

## Academic Senate of the California State University

### Faculty Affairs Committee

#### Annual Report 2007-2008

**Membership:** Kevin Baaske, Caroline Bordinaro, Glen Brodowsky, Bernadette Cheyne (chair), Manzar Foroohar, Diana Guerin (vice-chair), Harold Goldwhite, Robert McNamara, Tuuli Messer-Bookman, Romey Sabalius, Mark Van Selst, Rudy Vanterpool (fall only)

**Regular Guests:** Gail Brooks, Ron Kroman, Margy Merryfield, Lorie Roth, John Travis

**Executive Committee Liaison:** Mark Van Selst

**Additional Guests:** Beth Ambos, Gail Baker, Buckley Barrett, Eunice Chan, Christine Helwig, Fred Hornbeck, Tom Krabacher, Jo Anne Plaisted, Jim Postma

#### Resolutions

FAC recommended and co-sponsored a number of resolutions during the 2007-2008 academic year. These included:

- Textbook Affordability (with AA and FGA)
- Call for Consultation on Professional Fee for Graduate Business Degrees (with AA and FGA)
- Support of International Experiences and Global Perspectives in CSU Education
- Board of Trustees and Chancellor's Office Attention and Response to Faculty Votes of No Confidence
- Protecting Academic Freedom for California State University (CSU) Academic Programs, Including Area Studies
- In Support of a Predictable and Adequate Budget to Fund the Operations of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) (with EX, AA, FGA and TEKR)
- Guidelines and Policies for Participants in the Faculty Early Retirement Program or in the Pre-Retirement Reduction in Time Base Program
- Ensuring Consistent and Full Representation on the Academic Senate California State University (CSU) for Every Campus
- Shared Governance, Academic Freedom, and Principles Governing Systemwide Initiatives with Curricular Implications
- Faculty Participation in the Creation of Policies and Implementation Strategies for Patents and Technology Transfer Services in the California State University
- Removal of the Requirement of Loyalty Pledges from State Employees and Support for SB 1322 (Lowenthal. Communism.) (with FGA)

## Other Action Items

FAC also dealt with issues that resulted in actions other than resolutions. These included:

- **A Strategic Vision for Human Resources:** Discussions occurred with both Gail Brooks and Margy Merryfield on a draft of the Human Resources' Strategic Vision statement. Committee members offered specific observations and suggestions on the document.
- **Response to Access to Excellence Draft:** The Committee talked at length about the Access to Excellence Revised draft and prepared a two page memorandum to the Executive Committee offering questions, comments and suggestions to be incorporated in the ExCom's response to the Chancellor's Office.

## Discussed But No Formal Action Taken

Many issues received detailed discussion by the FAC but, for various reasons, received no direct action. These topics and their disposition are briefly outlined below.

- **Faculty hiring practices [including findings of systemwide audit on hiring practices]:** The committee discussed this issue with Margy Merryfield. A task force has been formed to develop systemwide practice guidelines. FAC member Kevin Baaske is a member of that task force. Thus, the committee did not believe that this matter warranted a resolution at this time. This may become an action item again once the task force has issued a report.
- **The Voluntary System of Accountability/The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA):** John Travis, CFA liaison, assured the committee that the CFA is monitoring this issue to gauge the impact on faculty workload. Other important concerns relate to methodology (including use of class time for the test) and the validity of the findings. The committee believed that these issues lay much more within the purview of the Academic Affairs Committee.
- **Reaffirmation of AS-2634-03/FA Faculty Role in Academic Restructuring and Program Discontinuance:** Rather than writing a resolution reaffirming AS-2634-03/FA, the committee felt it would be more effective if the Executive Committee were to bring the issue to local senate chairs.
- **Procedure if an Academic Senator is unavailable for a semester (e.g. sabbatical, etc.) or is unavailable for committee work:** After considerable discussion, it was agreed that a resolution that addressed the failure of some senators to fulfill their obligations would be perceived as punitive and also most likely would prove ineffective.
- **AAUP re outside speakers and academic freedom:** A web search was conducted confirming that the ASCSU has passed several resolutions on this issue. FAC did not see a need for any more resolutions at this time.
- **MPP hiring practices:** Some campuses do not have clear policies for MPP hiring, especially when it comes to interim appointments. ASCSU already has a comprehensive resolution on searches and hiring of MPPs. Although the resolution does not cover the issue of interim appointments, the committee decided not to draft another resolution at this point.
- **Textbook prices, Assembly Bill 1548:** Tom Krabacher, who is very knowledgeable on AB 1548, attended a FAC meeting and we discussed this issue at some length. After that discussion it was decided that no action is needed at this time.

- **Maintaining academic quality during times of budget crisis:** There have been numerous ASCSU resolutions on this issue over the years. Hence it was dropped from the agenda.

### **Pending For 2008-2009**

The Committee proposes carrying over a number of issues to the 2008-2009 academic year.

- **FAC liaisons to other standing committees:** In 2007-2008 it became too late to address this item. If FAC wishes to begin this practice in 2008-2009 then it should be dealt with at the September meeting.
- **Campus practices regarding governance:** FAC collected surveys from most of the 23 campuses regarding governance issues. This information will be compiled this summer by former committee chair Cheyne, and then will be analyzed and distributed to the campuses. Formal recommendations from the FAC to the wider Senate may be forthcoming depending upon the outcomes of the survey.
- **Strategies for gauging faculty satisfaction/faculty engagement:** This is an ongoing issue and a number of dialogues occurred between the Committee, Gail Brooks and Margy Merryfield on how we might work together to compile data that will provide an accurate and useful assessment of faculty satisfaction on individual campuses and in the CSU as a whole. The COACHE survey was discussed, as well as a possible new CSU survey. Issues of faculty engagement were added later in the year and combined with faculty satisfaction because they appear to be closely related.
- **Principles and best practices for on-line degree programs:** The Chancellor wants the system to expand its online degree programs. The Executive Committee requested that FAC work with AA on a resolution, perhaps recommending that studies be undertaken to determine best practices in teaching and student learning in online programs. FAC's role is to address the faculty-related issues, such as protections re RTP.
- **SFR calculations systemwide:** This item relates to a concern regarding consistency in calculating SFR from campus to campus. In the fall FAC will discuss this with CO personnel to determine whether there are any systemwide standards.
- **Study on online evaluations:** FAC will consider a possible resolution endorsing "Report on Student Evaluation of Teaching."
- **International Program Planning Group Report:** FAC will consider whether to take any formal action on this matter.
- **Overlap between the CFA contract and ASCSU responsibilities:** The Executive Committee requested that FAC consider this issue and possibly offer a resolution recommending that a taskforce be established to investigate the matter.