Fiscal and Governmental Affairs Committee
Academic Senate, California State University

Minutes
January 17, 2007

Attendance: Buckley Barrett, David Hood (Thurs.), Fred Hornbeck, Cristy Jensen, Jackie Kegley (chair), Tom Krabacher, Dick Montanari, Dennis Muroaka, Paul O’Brien

I. Call to Order: 10:05 AM

II. Overview of agenda provided by Chair Kegley
   • Revision of agenda & announcements:
   • CSU legislative days – March 19th
   • Consideration of an Advocacy Workshop (see below)

III. Minutes from November 8th approved.

IV. Discussion: Issues of budget and legislative advocacy
   • Legislative Advocacy: Question of the degree to which the ASCSU should be involved in the CSU legislative day (March 19th) given that individual campuses/presidents often have their own agenda. Traditionally, we’ve encouraged senators to participate with their individual campus delegations. This is particularly so, given that the ASCSU and BOT legislative goals are not necessarily aligned.
     It was suggested that any advocacy workshop conducted for the ASCSU include others than KYZ.
   • Budget Issues (based on Lenz 1/11/07 summary of Governor’s Budget): Questions were raised about differences between the CSU budget request presented to the Committee in November and what appears in the 1/11/07 summary. Of particular concern was the absence of both ACR 73 funding and the 1% intended to reduce the salary lag in the January budget proposal.
   • Legislative Principles: Discussion of BOT legislative principles as set forth in the report of the BOT Committee on Governmental Relations (1/23-24/07). Concern expressed over the absence of principles addressing academically-oriented matters such as: future funding for professional doctorates and details affecting the application of graduate fee differentials, among others.
   • Recent Executive Compensation Memo calling for a 4% executive compensation increase package. (Supposedly consistent with offer to faculty—something questioned with disappearance of 1% compensation line from Governor’s budget.)
   • CSU Bank: Committee felt it important to get details on the way this will operate.
   • Federal Legislation: Brief discussion of whether committee should monitor this and, if so, how. Nothing decided.

V. Time Certain (11:00 AM): Gary Reichard, Patrick Lenz, Allison Jones, with Karen Yelverton-Zamarippa (KYZ) participating via phone conference -- Executive Committee also present.
   • KYZ noted that the legislative activity has not really gotten underway yet and summarized three items on BOT legislative agenda:
     -- Financial aid bill calling for CalGrant B aid to apply to first year tuition/fees (follow-up to SB 2813);
-- Reintroduction of revenue bond bill from last year (AB 2597);
-- Waiver of non-resident graduate fees for military personnel.

She also summarized the process by which BOT leg. priorities are set.

- Patrick Lenz provided a brief overview of Governor’s budget (which, despite rhetoric, still has a $2-$3B deficit) and what it means for the CSU budget.

- Discussion then took place as to how FGA/ASCSU can become more actively engaged in the legislative process:
  - Barry Pasternack (ExCom) suggested that the traditional FGA spring recommendations on budget priorities be expanded to include legislative recommendations as well;
  - KYZ agreed to consider running an advocacy workshop for FGA, although she expressed concern about the ASCSU adopting positions on issues/bills different from the Chancellor’s Office.
  - P. Lenz actively supported the idea of greater Senate involvement.
  - P. Lenz suggested that one area where FGA could be involved concerned Marginal Cost funding and the various methodologies proposed. He could use the advice of faculty and support on this issue.

It was agreed that discussion would continue on how the Chancellor’s Office and the ASCSU can work more closely together on legislative matters.

VI. Items of Business
- Language was perfected for the following recommendations, introduced by FGA as first readings at the November, 2006 plenary:
  - AS-2779-06/FGA: Library Resource Needs for All Undergraduate and Graduate Programs.

- The following resolutions were prepared for recommendation for first reading:
  - Position on CPEC Recommendation for Fee Freeze
  - Extension of Graduate Differential Funding to a Graduate FTES

However, at the urging of members of Academic Affairs Committee, it was decided to not introduce the resolution on the fee freeze at this time, due to concern over its political implications in the current collective bargaining environment. FGA will consider the possibility of introducing it at the March plenary.

VII. Legislative Days Discussion
The following was decided on a preliminary basis:
- Date: Wednesday, April 11th
- Participants: FGA and Executive Committee members

VIII. Bill Monitoring
Preliminary bill monitoring assignments will be made at the February interim meeting. In the meantime, Jackie, Cristy, and Tom will meet with selected legislative staffers to get a sense of the likely legislative agenda.

IX. Discussion: Need for an Advocacy Workshop?
It was decided that while such a workshop could be useful, it would best be held early in the academic year, possibly next fall.

X. Meeting adjourned: 3:05 PM
(Committee reconvened briefly the next morning (1/18/07) to finish up business associated with item VI above.)

-- Submitted by Thomas Krabacher