

Faculty Affairs Committee
Draft Minutes
Friday, October 15, 2010
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Room 210 - Chancellor's Office

Meeting called to order at 9:46 a.m.

Present: Foroohar, Cheyne, Davis, Brodowsky, Filling, Lessow-Hurley, Sabalius, Snell, Thobaben

1. Approval of the agenda and prioritization of discussion items

Chair reported that in prioritizing the many outstanding issues on its agenda, ExCom requested that FAC consider whether or not it believes that an issue rests within its purview, or whether it might best be handled by or with another standing committee.

ExCom had questions regarding agenda item 7.9 regarding the Systemwide Taskforce on the Extended University.

ExCom also raised questions distinguishing distance education from the Extended University. FAC decided to include this discussion in the overall discussion on the Extended University.

A new issue also arose on ExCom about faculty “presence” on campus vis-à-vis distance education. This item was added to the Agenda, although it was decided that FAC will refer this issue to CFA, as well as referring to CFA ExCom’s questions regarding the three units of collateral duties compensation for FERP faculty since it is believed that these are bargaining questions.

It was noted by a FAC member that the ASCSU constitution does not have an explicit statement referring to Academic Freedom. This topic was added to the agenda.

FAC also considered referring the question about the resolution on the political neutrality to CFA, which has or will come out with a very strong statement that admonishes the Chancellor to remove himself from the Chamber of Commerce.

Another FAC member suggested putting items 7.12 and 7.13 further up on the agenda, both of which deal with Access to Excellence issues. The previous ExCom met with the Chancellor who concluded that that we are not being sufficiently proactive. The FAC chair proposed these items for FAC to discuss and potentially offer resolutions.

The agenda setting and prioritization resulted in the following:

1. Moving the discussion of the Extended University up to the top of the agenda (items 7.4 and the closely related item 7.9)
2. Writing a resolution on item on 7.7, concerning online evaluation of teaching, relating also to the report of the subcommittee on student evaluation of teaching which has been on the FAC agenda for a long time.

3. Crafting a resolution in support of amending the ASCSU constitution to include an explicit clause on Academic Freedom.
4. Address item 7.12 from the agenda concerning Access to Excellence Commitment 2: Plan for faculty turnover and invest in faculty experience
5. Address item 7.12 from the agenda concerning Access to Excellence Commitment 7: Enhance opportunities for global awareness.
6. Discuss concerns about a policy regarding the archiving of e-mail as item 7.15.

The revised agenda was approved (M/S Lessow-Hurley and Davis).

2. Approval of the minutes for September 15, 2010 (M/S Filling and Snell):

Approved with minor editorial changes and sent final version to senate office for posting.

3. Announcements

- Sabalius noted the distinguished speakers who visited SJSU in the past week.
- Next meeting in November currently is scheduled from 10:30-4:30. FAC will meet in November from 11:00-5:00
- There is a new website for selling class notes, NoteUtopia.com. This was placed on the agenda as item 6.4.

4. Review of Chancellor's Response to September Plenary Resolutions

None received

5. Reports

5.1 Diana Guerin (ExCom Liaison)

- FAC reported prioritization of its activities to Guerin.
- Guerin reported that ExCom is inviting Bob Linchide and Bill Hauck to address the plenary and that Ralph Wolf, chair of WASC, will be invited to the next plenary to discuss issues of accreditation and assessment.
- FAC recommended inviting Karen Haynes, President of CSU San Marcos, and Sheila Thomas, the newly-appointed Dean of the Extended University, to address the Plenary.
- Guerin reported that ExCom discussed the implementation of SB1440. We need a clear direction on how to proceed.
- Guerin informed FAC that regarding the Graduation Initiative, meetings have been held in the Northern and the Southern regions of the state.

6. Resolutions

6.1 Implications of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Garcetti v. Ceballos:

Follow up was provided by FAC members who have done outside investigation. The committee decided that before doing anything beyond endorsing AAUP policy, we need to study the issue further. We will invite Craig Smith, a first amendment scholar, to inform our discussion before we continue work on our resolution.

6.2 Public Education Leadership and Political Neutrality: Changes were made to this resolution in accordance with feedback received after the first reading.

