

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 10/18/12**

**Minutes of Meeting of September 20, 2012**

Jack and Florence Ferman Presentation Room

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

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: Dianne Bartlow, Vincentiu Covrig (excused), Abel Franco, Shane Frehlich (excused), Nicholas Habib, Amy Levin (excused), Jennifer Matos (excused), Kristy Michaud (excused), Judy Schmidt-Levy (excused), Steven Thachuk (excused), Gary Victor (excused), David Wakefield (excused), Veda Ward (excused), Jeff Wiegley

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for May 10, 2012](#) were approved as distributed.

**1. Announcements**

- a. Newly elected Senators were welcomed and introduced themselves.
- b. The 1978 CSUN flag, designed by alumnus Michael O'Meara, was displayed. Stepanek said this historic flag will be used, along with "CSUN. SHINE," to promote the theme for the 2013 Faculty Retreat: Illuminating Pathways to Success. The Retreat will be held on campus on January 14-15, 2013. Senators wishing to do a presentation may submit a proposal form to the Senate Office by October 22, 2012.
- c. A get-well card for Senate Vice-President Shane Frehlich was circulated.
- d. Per the resolution, "Resolution on Recommendations Report from GE Governance Task Force on Formation of General Education Council (GEC)," creating the current GE Council, a new General Education Task Force is being set-up to review the operating of the GEC and provide recommendation regarding its status within the structure of the Faculty Senate. Two Senators will serve on this Task Force. Stepanek asked Senators to contact him or the Senate Office if they wish to be considered. SEC will make the final selection.
- e. A flyer was available on the back table explaining the requirement for faculty to reset their password at least once per year.

**2. Faculty Special Election: [Amendment to the Statewide Academic Senate Constitution](#)**

In Spring 2012, a special system-wide election was held to amend the Constitution of the Academic Senate CSU to include a statement upholding academic freedom. The amendment passed by a majority vote. It was later determined by legal counsel at the Chancellor's Office that the amendment could not go forward to the Board of Trustees because of a language issue.

A revised amendment, after consultation from legal counsel, was passed by the ASCSU in May 2012. CSU campuses must hold a special election this Fall to consider the amended language. The revised language reads,

It shall be the purpose of the Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) to promote academic excellence in the California State University; to advance the principles of academic freedom and freedom of inquiry as generally recognized in the American Association of University Professors 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments when faculty carry out their responsibilities; to serve as the official voice...;

A Senator asked the question, “who determines when a faculty member is carrying out their responsibilities.” After discussion about this language, it was

**MSP** to delay a vote on the amendment pending consultation with other CSU campus Senates on whether they have concerns, with a report on the consultation to be sent to the CSUN Senate, and an opportunity provided for Senators to prepare a pro or con statement to be included with the ballot.

### **3. Learning Commons Redesign Plans for the Oviatt Library**

Mark Stover, Dean of the Oviatt Library

Dean Stover said that the Learning Commons is a change in Library pedagogy and provides flexible learning spaces such as furniture, technology, and collaborative space that students will use. A Learning Commons follows best practices in academic libraries and transitions the library from a print-dominated repository to a digital universe of learning. Key aspects include pedagogy, partnerships and technology. A “genius type” bar will be set-up with IT staff. Most of the funding comes from deferred maintenance, Campus Quality Fee funding, and special collections and archives expansion funded by a private donation. Construction will start in summer 2013, with a planned opening for Fall 2013.

### **4. Report on September 19, 2012 “CSUN Forum on November Ballot Tax Initiatives” followed by Open Discussion**

Melanie Williams, Chair of Business Law

Williams gave a brief summary on what was discussed at the “Forum on the November Ballot Tax Initiatives” held the previous evening on the CSUN campus. The moderator was an attorney, Howard Miller, from Girardi Keese. John Welty, CSU Fresno President, spoke in support of Proposition 30 and reported on the facts of the tax initiative. He felt the propositions would give some stability in funding. Molly Munger, a civil rights attorney, spoke in support of Proposition 38. She said revenues will only be allocated to education. Lisa Snell, Director of Education and Child Welfare, opposed both propositions saying that California has a huge spending problem and raising taxes is dangerous because we already have high taxes and no accountability.

