

Minutes of September 9, 2004
Faculty Affairs Committee
Academic Senate of the California State University

Chairperson Jan Gregory called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Agenda for October 8, 2004: MSP

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Members Present: Foroohar, Gregory, Kegley, Persons, Reagan, Sabalius, Timmer, Vanterpool, and Warschauer.

Discussion of Old Business:

Senator Tom Warschauer updated FAC on the progress made over the summer gathering relevant data on his campus' decision to move the graduate programs in business, such as Business Ethics and other course offerings, to the division of Extended Education. Tom has several concerns with respect to the wisdom, the practicality, and the academic integrity of this administrative decision. He noted that questions of access and the quality of graduate education are at stake here. Several other stakeholders have respective interests in this curriculum matter. Is the flight to Extended Education driven mainly by budgetary considerations? Will the move impact negatively upon the quality of graduate programs? Faculty Affairs Committee will be interested in a report prepared by a sub-committee of FAC, chaired by Tom. Will the Report be ready for consideration for the January 2005 plenary or later in spring semester, 2005? Once FAC receives the Report, what should be the next step? Senator Warschauer is finalizing the composition of membership on the sub-committee. There was a lively discussion of a range of issues centering on the quality of programming, faculty compensation, discipline integrity, and major implications of shifting a traditionally state support program to an academic self-support division.

Discussion of Reviving Business:

The Committee discussed the possible ramifications of proposed new legislation on academic freedom for students attending California's public universities. This twin issue of academic freedom and student rights was introduced last year in the Legislature as the Morrow Bill. The intent of the proposed legislation is to protect the academic freedom of students. The central issue for FAC is what sort of interest and/or action, if any, the Committee should take. The time might now be ripe for campuses to review their policies and procedures on student grievance, and their official policy statements on students' rights and responsibilities.

Lorie Roth, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs, shared with FAC the following informational items: (1) how far along the CSU is strategizing its new budget requests to the Legislature; (2) faculty/senate representation on the Committee on International Programs; (3) current Central Office discussions about instituting background checks of new hires and related personnel matters, and (4) the employment status of graduate students. There appears to be a relatively neutral outlook among the CSU central administration staff on the topic of academic freedom of students. The general perception is that the proposed legislation is likely to fail in the Legislature.

Time Certain Reports:

11:30 a.m.: *Jackie McClain, Vice Chancellor, Human Resources*. Jackie McClain reported that the current budget is pretty much in place, and that the focus has shifted to budget preparation for the next cycle. Faculty compensation is high on the list of budget recommendations. The Compact is the base from which budget deliberations are conducted. The Chancellor's Office is working with UAW on unit determination for graduate students, graduate teaching assistants, undergraduate teaching assistants, and teaching associates. The New Fair Labor Standards Act clearly exempts teachers, but not graduate students who perform teaching duties as well.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of FAC
Rudy Vanterpool, Vice Chair

Minutes Approved as Amended / October 8, 2004