Academic Senate CSU

Faculty Affairs Committee
Minutes
21 February 2014, 10:00-1:00 (virtual)

1. Approval of Agenda
We would like the list of campuses represented on the agenda template alongside member names.
Approved the agenda as distributed.

2. Approval of Minutes – 22 January 2014
We updated the minutes to fix language related to the Academic Freedom committee and then approved.

3. Member Announcements

4. Reports

4.1 Chair: Manzar Foroohar (SLO)
Manzar is still trying to connect with the office of general counsel for a meeting to discuss academic freedom. They have not responded, and while Tracy was enlisted to help, she couldn’t get an answer either. Manzar has asked Diana to follow up and Diana promised an answer by Monday. Manzar hopes to have a meeting by our March plenary, and to share the draft policy recommendations for the CSU Policy on Academic Freedom (in dropbox). Manzar will ask the general counsel to come to the March meeting prepared to discuss issues.

Manzar met with the Extended Executive Committee (virtually). AA is addressing several concerns related to the 120/180 unit limits, and is having difficulty obtaining information from Chris Mallon. They may have a resolution addressing concerns for the next plenary. Sean noted concerns with the spreadsheet with unit information, and Manzar will report this to AA. Concerns were noted about lack of transparency and related process issues.

Manzar reported that APEP is looking at the raw Early Start data from different campuses that the CO offered after the last plenary. ExComm asked APEP to analyze the data and come with a report for the March plenary. FGA is concerned with reports from campuses that campus-based fees are being used to hire new faculty. They’re not sure if this is legal and will report back. Manzar’s report focused on the internal communication resolution. ExComm gave us some advice that will be discussed later in the agenda. Manzar also discussed the resolution on the creation of a new standing committee on academic freedom.

We discussed the lack of response by administration to AS/faculty needs, and indicated concern that this is reverting to prior times. Diana and ExComm are working on issues related to this. Manzar informed us about resolutions from two years ago that addressed communication and governance concerns that did help to at least temporarily improve transparency and communication. She will send these out to the committee.

4.2 Chancellor’s Office Liaison: Gerard Hanley/Leo VanCleve
Was not present for the meeting
4.3 Executive Committee Liaison: Susan Gubernat (time certain: 11:30-12:00)

Susan updated us on ExComm actions related to the abortive process of faculty governance related to engineering unit limits, which include possible internal and external letters regarding the process, discussions with the Chancellor, and actions to determine the status of faculty panels.

We discussed possible FA concerns that ExComm didn’t weigh in enough during the first reading discussion of the resolution on communication between senators and campus faculty. Susan assured us that ExComm supports the resolution and didn’t intend to indicate otherwise.

A member asked if this was a good time for campuses to show support for the Ethnic Studies programs system-wide. Susan noted that Chris Miller was the best person to address this, and noted that she will follow up but we can do so directly as well.

We shared with Susan our discussion of shared governance and communication issues and the prior resolutions passed related to this issue. Susan will share these resolutions with ExComm.

We shared with Susan the projects we’re working on, and confirmed with Susan the desire for a newsletter article on academic freedom. Susan confirmed that the article would be due in April.

Susan noted that ExComm is following up on CO response to the RSCA resolution, particularly with regard to the vagueness in the information about funding allocations. It will be important to have them state what was allocated and how it will be distributed.

5. Review of Chancellor’s Office Response to Faculty Affairs’ Committee resolutions from 23-24 January 2014.

AS-3156-13/FA: Reinstatement of Faculty Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Fund

The CSU faculty is widely recognized for their research, scholarship, and creative activities. To support these endeavors, campuses have distributed funds and the Chancellor’s Office created the RSCA Program, which has added to the pool of available resources. Regretfully, the support for RSCA was eliminated due to lack of funding. We agree with the spirit of this resolution and the Chancellor has approved funding that has been earmarked to support faculty research, scholarship, and creative activities. Details of the funding distribution are being finalized.

We agreed that this was generally a positive response, but that we need to keep an eye on the “details being finalized” portion of this. We need to follow up to see if the Board of Trustees discussed this issue.

6. Second Reading Resolutions

6.1 Recommendation on the Eligibility of Lecturers for Emeritus Status (Davis, Eudey)

Posted to Dropbox is policy information we could find regarding emeritus criteria at each of the campuses. We updated the resolution to reflect campuses where it was possible for lecturers to obtain emeritus status. A challenge is that some campuses explicitly state that lecturers can obtain emeritus status, others offer a statement about “general faculty” obtaining this status, others have explicit language that prevents lecturers from emeritus status, and some have a policy that includes “special circumstances”
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under which those who aren’t tenured full professors can be awarded emeritus status. When we first
developed the list it was decided that the “special circumstances” campuses would be included in the list
since it was technically possible for lecturers to be awarded emeritus status. Betsy will contact campuses
to see if we can confirm that these possible special circumstances are designed to allow lecturers to obtain
emeritus status.

