

Faculty Affairs Committee

Minutes

Friday, October 16, 2009

Via Teleconference

Participants: K. Baaske, G. Brodowsky, K. Davis, M. Foroohar, D. Lord, R. McNamara, A. Snell, J Shapiro, M. Thobaben,

1. Approval of the agenda MSP McNamara/Brodowsky

2. Approval of the minutes for September 10, 2009 MSP McNamara/Brodowsky

3. Announcements

- Chair Baaske shared that a new issue has arisen on EXEC brought forward by Jim Postma. The issue concerns a new website/software called coursehero.com. This website, according to Postma, contains a lot of exams, materials, etc. from CSU. The material was obtained using a web-crawler that accesses public website. A lawyer for the CSU says the issue is timely – lots of schools across the country are having similar problems with this new technology and its effects on academic freedom, the security of course materials and exams, and intellectual property. The issue has no obvious solution. Postma shared this information with Senate chairs via an email distribution list. The email urges senate chairs to notify faculty and encourage them to check to see which, of their own materials, have been linked to this software and to urge them to protect their own websites. AA is considering a resolution on the matter.
- For our November meeting, the following CO guests will be joining us: Lori Roth and Gail Brooks. Beth Ambos has sent us a report on RSCA.
- Foroohar– asked that we invite Chris Hanson to address issues related to summer courses and self-support.
- Shapiro asked that someone from Executive committee come to our meeting to discuss how campuses can respond to some of the more critical situations on other campuses, such as program closures. He is seeking guidance about how we can we share general letters of support.

4. Reports – None aside from the announcements listed above

5. Resolutions

5.1 A Call to Postpone the Cycle of Program Review – Discussion centered on how do we can address two separate issues of the budget crisis in terms of furloughs and access. See revised resolution for changes.

5.2 Furlough Implementation and Faculty Rights – See revised resolution for changes.

5.3 Condemnation of Suspension of 2009-10 Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Grants (What did we do on this one?)

6. Discussion Items

6.0 Concerns about course offerings in self-support summer sessions-brought forth by Foroohar. The issue has arisen on her campus, SLO. The campus had been considering cancelling summer and then impaneled a task force to consider self-support through university extension. Foroohar explained that such decisions are made locally but on her campus, the decision has not yet been approved by the chancellor's office.

A memo from Executive Vice Chancellor Echevarria said that according to Executive Order 802 this cannot be done. Foroohar contacted Chris Hanson. Hanson referred to Executive Order 802 but was uncertain about whether this would be allowed. The CO has not provided any written confirmation. CFA says this has happened on other campuses, but they are going to challenge it statewide.

The first problem involved in such a migration to extension concerns the legality of the move to self-support. The CFA grievance will take 2-3 years. The campuses are going to do the move anyway. Senate cannot get involved in the discussion of legal issues. However, Foroohar suggest that Senate does have a role in the discussion on curricular issues that are within the purview of the faculty.

The second problem involves student fees for self-support programs as well as financial aid. There is concern that such a migration will lead to a two-tiered fee structure. Also at risk is the academic integrity of programs. Colleges look at demand, student needs, etc while administrations focus on offering the most popular courses to attract the highest enrollments at the higher fee. Administrators seem more concerned with offering the most popular courses to attract higher enrollment. Moving the courses to self-support would give the administration control over class sizes that may affect pedagogy and curriculum.

The final issue concerns compensation of the faculty that, under self-support, is based on lecturer pay scale. SLO has negotiated a regular faculty full pay for summer session. The provost has just proposed that the pay scale go back to lecturer scale.

Davis – Senate's work should be focused on the quality of education, the two-tiered system, the integrity of the courses, and the choice of faculty, which are outside the scope of the bargaining structure.

Shapiro- mentioned a memo entitled "Converting General Fund Summer to Self-Support Summer" commissioned by SFSU administration. Shapiro will share the memo in November.

McNamara referred to a FA resolution from last year and suggested that FA re-affirm it. He noted that there remains a lot of misunderstanding surrounding the issue and that Senate should be concerned about using extension to supplant residential academic programs rather than to supplement them.

Brodowsky suggested that a broader issue FA should address is defining the proper relationship between residential and extension programs.

Foroohar added that, to date, these discussions have been very localized and there have not been system-wide and statewide discussions. She fears that what might be presented as a temporary solution might become permanent.

Chair Baaske, while not sure what FA can say in a resolution, suggested that Foroohar attempt to draft a resolution. Such a resolution is a short-term action that might need to be followed up with a task force to study the proper relationship between state-support and self-support programs and how they should work together.

6.1 System-wide discussion on budget crisis.

Shapiro referred to an extensive slide show documenting the unilateral action of the provost at CSU Dominguez Hills about program closures. Shapiro asks for some clarification from the situation at DH. Thobaben is concerned about decisions made at the CO without faculty voice. She notes that while the CO continues to work on issues, there seems to be little activity in the ASCSU. McNamara attempt to spark discussion by sending out something on line to the list serve to try about the lack of a gubernatorial decision concerning the appointment of a faculty trustee. Nonetheless, McNamara notes that there is still very little news from ASCSU to report back to local campuses. Lord noted that in such situations, it is often the case that no news is bad news, and in the absence of any advertised discussions, there are likely some bad things going on and the boom will be lowered during the summer. His suggestion is to create publicity without being alarmist. Shapiro contends that we need to define ourselves by the way we approach what we're doing. We're in a good position to anticipate some of the consequences of the options shopped around by the administration. At least we should be proactively asking the questions to get the information and accountability we need. Shapiro volunteered to take the lead on drafting a resolution on faculty inclusion in the discussion of critical issues related to the budget crisis.

6.2 Faculty role in managing budget cuts – Deferred.

6.2 Faculty Research and the CSU Mission (Baaske) Deferred.

6.3 Review of Department Chairs - Deferred

6.4 Report on Student Opinions of Teaching Effectiveness - Deferred

7. Adjournment