

FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 4/15/2010

Minutes of Meeting of March 18, 2010

Oviatt Library Presentation Room

Faculty President Matos called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: David Ballard (excused), Wendy Birky (excused), Robert Cleve (excused), Catherine Coyle-Thompson, Nicholas Dungey (excused), Angie Giordano (excused), Patricia Juarez-Dappe (excused), Florence Kyomugisha (excused), Magnhild Lien (excused), Marta Lopez-Garza (excused), Bradley McAuliff (excused), Breny Mendoza (excused), Kristy Michaud (excused), Theresa Montano, Ken Ng, Carolyn Okazaki, Nancy Owens (excused), Abel Pacheco, Martin Pousson (excused), John Reveles (excused), Danielle Skaggs, Ashley Skylar (excused), Sally Spencer (excused), Mark Steele

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for February 11, 2010](#) were approved as distributed.

1. Announcements

- a. Matos mentioned that the agenda for the next Senate Meeting (April 15, 2010) will be sent out a bit later than usual as spring break is the week prior to this meeting; the Senate Office will be closed from April 5 – April 9.
- b. Conor Lansdale, AS Vice President, announced that students from the community colleges, UC campuses, and high schools will go to Sacramento on March 22, 2010 to protest in support of higher education; he requested that students be excused if they are absent from class. Student body elections are taking place for the next few weeks; debates will take place from 11:30am - 1:30pm in the Plaza del Sol (USU). Lastly, Associated Students is working on a Student Bill of Rights; a Senator suggested that faculty be invited to participate in the process.

2. General Educational Task Force Recommendations/Resolution

Vicki Pedone, Chair of GE Governance Task Force

Link to resolution/recommendation report:

<http://www.csun.edu/senate/resolutions/gecouncilreport-resolution031810.pdf>

The Senators had no questions. **MSP** to approve the resolution as presented in the written report. Senators interested in serving on the General Education Council were asked to convey their interest by completing the university service form.

3. President's Report – Jolene Koester

President Koester reported the following:

- a. **Discontinuance of Men's and Women's Swimming Teams** – The decision was made to discontinue the men's and women's swimming teams at Cal State Northridge in light of

budget constraints. Our sports teams have taken incremental budget reductions in the past years, but it is not possible to achieve sufficient savings by taking further incremental cuts to the remaining teams without damaging the programs. According to NCAA rulings, 14 is the minimum number of sports we can have, and our campus still has a high number of sports compared with most other Big West Conference members. Swimming is one of our few sports not required by the Big West Conference, and discontinuing these two teams will leave us still with 18 teams. Staff on contract will remain employed through the end of their appointments. For student-athletes with scholarships who choose to remain at Cal State Northridge, we will honor their scholarships throughout all remaining years of eligibility. Alternatively, student-athletes may transfer to another NCAA institution and be immediately eligible to compete.

- b. **Spring Break** – The University will observe four furlough days during the spring break. With our spring break occurring relatively late in the semester, faculty, staff, and students may be feeling some wear and tear. The Senators were wished a good spring break.

4. **Talking About Technology: Faculty Focus Groups**

Cynthia Rawitch, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies
Matt Cahn, Political Science

Rawitch reported that Provost Hellenbrand asked Dean Susan Curzon to create an awareness and understanding about the use of technology in Academic Affairs through a campus-wide dialogue. The purpose of these discussions is to: 1) look at the best use of existing technologies, 2) increase efficiencies and savings, and to 3) make strategic choices in technology for the future of the university. Conversations among the Deans have already taken place; The Deans and IT have discussed cost savings and changing models of technology that are relevant for our university. In addition, a campus-wide forum on New Directions in Technology was held on February 23, 2010. Next steps include a series of focus group meetings with faculty.

Cahn said that the goal of the focus group meeting is to help identify faculty needs and issues related to teaching and scholarship as it relates to technology to inform the Provost and Academic Affairs. The focus groups will be held between April 12-16 and will be open to all faculty. The data gathered from these focus group meetings will be analyzed and summary findings will be distributed to faculty. Subsequently, there will be a follow-up meeting to provide faculty an opportunity to respond.

5. **On-line, Paperless, Distribution of Section 600 and 700**

William Whiting, Chair of PP&R

Whiting explained that for environmental and cost reasons, the PP&R Committee has decided to limit distribution of paper copies of Section 600 and 700 to college deans, department chairs, PP&R members, Academic Affairs administrators, CFA representatives, and new tenure track faculty members. For all others, the manuals will be made available electronically in a searchable (pdf) format with a live index. Faculty Affairs, however, will continue to provide paper manuals for those requiring one. An announcement (with a link to the manuals) will be sent to all faculty giving notification of this change in distribution.

