

FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 5/14/09

Minutes of Meeting of April 16, 2009

Oviatt Library Presentation Room

Faculty President Matos called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: David Ballard, (excused), Susan Belgrad, Ahmed Bouguarche (excused), Sandra Chong (excused), Catherine Coyle-Thompson, Owen Doonan (excused), Sean Flanagan (excused), Irma Good, Patricia Juarez-Dappe, Virginia Kennedy (excused), Florence Kyomugisha (excused), Michael Neubauer (excused), Seung-kuk Paik (excused), Clara Park (excused), Beth Phillips (excused), Miguel Segura, David Wakefield, Veda Ward (excused), Beth Wightman (excused)

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for March 12, 2009](#) were approved as distributed.

1. Announcements

- a. The Honored Faculty Reception will be on May 18, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., in the Grand Salon, USU. Faculty award winners, emeritus faculty, and faculty with 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service will be honored. All faculty are encouraged to attend.
- b. Matos announced the results of the faculty election.
- c. Spector announced that *Freshman Convocation: A Celebration of Learning* is on Thursday, September 3, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., on the Oviatt Library Lawn. A flyer giving ten reasons why faculty and students should attend Freshman Convocation was made available. Steve Lopez, author of *The Soloist* and keynote guest speaker, will speak with faculty at 4:00 p.m. on the same day.
- d. A time capsule, to be opened in 25 years, will be buried at the University's Grand Reunion on April 25th. An individual from Public Relations will be interviewing and videotaping faculty after today's meeting. The video tape will be included in the time capsule. Matos encouraged the Senators to participate.

2. Policy Item – Graduate Studies Committee

Mary Woodley, Chair

Action Item – [Policy on Certificate Programs](#)

The Graduate Studies Committee received a late request for changes to the policy so it will go back to the Committee for review. The revision adds a sentence to Section II.H. (page 3) to read,

A graduate degree program may have an embedded university certificate(s).

Woodley asked the Senators for additional input or comments on the policy. A few editorial revisions were suggested. This policy will come back to the Senate for a second reading.

3. **President's Report** – Jolene Koester

President Koester reported the following:

Budget Update - Updates on the budget situation are posted on the President's Office website under Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.csun.edu/preso/presletters/presletter-10-2008-budget.html>. President Koester explained that one contingency in the February budget amendment was that if the Federal Economic Stimulus package did not provide \$10 billion to the state of California, there would be another \$50 million budget cut to the CSU system for 2009-10. The State Treasurer and the Director of the Department of Finance announced that the Federal stimulus money did not reach this threshold level, so the current budget plan for the CSU includes the additional \$50 million cut. The share for Cal State Northridge is approximately \$3.5 million (seven percent). There are still many unknowns. The actual state revenues received and the outcomes of the propositions put to the voters in the May 19th special election will directly affect the 2009-10 budget plan.

Grand Reunion – On Saturday, April 25, the University hosts its Grand Reunion, the largest assembly of Cal State Northridge alumni in the institution's history. Many departments, clubs, and organizations will host smaller gatherings that day. Senators were urged to participate. The time capsule will be reburied during this event.

4. **Policy Items** – **Personnel Planning and Review Committee**

William Whiting, Chair

1st Reading - [Policy on Sabbatical Leave Procedures](#)

Whiting explained that in some instances College Personnel Committees have recommended more sabbatical leave applications as “truly outstanding and exceptional” than the total number of leaves allocated to the College. PP&R recommends that in these cases, proposals recommended in this category, be reviewed by the President as if they were unranked, for a final determination. Also suggested is that the title used for the highest ranking of a sabbatical application be changed from “truly outstanding and exceptional” to “outstanding” so that it is easier to remember the name of the ranking. In addition, the policy change would require all proposals ranked as “outstanding” to include a written justification.

Discussion centered on how to handle “truly outstanding and exceptional” applications if a College should recommend more leaves than they are allocated. Four options were mentioned:

- 1) The Provost could make the final determination.
- 2) Applications could be ranked by years of service.
- 3) Colleges might be required to rank the applications.
- 4) Colleges would be required to recommend no more than the number allocated.

