

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 10/27/2011**  
**Minutes of Meeting of September 22, 2011**  
Oviatt Library Presentation Room

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

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: Cecile Bendavid (excused), Michael Bennett, John Bruton, Douglas Carranza, Daniel Cutcher, Claudia Fajardo-Lira (excused), Mark Farquhar, Abel Franco, Nicholas Habib, Amy Levin (excused), Jennifer Matos (excused), Patricia Miller (excused), Dat-dao Nguyen (excused), Mary Schaffer (excused), Judy Schmidt-Levy (excused), Ashley Skylar, Steven Thachuk (excused), Dayanthie Weeraratne, Jeff Wiegley

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for May 12, 2011](#) were approved with one correction.

**1. Announcements**

- a. Stepanek mentioned that the new configuration of the Presentation Room will be the default arrangement for future meetings.
- b. Newly elected and re-elected Senators, chairs of standing committees, members of the Senate Executive Committee and the Associated Students president introduced themselves by way of standing and providing their name and affiliation.

**2. Introduction of the New Dean of the Library, Dr. Mark Stover**

Stepanek introduced the new Dean of the Library and displayed his biography on the projector screen. Stover brings 30 years of library experience and started here on July 1, 2011. Stover invited the Senators to visit the library often and to make use of the incredible resources available in the library. He praised the campus for their collegiality and active participation in shared governance and invited Senators to bring any library concerns to him or the chair of the Library Committee.

**3. Statewide Academic Senator Election (replacement for Jennifer Matos)**

Jennifer Matos stepped down as Statewide Academic Senator; her term ends in 2013. As the campus Senate Bylaws state, an election was held to fill this position for the remainder of the current academic year (Spring 2012). During our regular Spring 2012 election process, the position will open again to elect someone to serve for the remainder of the term. Two nominations were made. A paper ballot was distributed and Shane Frehlich was elected to serve.

#### 4. **Faculty Election Moodle Demonstration: Amendment to the Statewide Academic Senate Constitution**

Steven Stepanek, Faculty President  
Deone Zell, Director of Faculty Technology Center

Stepanek reported that last Spring the Academic Senate CSU proposed an amendment to the Constitution of the Academic Senate of the CSU to include a statement upholding academic freedom. Constitutional amendments must be ratified by the faculty of at least 12 campuses and approved by the Board of Trustees. There was no opposition from ASCSU on this amendment.

The campus will need to hold a special election for this initiative. The Senate Executive Committee thought this would be an excellent opportunity to test a “new” method for holding this election. Over the summer, Deone Zell (Director of the Faculty Technology Center), assisted us in setting up a Moodle election site. SEC provided their input and endorses that we move forward using Moodle for this special election. Stepanek gave a live demonstration to the Senate.

If this election process is endorsed by the Senate, the ballot will be sent out on Friday morning (September 23) electronically to all full-time faculty plus the part-time faculty members serving on the Senate. Faculty will be given two weeks to vote and would have the right to request a paper ballot from the Senate Office.

**MSP** (unanimously) to endorse using Moodle for this special election.

#### 5. **University President Search Committee Update**

Stepanek announced that on September 21, 2011, the CSU Board of Trustees (BOT) approved a new policy for the selection of campus presidents. In anticipation of a number of presidents retiring, changes to the policy were made to streamline the process and to make it less time consuming for the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor.

A Trustees Committee and a campus Advisory Committee will work together on the presidential search process. The campus Advisory Committee consists of the campus Senate Chair, two additional faculty members, one staff person, one student, a member of the campus Advisory Board, one alumnus/alumna, one Vice President or Dean, a CSU president, and up to two additional members selected by the Chancellor or BOT.

In anticipation of these events, SEC met on September 15, 2011 to develop a process for selecting the two faculty members. They unanimously passed this motion: “The process for filling the two faculty member slots on the presidential advisory committee be accomplished by accepting applications and having the SEC select the two best qualified faculty members. Members of the SEC wishing to apply will be excused from the SEC deliberations to fill the two faculty positions. The Chair for of the Senate will chair the SEC deliberations.” Applicants will be asked to submit one page describing why he/she wishes to serve and what special attributes/abilities they would bring, and a two page resume ~~with a focus on service~~ that highlights relevant qualifications. The Senate made one amendment (see ~~strikeout~~ and addition above).