6. **Flexible Enrollment Planning for Individual CSU Campuses Resolution**

Steven Stepanek, Member of Senate Executive Committee

Link to approved resolution:

<http://www.csun.edu/senate/resolutions/flexiblespendingresolution031810.doc>

Stepanek explained that a few faculty members approached the Senate Executive Committee in January 2009 and requested that our Faculty Senate take an active role, in a form of a statement, responding to the Chancellor's mandates around the current budget crisis. A subcommittee was formed and drafted the resolution which is being presented today to the Senate. A motion was made to discuss the resolution.

This resolution is intended to look forward and not to the past. It is our attempt to convey to the Chancellor that all possible alternatives should be considered when planning reductions to enrollments. The resolution also refers to other ASCSU resolutions that have already been passed. In addition, the rationale suggests that the CSU consider other ways to generate revenue such as encouraging enrollment of out-of-state students, advocating for the approval to offer advanced degrees in the CSU, and increasing extension and online course offerings.

MSP to waive the first reading and to vote today so the resolution can be taken to the Statewide Academic Senate as soon as possible. It was then recommended that we forward the resolution to the Associated Students Senate for their joint support.

Motions were passed to make various amendments to the resolution. **MSP** (2 abstentions, passed without dissent) to approve the resolution as amended. The final approved resolution is at the link above.

7. **Proposed Academic Calendars for 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015**

Penny Jennings, Associate Vice President

Link to approved Academic Calendars:

<http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/academiccalendars031810.pdf>

The proposed calendars have been reviewed by various groups for input and will be submitted to the President for approval. Jennings indicated that the Chancellor's Office has a number of norms and definitions that must be adhered to when developing the academic calendar. Some of these include a minimum of 145 and a maximum of 149 instructional days, as well as a minimum of 170 and a maximum of 180 academic workdays. In addition, a number of State holidays must be observed on the actual dates they occur. Faculty Senate recommendations, which were based on the 2007 survey results, must also be taken into account.

Comments from the Senators centered on the disconnect between the CSUN spring break, Easter and LAUSD spring break; Senators also commented on how late in the semester the break currently falls. **MSP** (2 opposed, 1 abstention) to approve the three calendars as distributed.

8. **Academic and Athletic Field Lighting Project**

Colin Donahue, Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning

The Academic and Athletic Field Lighting Project will involve lighting the soccer field and the north instructional field located by Halsted Street and Lindley Avenue. An environmental study was done; we received positive feedback from the community. The new lighting will be more directional in nature and more energy efficient. It will cost \$12 per hour to light the main field and \$5 per hour to light the smaller field. The new lighting will help extend the hours of availability of the fields. Moreover, a fence will be moved to increase the seating capacity. Construction will begin on May 1 with expected completion before the Fall semester begins.

9. Senate Reports

a. **Provost's Report** – Cynthia Rawitch

Rawitch reported to the Senate in Provost Hellenbrand's absence. She said that the campus will be receiving \$3.7 million dollars in federal stimulus funds: \$2.5 million will go to Academic Affairs to open up 400 sections without increasing FTES. \$500,000 will be used to support the graduation initiative. Of the moneys earmarked for the 400 additional sections, dollars for 200 sections will go to Colleges; Dollars for 150 sections will go to departments for faculty release time and to hire part-time faculty. Faculty will be given the opportunity to submit proposals to request funds for advising, tutoring, etc. Money for 50 sections will be held centrally to assist in adding high demand courses in fall semester.

For Fall 2010, during priority registration/appointment (May 2 – July 18), all undergraduate students will be allowed to take up to 13 units only. This unit limitation in registration during priority registration excludes first time freshman and graduating seniors. However, after priority registration, students will get a second pass to go back into the system to add more classes, allowing them to take up to 17 units. This will allow our unusual large number of incoming students, as well as our own continuing students, to get classes, creating equity for all students.

Some Senators were concerned that consultation with faculty on this decision did not take place. Rawitch apologized for not consulting with faculty; however, based on review of campus history on changing unit limits, this decision appeared to be administrative. Rawitch said that students will be informed about this change in registration through multiple means of communication including a written letter, portal, email, and other social networking technologies; Undergraduate studies will examine the impact of this action to determine whether it will be used in future semesters.

b. **Statewide Academic Senate Report** – Barbara Swerkes

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/sasreport031810.pdf>

Swerkes mentioned that there are hearings being conducted on the Master Plan in Sacramento and they are aiming for more statewide standardization on curriculum. The Board of Trustees approved the Early Start Initiative (whereby students get remediation before matriculation). Swerkes asked the Senators to take a look at the report from Allison Jones, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Academic Support, on the CSU Enrollment Management plans. She also mentioned about the Governor's refusal to

appoint a faculty member to the Board of Trustees and ASCSU's request to the Board to intercede for them in Sacramento. The resolution summaries will be sent out very soon.

c. **CFA Report** – Nate Thomas, Vice President of CFA

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport031810.pdf>

Nate Thomas attended the meeting to respond to questions on the CFA report. A question was asked about the status of the new faculty bargaining agreement. Thomas replied that a survey was administered but its results are not yet available.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary

Sandra Chong, Secretary of the Faculty