

FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 9/20/2012
Minutes of Meeting of May 10, 2012
Jack and Florence Ferman Presentation Room

Faculty President Stepanek called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: Lisa Banner, Michael Bennett (excused), Tracy Buenavista (excused), Douglas Carranza, Daniel Cutcher, Claudia Fajardo-Lira (excused), Susan Fitzpatrick-Behrens, Amanda Flavin, Abel Franco, Shane Frehlich (excused), Nicholas Habib, Sally Kassamian (excused), James Kelley (excused), Terri Lisagor (excused), Jennifer Matos (excused), David Miller, Dat-dao Nguyen (excused), Daniel Odom, Ashley Skylar (excused), Jeff Stork, Barbara Swerkes, Steven Thachuk, Dayanthie Weeraratne, Steven Wexler (excused), Jeff Wiegley

The Faculty Senate Minutes for April 19, 2012 were approved as distributed.

1. Announcements

- a. The Honored Faculty Reception will be on May 21, 2012 at 10:00am at the USU Grand Salon. Faculty will be presented with awards, honored for milestone service years and granted emeritus status. Also, new faculty officers will be installed. All faculty are invited to attend.
- b. The Faculty Leadership Reception hosted by Interim President Hellenbrand will be this evening, Thursday, May 10, 2012, at 5:00pm at the Orange Grove Bistro.
- c. The Honors Convocation will be on May 21, 2012. A reception will be held on the North Portico of the Oviatt Library at 4:30pm. Senators were encouraged to attend their College commencement ceremonies.
- d. During last week's ASCSU plenary meeting and this week's Board of Trustees meeting, CSU Northridge was mentioned in a positive light for hosting the Funding the Future of the CSU Symposium. Michael Hoggan, chair of the planning committee, was congratulated.
- e. Bendavid was elected to be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.
- f. Michaud made Senators aware of the GE Paths Program which is an optional opportunity for students to select a theme while completing their GE. Three themes have been identified so far: Social Justice, Global Studies and Sustainability. For more information visit: <http://www.csun.edu/gepaths>

2. **Introduction of New Senators**

The newly elected Senators were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves.

3. **Election of 2012-13 Senate Executive Committee**

The following faculty were elected to serve on the 2012-13 Senate Executive Committee: Eric Garcia (Library), Michael Hoggan (Cinema and Television Arts), Kristy Michaud (Political Science), Michael Neubauer (Mathematics), Judy Schmidt-Levy (Student Affairs) and Diane Schwartz (Computer Science). The following faculty serve as Ex-officio members: Sandra Chong (CSU Statewide Academic Senator), Shane Frehlich (Vice President of the Faculty), Provost Harry Hellenbrand (non-voting), Terri Lisagor (Secretary of the Faculty), and Steven Stepanek (Faculty President).

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

Magnhild Lien (Chair), David Aks and Matt Cahn, Members of PP&R

Action Item – [Policy on Reappointment](#)

Based on feedback at the last Senate meeting, PP&R changed the order of sentences to provide clarity. Senators made two friendly amendments to the policy.

Added a statement to the end of Section 641.1.1.a:

. . . One who shows weakness but promise of improvement, may be retained for the third year; if, however, during the third year, marked improvement is not clearly in evidence, the faculty member shall not be reappointed for an additional probationary year.

Rephrased Section 641.1.2 to read:

Faculty who have not demonstrated that they are potentially promotable shall not be approved for tenure.

The motion to approve the policy was passed.

Action Item – [University Publication Standard Policy](#)

Lien said that Section 632.4.2.b. (re: equivalencies) was added to the policy statement to provide the complete University standard on publication. Also added were an implementation plan that explains when changes to the policy would take effect, and a statement urging departments and colleges to clearly define what is considered to be “peer reviewed” publication or equivalencies to publication in their disciplines.

Some Senators were not comfortable with “scholarly book reviews” being considered an equivalency and not specifically mentioned in the University definition of publication in Section 600. A lengthy discussion pursued about “peer reviewed” and whether the revised University definition is broad enough to cover publication requirements deemed appropriate to all disciplines.