We discussed moving the list of campuses to the rationale, and simply indicating in the resolved our
commendation for those campuses that award emeritus status to lecturers by specification or exception.
We can put the list of campuses in the rationale or a footnote to the list. We noted that in the first reading
the resolution had only included a general commendation such as we’re recommending and listed the
number of participating campuses in the rationale; at that time we were asked to add in the list of names
into the resolved clause to give them visibility. Putting the names in the rationale seems a good
compromise that will improve the likelihood of passage.

We have developed a new resolvoed clause that commends campuses, and will reference the policies as
part of the rationale and/or footnote.

6.2 Facilitation of Communication…. 3162-2
We had a lengthy discussion about the feedback received during the plenary, especially concerns raised
about the direct points included in the resolution. We discussed the reasons for the resolution and the
positive impacts it can have on campus communications/culture, as well as reasons why there was lack of
support for some of the specifics we had included.

We decided to remove resolved 3, and to reword resolved 4 to read we “urge campus senates to work with
ASCSU senators to facilitate prompt…” In the version posted to dropbox the committee made a change
in rationale in line 27, adding campus senate committee and added in “efficient” instead of “direct”
communication. We noted some additional comments from the plenary (included in lines 58-59 of the
resolution) that suggest additions to the rationale. Manzar will revise the resolution and share a draft for
the March plenary.

6.3 Appointment of faculty representatives to committees/task forces and commissions
(Exec. Com.)
ExCom is still working on this.

6.4 Ethnic Studies (AA)
AA says there won’t be any major changes on it. We agreed we still want FA to co-sponsor this
resolution

7. Potential New Resolutions
7.1 Recommendations on system wide/campus criteria for distribution of RSCA funds –
Hood
No new news. They will follow up for next meeting.
7.2 Academic freedom and electronic communication (general condemnation of attacks on academic freedom, Use the case of Kansas University) – Wheeler

We had lengthy discussion about the various directions this committee should take with regard to issues of academic freedom, and the order in which such activities should occur. We recognize that the approval of a policy on academic freedom will require many steps including drafting by our committee, initial review and approval by the general counsel, two readings at Academic Senate, and response by the Chancellor’s Office and Board of Trustees. We discussed possible ways to move with deliberate speed while also allowing opportunities for appropriate buy-in and consideration of the issues. We also want to address issues related specifically to electronic communications and a need for a standing committee on Academic Freedom.

Of key importance is getting the counsel to look at the policy, and if we’re meeting with resistance we may need to consider a resolution to address process.

We will take off of the agenda a resolution on Academic Freedom and electronic communications for the March plenary. All members can look at draft policy in dropbox carefully in terms of every single word and bring recommendations to March meeting to try to perfect this policy at least among ourselves so that we have something concrete for a meeting with general counsel.

7.3 Creation of a new ASCSU standing committee on academic freedom- Foroohar

This requires a change in the constitution so it was brought to ExComm before drafting the proposal. ExComm suggested we write a report about our reasons for a new standing committee, which Manzar will send to Diana for consideration at the March ExComm meeting. ExComm suggested our committee write an article about Academic Freedom in the CSU for the newsletter. They suggest a specific article on this in addition to the FA report. The AF Subcommittee will work on the article for the next newsletter. This item will be off our agenda as a resolution, but will be a discussion item for March.

7.4 Role of lecturers in shared governance -Davis

No new report.

8. Additional topics for discussion

8.1 Charge for the CSU Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies (FA Dropbox- 6 February 14)

We discussed the revised charge of the Task Force, and noted that the language is not fully inclusive of the emerging nature of ethnic communities within the U.S. We considered language recommendations that would be more inclusive of new immigrant groups that might expand the focus of Ethnic Studies programs.

We recommend adding to the end of #2 “and growth of new immigrant communities.” We also encourage adding “other” as a new bullet in the first section.

8.2 Academic Freedom:

- CSU draft policy (FA Dropbox- 6 February 14)
- Act (UCLA policy) (FA Dropbox – 5 January 14)
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8.3 Faculty spotlight awards (new awards?)
none

8.4 Student evaluations –Eudey

No report until late spring.