6.3 Affordable Learning Solutions Initiative (co-sponsor with FGA and AA?): FAC strongly supports strengthening Resolved 3 and made suggestions for doing so but remains reluctant to co-sponsor the resolution as other parts of it raise concerns about balancing affordability and quality, faculty purview over curriculum, as well as placing an undue burden on faculty by making them justify their textbook selections. At no point in the rationale is Resolved 3 mentioned. Therefore, chair of FAC will speak to FGA and AA regarding Resolved 3 and ask them why the rationale in no way references what FAC views as the central issue in the resolution. Cheyne later reported that this was discussed with Chairs Yee-Melichar and Boyle during lunch. Yee-Melichar noted that FGA is reworking the resolution to focus more strongly on Resolved 3 and will provide a revised resolution when it is available.

6.4 NoteUtopia.com: Cheyne will write a draft resolution on CO response to the NoteUtopia.com website.

7. Discussion Items

7.4 & 7.9 Self-Support Summer Sessions/Graduate Programs and integrating summer into the curricular structure of the CSU & System-wide Task force on the Extended University. We have recommended inviting spokespeople to our next Plenary. Further discussion was deferred in the hopes that Karen Haynes will talk to the next Plenary prior to the committee taking any formal action.

7.7 FAC review of the ASCSU-CSU-CFA Joint Report on Student Opinions of Teaching Effectiveness: While the report appears to make reasonable recommendations, the issue remains that this is an imperfect way of defining good teaching or evaluating teaching effectiveness. Keeping the issue at the forefront of faculty thought, FAC review the Joint Report and will craft a resolution endorsing the findings of the report while adding other suggestions that may come up through FAC's discussions. Perhaps we should wait for input from the WASC representative regarding assessment before bringing forward such a resolution in the January plenary.

7.8 Amending the ASCSU Constitution to include a phrase regarding Academic Freedom. CFA and other institutions have explicit statements on Academic Freedom. There is no explicit statement in the Constitution of the ASCSU. There was agreement on FAC that, since so many of our resolutions focus on and refer to Academic Freedom, it is reasonable to make such a change, perhaps by including and affirming the definition of Academic Freedom from AAUP (1940, 1970). Cheyne will be responsible for following up on the process of amending the ASCSU Constitution. Foroohar will draft a resolution.

The Committee discussed the possibility of crafting a resolution calling for a taskforce to look at the ASCSU Constitution and Election rules and bylaws. This will be agendized for our November meeting.

7.12 Access to Excellence, Commitment 2: Plan for faculty turnover and invest in faculty experience: The committee discussed an action review and update of the Faculty Flow report. There has been a concerted effort on some campuses to the reduce percentage of tenure line faculty to bring it down to system average, while the system average is FAR below the state mandated (ACR73) average. Faculty must be proactive in advocating for ACR 73. (Filling and Lessow-Hurley will draft a resolution.)

7.13 Access to Excellence, Commitment 7: Enhance opportunities for global awareness: A resolution will be drafted by Sabalius. Consider including language re RTP “appropriate acknowledgement of faculty involvement/effort . . .” etc.

7.15 E-mail policy on campuses: Rumors have surfaced that the CSU is contemplating archiving all campus e-mail correspondence for a period of 7 years which it would be accessible for review. In the memo that Cheyne will send to Jim Postma re faculty presence on campus and three unit collateral duties for FERP faculty (both of which we will recommend be referred to CFA), she will include a request that he contact the Vice Chancellor to seek clarification re rumored e-mail policies.

Summary of Further Action and Assignments:

- Garcetti v. Ceballos (Lessow-Hurley and Filling): Cheyne will invite Craig Smith to our November meeting.
- Cheyne will draft a resolution on the CO response to the NoteUtopia.com website.
- Academic Freedom Amendment to ASCSU Constitution: Foroohar will draft a resolution and Cheyne will investigate process for amending the constitution.
- Access to Excellence, Commitment 2: Filling and Lessow-Hurley will draft a resolution.
- Access to Excellence, Commitment 7: Sabalius will draft a resolution.
- Brodowsky will send Lessow-Hurley’s changes regarding item 6.2 (political neutrality) to the entire committee.

8. Adjournment 2:30 PM