PP&R will discuss these options and will bring their recommendation back to the Senate.

1st Reading - [Policy on Accelerated Promotion Review Process](#)

PP&R is proposing that a candidate must request a review for early promotion by notifying the Department Chair and the Dean, in writing, prior to the start of the Department-level review process. This change would help to clarify language in Section 643.1.1.b. so that candidates for retention and possible early promotion, as well as the reviewing agencies, have a clear understanding of the process from the very beginning.

No revisions to the policy were recommended.

5. **Policy Items** – **Educational Policies Committee**

Hilary Hertzog, Chair

1st Reading – [Undergraduate Policy on Withdrawals](#)

Hertzog explained that the Withdrawal policies remain the same with regard to time periods and medical withdrawals. The changes to the policy are to align CSU Northridge's current policy with Executive Order 1037, which goes into effect for all CSU campuses on August 1, 2009. Hertzog summarized the changes. The counting of withdrawals to a maximum of 18 units starts anew in Fall 2009. Approved medical withdrawals, whether partial or complete, do not count toward the maximum 18. Withdrawals used prior to the start of the Fall 2009 semester will not be counted in these new maximums.

Some Senators were opposed to not counting withdrawal units used prior to Fall 09. It was mentioned that medical withdrawals may be sought more often by those trying to circumvent the process. EO 1037 has raised many questions and concerns system-wide. Swerkes suggested that comments be sent to her or Stepanek so they can be sent forward for discussion in Long Beach. No changes to the policy were recommended.

1st Reading – [Undergraduate Policy on Repeating Courses](#)

In brief, the proposed policy states that a maximum of 16 semester units of CSU coursework may be repeated for grade forgiveness and an additional 12 semester units of courses may be repeated for grade averaging. Hertzog explained that the proposed changes to the undergraduate policy on repeating courses aim to align CSU Northridge's current policy with Executive Order 1037, which goes into effect for all CSU campuses on August 1, 2009. The counting of maximum repeats for grade forgiveness and grade averaging starts anew in Fall 2009. Any repeats used prior to the start of Fall 2009 semester will not be counted in these new maximums. It is hoped that SOLAR will be able to enforce these policies.

It was suggested that the wording be revised in proposed rule #6 to clear up the language. In rule #9, it was suggested that the language be revised so that it is clear that courses that allow or require multiple repeats are not counted. It was also requested that EPC consider allowing departments to get courses approved as "repeatable courses" before the policy goes into effect.

Some Senators were concerned about this policy preventing students from graduating by not allowing them to take a course more than three times. Other Senators felt students should not be given the opportunity to continuously repeat courses.

6. **Senate Reports**

- a. **Provost's Report** – Cynthia Rawitch, Associate VP for Undergraduate Studies
Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/provostsreport041609.pdf>

Rawitch mentioned some of the strategies the campus is using for reducing enrollments: fewer summer classes, a smaller incoming freshman class, stricter enforcement of deadlines for ELM and EPT, encouraging prospective students to file intent to register by deadline, encouraging students to file their intent to graduate, reviewing and enforcing financial aid policies, restricting units for probationary students, etc. Rawitch added that we have very few students enrolled in violation of the CSU “forbidden 4” policy.

- b. **CFA Report** – Cathy Jeppson, CFA Treasurer
Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport041609.pdf>.

Jeppson asked the Senators to look at both the pros and cons of Proposition IA and that they review AB 656 and SB 218 very carefully.

- c. **Statewide Academic Senate Report** – Barbara Swerkes
Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/sasreport041609.pdf>

Swerkes encouraged Senators to look at the resolutions and the first reading items and to contact the chairs of the various committees if they have questions or concerns. The Senators were reminded again to look at the Propositions. The message from the Statewide Senate continues to be – the CSU is the answer, not the problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Submitted by:
Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary
Cheryl Spector, Secretary of the Faculty