In summary, Williams gave some strategies on voting: 1) If you believe that there are structural problems in the way schools are funded and that adding more money won’t solve the problem, and if increasing taxes will harm the business environment, reduce revenue and hurt the state of California, then vote NO on both. 2) If both propositions pass, the one with the higher

number of votes wins. If you support higher taxes to support education, then you might vote YES/YES in case the one you prefer doesn't pass. Or you may vote YES on the one you prefer so that proposition has a better chance.

## 5. Senate Reports

### a. President's Report – President Dianne Harrison

President Harrison reported on the following topics:

- 1) At their September meeting, the CSU Board of Trustees discussed possible implementation of additional fees for students repeating courses, taking more than 16 units in a semester, and taking more than 150 units total. No action was taken, but these are actions under consideration if Proposition 30 does not pass. The Board of Trustees began discussion of a different formula for health care premiums to affect all employees, but the discussion was postponed until the Board of Trustees has more information on the implications. The Board of Trustees did approve a cap of 120 units on most undergraduate degrees. The BOT also approved a roll back of the last tuition increase if Proposition 30 passes; and if it does not pass, a 5 percent increase will take effect in January 2013.
- 2) The Hearst Scholars were honored at the Board of Trustees meeting. A Hearst Scholarship was awarded to one of our Marriage and Family Therapy students, Corie Loiselle.
- 3) President Harrison is excited about the changes to the Graduate Studies and Research office and is pleased about the feedback on the stretch goal on research and external funding. Greater emphasis on sponsored research will create outstanding learning opportunities for our students as well as opportunities for our faculty.
- 4) The Ad Hoc Transition Advisory Group serves as a focus group for President Harrison and has been very helpful in providing feedback on many campus-based topics. A set of initiatives focused on employee engagement and success will be rolled out.
- 5) Pertaining to graduation rates, the Education Trust (September 2012) ranked CSUN #15 in the United States for closing the achievement gap among African-American students. Not noted in the report but worth recognition is a 10% increase in the graduation rate among Hispanic students from 2004 to 2010.
- 6) President Harrison thanked the Senators for creating such a welcoming environment for her and her husband.

### b. Provost's Report – Provost Harry Hellenbrand

Provost Hellenbrand reported on the following topics:

- 1) The six year graduation rate for Hispanic students went from 32% to 42%.
- 2) Our FTES this Fall was almost exactly on target. We have 4100-4200 freshmen. Our average unit load of 11.86 is an all-time high. We will not be admitting students in the Spring.
- 3) If Proposition 30 passes, the campus will lose \$11 million over two years and the Fall 2012 fee increase of 9 percent will roll back and we have to forgo the five percent fee increase planned for Spring 2013. Fee increases are permanent and we are trading them for \$125 million of one-time money. Looking at a two-year period, we will be worse

off. There is no plan after the two-year period. We need multi-year plans and other solutions for funding. We have accumulated balances, so we should be able to handle the cuts for the next few years.

- 4) We must continue to invest. We need to put money into graduate programs if we are to grow. Graduate Studies and Research will be separated from International Programs. The China Institute will be housed in the College of Humanities. We will continue our investment in the Centers.

c. **Academic Senate CSU Report** – Interim Statewide Senator Michael Hoggan

Link to report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/sasreport092012.pdf>

Hoggan highlighted the following topics:

- 1) Steven Stepanek was elected as “Convener” of the Council of Campus Senate Chairs for 2012-2013.
- 2) On October 11, 2012, CSU Northridge will host a Symposium on Funding the Future of the CSU: Part II at the LAX Marriott; they will discuss funding ideas to suggest to the Chancellor’s Office. Hoggan asked the Senators to send him funding solutions so they can be considered.
- 3) Cal State Online will likely be a topic at an April CSUN symposium.
- 4) The CSU is hoping to replace the Chancellor by November.

d. **CFA Report** – Nate Thomas

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport092012.pdf>

Thomas highlighted the following topics:

- 1) CFA supports “yes” on Proposition 30 and “no” on Proposition 32
- 2) Thomas encouraged faculty to share a video produced by CSU students on student perspective of Proposition 30.
- 3) Student organizations will hold voter registration on campus.
- 4) About 204 faculty are eligible for equity pay increases. It is up to the individual campuses to give equity increases to faculty who are eligible.

6. **New Business**

Resolution: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/resolutions/hellenbrandresolution.pdf>

**MSP** to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for Provost Harry Hellenbrand for his service while Interim President.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Submitted by:

Terri Lisagor, Secretary of the Faculty  
Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary