefore, the faculty is providing only minimal information for the report.

There is as of yet no update on how the budget situation may affect the RSCA funding for 2011-2012.

5.2 Margy Merryfield: Discussed a feasibility study on common human resources systems. The working group has an idea of how it might work and are taking it to the presidents. There was a meeting of campus HR directors and AVPs for faculty affairs to discuss it. Such an approach could save resources. This includes discussion of identifying best practices from different campuses to be used as modules across the systems.

Implementation of parts of a strategic vision for HR is underway. Teams have been established. Merryfield chairs the climate task force.

Chancellor’s doctoral incentive program: There were 85 applicants this year and the committee is making 60 loan offers. Many applicants are looking at CSU EDD programs, but these programs are designed to train K-12 administrators, not necessarily a subject area faculty position. The other challenge for the committee is an increasing number of applicants doing online Ph.D. degrees, making it hard to determine whether these programs will be appropriate for those who want CSU faculty positions.

The committee has received 7 applicants for the faculty director of the DIP.

5.3 John Travis: Re the budget – labor groups are trying various strategies to address the crisis, including taking the issue to the Republicans who have indicated some flexibility. The intention is that there will be a discussion of higher education in Republican areas in the central valley and San Bernardino. This would be done to help the public appreciate how much a cuts-only budget would really be and what it would mean to higher education.

The California Teachers’ Association will be occupying the capitol, à la Wisconsin.

Addressing what will happen if the tax extension fails, one of the approaches would be to get a budget passed in the Assembly and then try to get a referendum on the ballot for 2012.
Update on bargaining was provided. There are not many specifics at this point, but there has been some talk about the workload of librarians.

Questions were asked about self-support summer sessions. No agreement has been reached yet. It remains of concern to the CFA.

Questions were raised about furlough. Nothing has yet been mentioned about furloughs.

A question was raised about SFR. Some vacated MPP positions are being filled by faculty performing their functions.

Special Sessions/Summer Sessions/State Support/Self Support – they’re not all interchangeable. Special sessions come under Extension, are interim/summer and they all are credit bearing. Special sessions are the means by which Extension can offer regular credit courses. All special sessions are Extension, but not all Extension is special sessions.

With regards to our resolution on the Extended University, it was noted that student fee concerns lie with the CO, workload compensation lies with CFA, but the curriculum issues are the primary focus of the faculty and should be primary in our resolution.

5.4 Diana Guerin: SenEx reminds us that we are expecting a cut to the ASCSU budget of about $85K. The incoming SenEx will need to address that. It is equivalent to about 17 assigned time slots.

As we close out this year, it is important that we get our travel claims in on time. They are needed by the 13th of May.

We will be doing the clicker voting process on Friday when voting for senate officers.

5.5 Leo Van Cleve: Ron Vogel, who had been Provost at CSUDH, will now be Associate Vice Provost of Academic Affairs. Academic Affairs is glad to have him here.

Continuing issues include the Graduation Initiative, SB 1440, and Early Start.

All CSU students had been pulled from Japan, but are approved to return in Summer and Fall. As for Mexico, some students have been refused permission to go due to the travel warning. Plans are under consideration to return to Israel in 2012.

6. Resolutions

6.1. Systemwide Policies on the Extended University: After discussion, two additional resolved clauses were added and it was sent to the Plenary.

6.2 Resolution on Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights Pertaining to Sponsored Research: There was a lively discussion that included concerns about the ownership of online materials when faculty are given development money.
This will be on the 2011-2012 FAC agenda. The topic also relates to developing a policy on academic freedom. There was a suggestion to bring the issue of teaching into the policy by coupling it in terms of the classroom.

6.3 Support For the Establishment of a CSU Professional Doctorate Advisory Committee: The committee raised questions of the goal of the committee, whether it was to be advisory, oversight, approval? The committee did not believe that it had sufficient information or time to co-sponsor at this time.

7. Discussion Items

7.1 Garcetti vs. Ceballos update: An e-mail was received from Craig Smith that provided an update on this issue. The committee discussed creating a resolution and/or paper that outlined best practices for dealing with issues of this nature to be distributed to campuses. It will be recommended that this be part of FAC’s Fall agenda, and may possibly be folded into the discussion of academic freedom.

7.2 Change to language of BOT policy on Academic Freedom re gender neutrality: We will recommend that this will be taken up when FAC works on the Academic Freedom policy in the fall. The committee did not feel that is should be dealt with as a separate item.

7.3 Public record requests, faculty e-mail and academic freedom: (See minutes from 4/8 with Chris Helwig.) Discussion about differing requirements on campuses concerning training and that, in general, more training may be needed. It was suggested that discussions continue next fall.

7.4 Response to recent and current legislation: There were no specific topics discussed, but the committee believes it should remain an ongoing agenda item.

7.5 Governance policy and practices within the ASCSU: Baaske will be sharing the final report from the Task Force with SenEx. There has been a suggestion that a list be compiled of individual Senator’s areas of expertise, or a more detailed bio on each senator with a photo on the website. It was recommended that this not be carried over to the 2011-2012 FAC.

7.6 RSCA grants – outcomes reporting: See discussion with Beth Ambos under 5.1 above.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.