Fiscal & Governmental Affairs Committee
Academic Senate of the California State University

Minutes
November 5, 2009

Present: Edward Aguado, Michael Ault, Buckley Barrett (chair), David Hood, Thomas Krabacher (vice chair), Dick Montanari, Barry Pasternack, Praveen Soni, Billy Wagner, Darlene Yee-Melichar

Guests: John Travis (CFA liaison), Catherine Nelson (ExCom liaison), Bernadette Cheyne (ExCom)

I. Call to Order: Chair Barrett called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM

II. Agenda: The agenda was approved as amended.

III. Minutes: Minutes from the September and October 2009 meetings were approved.

IV. Announcements: Chair Barrett made the following announcements:
   • He has to meet with Executive Committee at 2:00PM.
   • He announced that he has no other announcements, unless he remembers more at a later time.

V. Reports:
   David Hood: reported on the budget and legislation. Key points: We still have few friends in the Dept. of Finance. Also, certain bills re textbooks, oil severance, etc. will extend into a 2-year status.

VI. Visitor Communications:
   1. John Travis (CFA liaison)10:30 AM: He addressed the following and answered a range of questions:
       • University letter on layoffs: The University distributed notice to various bargaining units that it may need to implement layoffs; the CO said this was done to initiate discussion of alternatives and that there was no intention to issue layoff notices at this time.
         o Layoffs are not systemwide, but will vary among campuses;
       • Program Prioritization: This seems to be taking place system-wide (first Humboldt, then Dominguez Hills), with some campuses using it to recommend program elimination. The CFA is concerned about the layoff implications.
         o CFA is also monitoring the implications of possible regionally-offered majors.
       • State-Support vs. Self-Support: CFA has concern over discussion of moving classes from state-support to self-support – violations of EO 802 and parts of the state education code. Discussion ensued; among other things, doing so to courses during the regular academic year sends the wrong message to the legislature.
• **Faculty Losses:** CFA survey suggests system has lost 800 lecturers, 400 FTEF, and 2000 sections between 10/08 and 10/09. At this same time, student fees have increased significantly.

• **Bargaining:** Still in discussion over the 2008-2009 cancelled salary increases and have yet to begin negotiations over those for 2009-2010. Regarding the successor contract, for which negotiations were to begin in spring 2010, CFA is considering asking for an extension of the existing contract, reasoning that it would be more productive focusing efforts on the budget at this time than on contract negotiations.

• **Legislation:** *SB 218 (Yee)* was recently vetoed by the governor; parties considering whether to try to override the governor. *AB 656 (Torrico)* – CFA still backs it, although there is stiff opposition from oil industry; BOT opposes it because it sees in it creation of a yet another level of higher education bureaucracy.

2. **Catherine Nelson** (ExCom liaison) 11:00 AM: *She reported on the following Executive Committee activities:*
   - Discussions underway with CO on protocols governing invitations to outside speakers; CO asks for a limit on invitations to legislators and Trustees for budgetary reasons and time constraints;
   - 20 MPPs have not been retained in the CO from IT;
   - Travel task force appointed to try to address some of the issues related to faculty senate travel.
   - Suggested that FGA become more actively involved in looking at issues surrounding the CO budget and perhaps positions on some of these issues. CMS was a suggested topic.

3. **David Hood** reported on **Legislative and Budget issues:**
   - Nothing new regarding legislation
   - Budget: no word yet as to whether there will be a November Revise; however, DOF report indicates tax collections are running well below expectations.
   - Additional $77.5M in federal stimulus money: $27M to campuses, $50M held in reserve in anticipation of mid-year reductions. Campuses apparently have discretion as to how the monies will be spent. Uncertain whether unspent stimulus money can be rolled over into 2010-2011.

4. **Bernadette Cheyne** (ExCom): The Advocacy Task Force is putting together a brochure. A draft already exists. Looking for input by Dec 4th. Darlene Yee suggested consulting the UC’s return on investment report for additional arguments.

**VII. FGA Interim Planning:**
Executive Committee estimates ASCSU budget will allow two in-person and one virtual interim meeting. Committee elected to go with a phone conference meeting in December and an in-person meeting in February (to plan for leg. Day if it occurs).

December interim: Dec. 4th, 12:00-2:00 PM: teleconference
VIII. Recommendations: The Committee recommended resolutions on the following:

1. The Committee agreed to jointly sponsor a resolution calling on the BOT to seek legislation to authorize the CSU to offer the applied doctorate in physical therapy. In doing so, Senator Aguado pointed out that a program in physical therapy is, by definition, a ‘joint’ program.

2. The Committee recommended the following resolutions after considerable discussion:
   - Call for Adequate and Sustainable Funding in Support of Public Higher Education
   - Call to designate a furlough on March 2 or 4, 2010 as “A Day Without the CSU.”
   - Requesting Modifications in SB 48 (Alquist: e-Textbooks/accessibility)
   - Impact of Funding Shortfalls on Transfer Students

IX. Other Business:

1. The committee voted to ask the Executive Committee to request that the Chancellor’s Office (General Counsel) prepare a memo for distribution to the campuses on the implications of the AB 1548 (Solorio) textbook bill for faculty.

2. Senator Montanari suggested the Executive Committee create a task force to report on best practices of dealing with funding reductions in higher education. Such a body might have 2 reps from each ASCSU standing committee and 2 ex officio members from CSU administration. Recommendations would include short-, medium- and long-range transformation strategies.

XI. Adjournment: The Committee recessed at 2:30 PM on Thursday.

-- Submitted by the Hon. Thomas Krabacher