

FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 2/12/09
Minutes of Meeting of December 4, 2008
Oviatt Library Presentation Room

Faculty President Matos called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: Ahmed Bouguarche (excused), Ranita Chatterjee (excused), Catherine Coyle-Thompson, Susanna Eng (excused), Irma Good, Patricia Juarez-Dappe, Rodica Kohn (excused), Clara Park, Beth Phillips (excused), Lisa Riccomini (excused), Miguel Segura, David Wakefield

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for October 30, 2008](#) were approved as distributed.

1. Announcements

- a. Jennifer Zvi, Statewide Academic Senator and Senate Executive Committee member, is retiring from the University at the end of this semester. Matos thanked her for her many years of dedicated service to the Senate. We will take nominations and hold an election at the next Senate meeting (February 12, 2009) to fill the resulting vacancies on the Senate Executive Committee and on the Statewide Academic Senate.
- b. Brochures on the Capital Fellows Programs were placed on the back table for faculty to take back for interested students.
- c. There are a few open spaces for the Faculty Retreat to be held on January 12-13, 2009 at the Ventura Beach Marriott. Senators interested in participating should contact Heidi.

2. Faculty Dining Room

Rick Evans, University Corporation

Evans reported that there was a desire for a convenient space on the campus for faculty and staff to meet colleagues for meals, coffee or just to relax. The most logical location for this space is the Special Events Room in the Sierra Center. The room will be converted to a Faculty Dining Room (Colleagues Room) on January 12th. This room will be open to faculty, staff, and their guests from 7 am to 2 pm, Monday through Friday. If the room proves to be a success, then the University Corporation has plans to remodel it to make it more comfortable and attractive. If the room is not used, it will be converted back to its current use and open to everybody.

3. Policy Items – Personnel Planning and Review Committee

William Whiting, Chair of PP&R

1st Reading – [Training for Equity and Diversity Representatives on Search Committee](#)

Currently Section 620.2.3 states that all Department and College Equity and Diversity (E&D) Representatives shall receive training from the Director of Equity and Diversity. For the past

several years, Faculty Hiring Workshops have been offered and have been proven to be a successful strategy and practice in training Equity and Diversity Representatives. The revised policy will **require** the E&D representative or designee from the search committee to attend a Hiring Workshop and to disseminate information to the other committee members. Currently Workshops are being offered but attendance is encouraged but not required.

Discussion followed. The main concerns from the Senate were on the length of the Workshop (about 3 hours) and the frequency of attendance (once per year).

4. **Rethinking Freshman Composition**

Cynthia Rawitch, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies

Rawitch reported that the University is about to launch a campus conversation and exploration of how we might deliver freshman composition differently than we do now and how that might change. This conversation could lead to a potential redesign of first-year freshman composition including developmental writing. A University Conference Day to allow for conversations on this topic will be scheduled early in the spring semester. All decisions on courses will be made by the faculty. It is expected that experimental versions of any revised course will be ready to offer in Fall 2010. A question was raised about how many units of freshman writing might count towards graduation. Rawitch said that would be a faculty decision. Rawitch asked for feedback and ideas to take back to the University Writing Council.

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

President Koester reported the following:

NCAA Recertification – Cal State Northridge is currently involved in a self study for NCAA Recertification. Faculty, staff and students are involved in the process, serving on the steering committee and three subcommittees. An NCAA-assigned peer review team will visit the campus in April. The self study will be made available for review shortly. Senators were asked to take the time to review the self study and to provide feedback for accuracy and comprehensiveness on our responses to the questions.

Enrollment and Budget – We are 7.5 percent above our budgeted enrollment this year. Because of the state and CSU budgets, we will need to reduce our enrollments to within 1-2 percent of that same target number for next year. This is a reduction of approximately 1800 FTES.

The Governor has called a special session of the Legislature, declared a fiscal emergency, and asked that \$66 million be removed from the CSU budget for 2008-09. Our share at Cal State Northridge is about \$5 million. For planning purposes, we had already set aside this money. The financial situation of the state of California suggests further likely budget reductions, so budget numbers are difficult to plan for 2009-10. President Koester and Provost Hellenbrand will visit the Colleges in the spring semester to layout the possible scenarios. A budget FAQ page is available on the President's Office website.

6. **Senate Reports**

a. **CFA Report** – Dave Ballard, CFA Representative

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport120408.pdf>. Ballard highlighted three items:

- The CSU Alliance continues to be active and is working in support of public higher education.
- Bargaining is on-going; the CSU offered no raises for 2008/2009.
- CutsHaveConsequences@calfac.org is an e-mail address set up to collect personal stories from faculty on how budget cuts are affecting their ability to deliver education.

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

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/provostsreport120408.pdf>

Provost Hellenbrand added the following comments:

- The CSU system is going to reduce student enrollments by 18,000 students. The state is \$22 billion in debt. At some point, we will have to get more revenue into the system.
- CSUN is planning a reduction of 1800 FTES (2500 students); different strategies for managing student enrollments were laid out.
- The California budget was summarized (see report, page 6)
- Two main priorities will be to make classes available for our students and to protect the jobs of permanent staff and tenured and tenure-track faculty.

[President Matos announced that the Provost has slides and a presentation about budget issues for Colleges or Departments interested in hearing him talk.]

c. **Statewide Academic Senate Report** – Barbara Swerkes

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/sasreport120408.pdf>

Senator Swerkes highlighted a few items.

- The link to the Statewide Academic Senate website is included in the written report.
- Our own Katherine Stevenson (Mathematics) provided a presentation of her work that had been funded through the CSU *Transforming Course Design* initiative.

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

Submitted by:

Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary

Cheryl Spector, Secretary of the Faculty