

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 5/13/2010**

**Minutes of Meeting of April 15, 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: Rita Basta (excused), Wendy Birky (excused), Robert Cleve, Catherine Coyle-Thompson, Nicholas Dungey, Sean Flanagan (excused), Angie Giordano (excused), Magnhild Lien (excused), Robert Lingard (excused), Terry Lisagor (excused), Marta Lopez-Garza, Bradley McAuliff (excused), Kristy Michaud (excused), Theresa Montano, Ken Ng, Janet Oh (excused), Carolyn Okazaki, Tihomir Petrov (excused), Beth Phillips (excused), Martin Pousson (excused), Magdy Rizk, Mary Schaffer (excused), Lois Shelton (excused), Danielle Skaggs, Ashley Skylar, Mark Steele, Mary-Pat Stein (excused), Rishma Vedd

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for March 18, 2010](#) were approved as distributed.

**1. Announcements**

- a. The Honored Faculty Reception will be on Monday, May 17, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Grand Salon, University Student Union.
- b. Faculty interested in serving on the General Education Council should contact Heidi Wolfbauer or Jennifer Matos no later than April 22<sup>nd</sup>; the Senate Executive Committee will be making nominations at their next meeting.
- c. The Faculty Governance Reception, hosted by President Koester at the University House, will be on Thursday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. All Senators will receive invitations to this Reception.
- d. Jeppson had just returned from Washington, D.C. after visiting the Internal Revenue Service and announced that the IRS honored the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program; eight individual awards and four site awards were given whereby CSUN received the only award given to a University.

**2. Spring 2010 Election Results**

Matos announced the Spring 2010 election results:

**Faculty Officers**

Faculty President (2 year term): Steven Stepanek, Computer Science

Vice President of the Faculty (1 year term): Cheryl Spector, English

Secretary of the Faculty (1 year term): Sandra Chong, Elementary Education

**CSU Academic Senator** (3 year term): Jennifer Matos, Biology

**CSU Academic Senator** (2 year term): Sandra Chong, Elementary Education

**Senators-at-Large** (six Senators, 2 year terms):

Amy Levin, Social Work; Magnhild Lien, Mathematics; Michael Neubauer, Mathematics;  
Diane Schwartz, Computer Science; David Wakefield, Child and Adolescent Development;  
Veda Ward, Recreation and Tourism Management

### 3. **Policy Item** – Educational Policies Committee

Hillary Hertzog, Chair

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading** – [Major and Minor Policy](#)

Hertzog read the revised policy to the Senate. She explained that these policy revisions were brought to EPC by Undergraduate Studies out of great concern for the number of students that are not getting into CSUN because of current students enrolling in high numbers of units (super seniors) and not graduating. It is hoped that this policy will provide a fair access to higher education for those who are seeking admission to the university and give access to courses to those already admitted trying to enroll in classes.

Some of the questions raised include the following:

- 1) Did EPC consult with Associated Students and Department Chairs? The student member of EPC was involved in the discussions. The Department Chairs had not seen the policy; it was recommended that the Council of Chairs provide input.
- 2) Why do some students have so many units? Reasons include: transferred in from community college with too many units; could not decide on a major so changed major often; added one or more minors; want to remain in school; want to stay in school to keep health insurance or financial aid.
- 3) Are bottlenecks forcing students to delay graduation? If this is the case, the appeals process will address this concern.

The following recommendations were suggested:

- 1) A request was made for a higher unit limit for majors that require more units. A 20-unit cushion now exists in the proposed policy.
- 2) The AS President requested to see more interaction between the Dean and the student before being administratively graduated; he requested that the AS President or designee serve on the Appeals Board; would like to see the unit cap raised to 150 units to align with the financial aid cap.
- 3) A request was made for more advisement to help students decide on a major and to be made better aware of existing and new policies.
- 4) A request was made for more faculty members to serve on the Appeals Board.
- 5) A request was made to include a grandfather's clause to help existing students.
- 6) A request was made to separate the Administrative Graduation section from this policy, to clarify the language, and to offer students a choice of graduating or appealing.

This policy will go back to EPC for consideration of these recommendations and then come back to the Senate.

#### 4. **President's Report** – Jolene Koester

President Koester reported the following:

- a. **Commitment to Graduate Students with a Degree** – After listening to the discussion on the proposed Major and Minor Policy, which involved discussion of students staying and registering for units beyond what is necessary for a degree, President Koester reminded the Senate that the University's commitment is to help students graduate with a degree. Graduation rates are an important criterion that the State of California considers as indication that the CSU and Cal State Northridge deserve continuing public support. As the President has said in the past with regard to enrollment management, we are rationing access to publicly supported higher education. Given national and statewide trends, even when the current budget crisis is over, it is unlikely that we will return to our prior funding levels or get back what we lost in terms of State support.
- b. **Budget** – There is no new news on the budget until May or possibly June. We are moving ahead with a planning scenario that involves no additional reductions for next year's budget. Alternative scenarios have also been planned in the event that there are additional budget reductions.
- c. **WASC Report** – The written report from WASC is very positive. We have an opportunity now to review it and make corrections of fact. Once corrections of fact are made, the report will be made public.
- d. **Dedication of Chaparral Hall** – The formal dedication of Chaparral Hall is on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. This will likely be the only new classroom building for some time because our target enrollment has been reduced.
- e. **Grant Awarded to the Special Education Department** – The U.S. Department of Education announced the awarding of ten new grants, including one to Cal State Northridge. Our Special Education Department received a five-year, \$8.5 million competitive grant, which brings incredible recognition to the University. Nancy Burstein and Sue Sears were congratulated for their efforts on securing this grant and for their collaboration across the University and with LAUSD.
- f. **Faculty Leadership Reception** – Senators were invited to attend the Faculty Leadership Reception at University House on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Invitations will be sent out soon. At this reception, President Koester will formally thank Jennifer Matos for her work as Faculty President. Steven Stepanek was congratulated as the newly elected Faculty President, and President Koester said we are very lucky to have such high quality faculty leadership on this campus.

#### 5. **Senate Reports**

- a. **Provost's Report** – Harry Hellenbrand

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/provostsreport041510.pdf>

In addition to the Provost's written report, he mentioned the following:

- 1) Our successes have a lot do with our shared governance relationship. We can actually have a conversation, compromise, provide evidence, and make governance work. We are exceptional at implementing policy changes and making them work.
- 2) He summarized our accomplishments and successes as listed in his written report (see link above).
- 3) We are the only campus with an upward slope on graduation rates.
- 4) We have planned for several contingencies on the budget. He is available to meet with groups over the summer; a budget report will be distributed soon.
- 5) Tentative plans for hiring new faculty for next year are being made because we are losing faculty due to retirements.
- 6) Requests for federal stimulus dollars are being circulated; money must be used to provide access to classes, to stabilize part-time employment, and to provide faculty release-time for research and service projects.

b. **CFA Report** – Dave Ballard, Co-President of CFA

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport041510.pdf>

Ballard pointed out that UCLA has a call for papers for those doing research on furloughs.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Submitted by:

Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary

Sandra Chong, Secretary of the Faculty