

Faculty Affairs Committee

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Members Present: Kevin Baaske, Glen Brodowsky, Bernadette Cheyne (Recorder), David Lord, Robert McNamara (Chair), Hank Reichman, Marshelle Thobaben

Guests: Elizabeth Hoffman, Lorie Roth, John Tarjan, Mark Van Selst

The meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m.

- 1. Approval of the agenda:** M/S Baaske/Lord to accept the agenda. Request to add an item to the agenda as 5.1. Accepted as friendly. Request to remove current 5.1 re votes of no confidence. Accepted as friendly. Approved unanimously as amended.
- 2. Approval of the minutes for February 20, 2009:** M/S Brodowsky/Baaske to approve the minutes of February 20. Minutes approved as amended.

3. Announcements

McNamara:

- Faculty Affairs Committee is responsible for the social tomorrow. Baaske and Cheyne will take care of the shopping this evening. A number of committee members will take responsibility for set up and clean-up tomorrow.
- Issues surrounding LDTP currently are being worked out. There appear to be some questions surrounding the Community Colleges' investment in the program.
- Some concerns have arisen regarding the appropriate role of the ASCSU—and FAC in particular—in responding to CSU/CFA bargaining issues. There was discussion of the manner in which the FAC might address such matters. It was agreed that the committee has a responsibility to question, clarify and, when appropriate, to offer resolutions that deal with matters of policy.

4. Reports

4.1 Lorie Roth

- Discussed the pipeline for developing CSU faculty. This includes three initiatives:
 1. Forum for Diversity and Graduate Education which helps students to consider going on to graduate school and becoming faculty members. Forums occur once a year in the north and south.
 2. The Pre-Doctoral Program where students can get money to help them prepare for graduate school. Filling the position of Coordinator of this program has just been approved by the CO and a job description is available.

3. The California Doctoral Incentive Program (Forgivable Loan) which allows graduate students to get money to finish their degrees. Robin Marion works with this program and currently is in the process of putting information on line that will help potential faculty members understand what is involved in being a faculty member at CSU. There is a desire to have FAC review the website and provide feedback prior to making it available to the general public. The committee agreed to review and respond at its meeting in April.
- New week's BOT agenda includes an item on remediation which proposes that CSU applicants not proficient in Math and English be encouraged to become proficient before entering the CSU.
 - The new Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (Jeri Echeverria) is proving very effective and is a positive resource for the CO.

4.2 Elizabeth Hoffman:

- Contract impasse has been declared and Tony Butka has been named as mediator, an individual who has worked with the parties before. The first mediation session will occur on April 13 at the Chancellor's Office. If that is unsuccessful, they will go to fact finding, which is unlikely to occur before May. It appears that this process will move into the summer. Ultimately, CSU can impose its last, best offer, which is a zero increase across the board. The CFA continues to believe that binding arbitration would be the better path, particularly considering the exceptional partnership that has evolved with the Alliance for the CSU, which now has over 100,000 members.
- The CFA commissioned the Mortenson Report (*California at the Edge of a Cliff*) which lays out why higher education is so key to the recovery of the state and the nation.
- Two teams are being sent to Washington next week, one to lobby on the stimulus package money and the other to promote initiatives to get more money into higher education including HR4 (an oil and natural gas tax that would benefit higher education).
- The second round of PPIs is currently being rolled out, which has resulted from the cooperation between the CSU and the CFA.

4.3 Mark Van Selst (ExCom Liaison):

- Noted that the LDTP Work Group will not be meeting again. There was some interest in separating the curricular aspects from the transfer patterns, which could prove very advantageous in that curriculum is such an important faculty function.
- It appears that there will be sufficient funds for the ASCSU to meet its obligations and responsibilities for this academic year. Next year's ExCom will have to deal with the fact that there will be 13 additional senators who will require assigned time.

4.4 John Tarjan:

- Tarjan agreed to move the "Affirmation of Equal Rights" resolution to the top of the plenary agenda.

- There was discussion of events at the FAC's February meeting related to perceptions of "appropriateness" in terms of a dialogue that occurred regarding bargaining. Concerns were expressed by committee members that they had been unduly chastised for behaviors that were completely appropriate given the committee's charge. Tarjan indicated that he attempted to make no judgment of events to which he was not witness, and that his intent was to support the appropriateness of the committee's actions. It was reaffirmed that members of the committee and those who work with it are treated with respect and that this issue was blown out of proportion. It also was noted that Senate members have the right to ask questions about bargaining—of both the Chancellor's Office and the CFA—and to express concerns regarding bargaining processes. This should be clearly expressed to the Chancellor's Office.

4.5 Liaison Reports

Brodowsky/Roth: Reported on a recent meeting of the CLA Task Force. It appears that the CLA is a more engaging test for students than the CAAP or the MAAP, and so the recommendation will be to use the CLA. Decisions need to be made about how the CLA will be administered system-wide. Currently are discussing each campus administering the test once every three years on a campus rotation schedule. Issues include sample size, how they are sampled, etc. Also is a need to reaffirm to faculty that the CLA is an accountability rather than an assessment measure, so this should not be considered a substitute for assessment. It was emphasized that the VSA is not going away and we will be dealing with accountability, via the CLA, for the foreseeable future.

This is the second year of administering the CLA, primarily because there was some confusion in the start-up during the first year and a second year was required to help address some of the problems. The CLA will not be administered during 2009-10; however beginning in 2010-11 the CSU will begin the three-year rotation with one-third of the campuses participating.

A report is currently being prepared by the CLA Task Force and there was some discussion as to the distribution of that report.

5. Resolutions

5.1 Support for the 2008-09 Re-Opener Negotiations be Submitted to Arbitration:

Committee members discussed this draft resolution and decided not to bring it forward at this time. Potential revisions were suggested for a resolution that could be presented either at the May or an early fall plenary.

5.2 Affirmation of Equal Rights (Second Reading):

The committee discussed controversies that have arisen regarding this resolution. Although minor adjustments in language were made, the committee remained committed to the intent of the resolution as originally submitted and will take it forward.

5.3 Educational Exchanges with Cuba (Second Reading):

With a few minor adjustments in language, the resolution will go forward as originally submitted.

- 5.4 Faculty Development Support for Lecturers (Second Reading):** A number of concerns were discussed including how to express support for lecturers while acknowledging that limited development funds are available. Some adjustments were made and the revised resolution was forwarded.
- 5.5 Faculty Professional Development Strategic Planning (First Reading):** The committee was very supportive of the initiatives contained in the white paper authored by the ITL and the FDC. After minor adjustments, the resolution will go forward for first reading.
- 5.6 State Supported Courses v. Special Sessions (First Reading):** The committee considers this an important initiative at this time, given that some campuses already are engaged in cost-saving measures that compromise student access. The amended resolution will go forward for first reading.
- 5.7 Class size (First Reading):** Committee members believe that this is an important resolution but that it needs further refinement before bringing it to the plenary for a first reading. The committee will discuss this again at its April meeting.

6. Discussion Items

- 6.1 Campus practices regarding governance (Cheyne):** The committee reviewed some preliminary data from a survey conducted in 2007-08. It was agreed to go forward with compiling the survey and to prioritize discussion of the item at the April meeting. The three campuses that did not respond will be included in the tables and that information will be requested from the campus senators.
- 6.2 McCauley initiative (vested pensions):** The committee will remain attentive to this issue, but since there currently is nothing substantive to which to respond, the item will be dropped from the agenda for the time being.
- 6.3 Other:** There were no other discussion items.

- 7. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.