**MSP** (unanimously) to approve this process (described above) for selecting two faculty members to serve on the campus Advisory Committee for the selection of a campus president.

The deadline to submit the two faculty names is very soon, but not yet determined, so flexibility in the timeline is necessary. There was discussion regarding the campus visit of potential candidates and confidentiality.

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

President Koester reported on the following three topics:

- a. **Search for New President** – President Koester reiterated that a special sub-committee of the Board of Trustees was set up to review the presidential search process. This was because it is anticipated there will be a number of upcoming presidential retirements in the CSU. This will affect aspects of this presidential search, and the delayed start of the search process will affect whether or not we have an interim president on this campus.

President Koester explained why confidentiality is important to potential candidates, giving specific examples of situations described by her presidential colleagues. A campus visit policy prevents some good people from applying because they do not want to reveal their intentions to their home campus. She described practices on other campuses which have done a good job maintaining confidentiality. The final hiring decision rests with the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor.

- b. **Budget** – In addition to the \$500 million budget cut to the CSU announced last spring, the CSU took another reduction of \$150 million over the summer. In July, tuition fees were raised to offset the \$150 million reduction in state appropriation. Because of the growth of this campus, Cal State Northridge's share of the CSU cut is close to eight percent (versus the historical seven percent). Additionally, if state revenue does not reach a certain level, the shortfall will trigger an additional \$100 million mid-year reduction to the CSU. It is not yet known whether this would be a baseline cut or just a one-time reduction. A further reduction to the CSU's base budget would likely lead to another tuition fee increase.
- c. **Agenda for this Semester** – President Koester said she is working with the vice presidents on framing a 10-year resource plan for the University. The plan will be conceptual, based on a set of assumptions for enrollment growth, potential increases in tuition fees, revenue over time, and potential decreases in state revenue per student. The University will begin conversations about ways we can change the revenue stream, reduce expenditures, and make smart strategic plans for the future.

Also this semester, the University will roll out a unified communications platform and kick off strategies recommended by the Special Task Force on Engagement, such as setting up a task force on athletics engagement and holding a volunteer summit to bring more highly influential alumni back to campus. In addition, implementation roadmaps for the IT Vision@ 2015 plan will be completed and some of the functions of the Valley Performing Arts Center will be fine tuned. President Koester referred the Senators to her convocation address which speaks to future strategic priorities of the University.

## 7. Senate Reports

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

Provost Hellenbrand said that when the presidential search Trustees Committee comes to campus, he strongly encourages the campus Advisory Committee to focus on the characteristics of the next president and not to debate the validity of the presidential search process. It is important that we have a good relationship with the Trustees Committee.

We are guaranteed \$6.8 million dollars because of the enrollment growth. We will lose some money, though, because the unit load has gone up. As fees have gone up, the unit load has gone up and the number of terms has gone down. It appears that the average number of terms to get a degree has gone down by one term. This translates to \$2,700 less revenue per student.

We received an excellent report from WASC and were praised for our retention rates. We will begin to look at the characteristics of the campus, where we want our degree programs to go, and will look carefully at the College plans to decide what to do next.

### b. **CFA Report** – Nate Thomas

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport092211.pdf>

CFA President Nate Thomas said that our bargaining contract expired in 2010 so it's time for a new contract. There is an E-summit meeting on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> in SH 224. There will be a live webcast from 12:00 – 1:00pm. Senators were invited to attend; RSVP by calling the CFA Office.

### c. **Statewide Academic Senate Report** – Sandra Chong

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/sasreport092211.pdf>

Chong brought attention to today's business section of the LA times wherein the Chancellor mentions that the CSU will not raise tuition this year but it is likely the UC system will.

A question was raised about the Early Start anticipated enrollment numbers – 17,000 math enrollments but only 7,000 English enrollments. Chong said she would get a clarification on why these numbers are disproportionate.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Submitted by:

Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary

April Taylor, Secretary of the Faculty