MSP to send back to PP&R for re-consideration of the language.

5. **Campus Climate Survey Results**

Sheila Grant, Former Member of Educational Equity Committee

Link to Executive Summary:

<http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/campusclimatesurveyresults051012.pdf>

Grant reported that the Campus Climate Survey was conducted online in Spring 2011; a total of 990 surveys were completed by faculty, staff and administrators. “Campus climate” is a term used to discuss our environment related to the inclusive nature of our campus. Grant reported on the principle findings (perception and personal experiences), explained some of the contradictions, and provided some strategies and recommendations that might improve the campus climate at CSUN.

The above link provides the Executive Summary and highlights of Grant’s presentation. In summary, perceptions of campus climate on this campus were positive. Although there was agreement and shared perceptions of campus climate, there were some disparate realities discovered along racial/ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, faculty status, and college/division lines that cause some concern. CSUN must continue to focus efforts on creating and sustaining a campus climate that is welcoming and inclusive, with special attention given to probationary assistant professors, as well as employees from historically underrepresented/marginalized groups.

6. **Resolution in Support of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech**

Steven Stepanek, Faculty President

Link to proposed resolution: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/resolutions/acadfreedomresolution-csun051012.pdf>

SEC considered the feedback given at the last Senate meeting. They were advised of a similar resolution recently passed by the ASCSU. SEC decided to maintain the original language but to include a reference to the ASCSU resolution.

A Senator recommended that the third “Whereas,” the second “Resolved” and part of the title be deleted from this resolution and a second separate resolution be written commending Interim President Hellenbrand for his work. This would remove association to a particular speaker referenced in a letter from three CSU presidents (San Luis Obispo, Northridge, Fresno) in support of academic freedom and freedom of speech.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution as described above. While taking a vote, it was determined that there was not a quorum. Therefore, no action could be taken.

7. **Amending the Constitution of the ASCSU to Include Advancing Academic Freedom**

In Spring 2012, a special election was held to amend the Constitution of the Academic Senate CSU to include a statement upholding academic freedom. The amendment passed by 96 percent in favor. It was later determined by the Chancellor’s Office legal counsel that the amendment could not go forward to the Board of Trustees. The amendment was slightly revised, with consultation from legal counsel, and passed by the ASCSU. CSU campuses must hold a special election in Fall 2012 to consider the amended language.

8. **President's Report** – Interim President Harry Hellenbrand

Budget – Rather than a \$250 million “trigger cut” problem, the CSU has a \$2 billion problem because that is the amount the CSU receives in state appropriation. The state of California is, bit-by-bit, withdrawing funding from higher education and it will not stop until tax revenues improve which will not happen soon. The CSU must look at fees and large ticket items and not at modest solutions, learn to operate in a world of one-time dollars, and have a realistic understanding that fees are part of the solution. Until we deal with long term health care cost issues, the state will not be able to adequately fund higher education or K-12. Therefore, the CSU must think differently about where we receive our funding.

President Dianne Harrison will begin on June 11.

Senator Michael Hoggan thanked Hellenbrand for supporting the Funding the Future of CSU Symposium hosted by the faculty. Senators applauded Hellenbrand for his work as Interim President.

9. **Senate Reports**

a. **Academic Senate CSU Report** – Statewide Senator Sandra Chong

Link to report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/sasreport051012.pdf>

In the written report, Stepanek pointed out three references to the Funding the Future of the CSU Symposium (#1, 4, 10), the CalState Online report (#3), Ben Quillian's report on the budget (#4), and Chancellor Reed's mention of the CSU having a \$400 million structural deficit (#5). Senators were encouraged to read the resolutions.

b. **Provost's Report** – Vice President William Watkins

Vice President Watkins reminded the Senators to attend Honors Convocation on May 21, 2012. Senators applauded Vice President Watkins and Vice Provost Rawitch for their service in the Provost's Office while Provost Hellenbrand was in the position of Interim President.

c. **CFA Report** – Nate Thomas

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport051012.pdf>

The Senators had no additional questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Submitted by:

Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary

April Taylor, Secretary of the Faculty