

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING** – Approved 5/9/19  
**Minutes of Meeting of April 11, 2019**  
Jack and Florence Ferman Presentation Room

Faculty President Stein called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: Linda Alvarez (excused), Annette Besnilian, Keji Chen (excused), Sandra Chong (excused), Monica Garcia (excused), Jason Lo (excused), Debra Berry Malmberg (excused), Lissa Stapleton (excused), Elizabeth Sussman (excused), Adam Swenson, Gina Umeck, John Valdovinos (excused)

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for March 7, 2019](#) were approved as revised.

**1. Announcements**

- a. Senator Ntagu announced that this year Associated Students had their highest voter turnout in their elections. Seventeen percent of students voted this year. Ntagu also mentioned that the student referendums passed and the new Associated Students President is Diana Vicente.
- b. Senator Klein encouraged faculty to share information about the Association of Retired Faculty (ARF) with other faculty that are retired or about to retire. Senator Klein also requested for Senior Faculty that are interested in being involved in scholarship award committees to contact ARF. ARF also allows faculty to give guest lectures. Brochures were left on the table at the back of the Senate meeting.

**2. President's Report – President Dianne F. Harrison**

- a. President Harrison congratulated the newly elected Senators. It was mentioned that the new Provost Mary Beth Walker will start on July 1, 2019. President Harrison thanked the search committee members for their work.
- b. President Harrison announced that Honors Convocation will be held on May 11 and Commencements will be held on May 17-20, 2019. Dr. Susan Burton, this year's recipient for the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters will be honored at the commencement ceremonies for the College of Humanities and the College of Health and Human Development on Monday May 20, 2019. Robert Taylor, a former recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Awards and a CSUN alumni from the David Nazarian College of Business will be giving remarks at the Honors Convocation.
- c. March is the month for advocacy. CSUN has spent a lot of time lobbying in Sacramento and Washington on behalf of the CSU, students and the campus. Some of the advocacy efforts are for increased funding for Pell grants, cost of living increase, cost of attendance and second chance Pell grants (for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals), funding from federal agencies and maintaining pipeline funding, the Dream and Promise Act for undocumented students, supporting policies and funding that supports students

basic needs (food insecurity and housing) and the state bond issue that they hope will pass to assist with capital projects. It was also mentioned that CSUN has the largest number of Pell grant students in the state of California (98.8 million dollars was distributed by CSUN's Financial Aid Office in Pell grants).

- d. President Harrison briefly discussed Title 3 Part F of the Higher Education Act. It allows funding for grants for minority serving institutions (MSIs). CSUN is advocating for the funding to be continued and permanently mandated for MSIs.
- e. President Harrison thanked Larry Becker for helping run the Washington DC Internship program. There are about 25 students in the program and she enjoyed visiting them while advocating for CSUN in Washington DC. President Harrison encouraged faculty to have their students to apply for the Washington DC internship program that is open to all majors. There is financial aid available for students. President Harrison also mentioned that there are many CSUN alumni members in the New York area who are able to help students find internships.
- f. Academic Affairs has launched a CSUN Student Success website. It has information on the graduation initiatives, research and literature on student success.  
Website: <https://csun.edu/student-success>
- g. CSUN was listed in the top 10 most affordable institutions in the country by the Student Loan Hero. In March, CSUN hosted a donor appreciation luncheon and the highlight was the inspiring remarks provided by the student speakers. This upcoming weekend is the Distinguished Alumni event, which showcases the value of a CSUN education through the success of our alumni.
- h. President Harrison said that the Deans have been discussing their emergency preparedness planning in Extended Cabinet. Deans are working with their department chairs and any faculty who are not aware of their college's plan should inquire. Being prepared at all times for emergencies is very important.
- i. President Harrison is a signatory on the President's Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration. Over 400 presidents across the nation are involved in the organization. They are advocating for a sensible immigration policy and support for undocumented students, international students and scholars. Dr. William Watkins attended a recent meeting on the behalf of President Harrison.
- j. President Harrison congratulated the Dean, faculty and staff from the Michael D. Eisner College of Education for receiving a unanimous recommendation of reaccreditation without further conditions from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. President Harrison also attended CSUN's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Assistive Technology Conference in Anaheim and acknowledged Sandy Plotin for organizing the conference that showcases innovative and emerging technologies for people with disabilities. It is an internationally attended conference. President Harrison encouraged faculty to apply to present at the conference.
- k. There will be 27 new tenure track faculty in the fall.

A Senator encouraged other Senators to ask the President questions or make comments. A Senator shared that they enjoyed the basketball season and said that they hope that CSUN will be in the NCAA final four next year. Another Senator requested an update on the allegations made against the Athletics coach. President Harrison explained that there is nothing to report and that the news articles are innuendo at this point. If she receives any specific information to the contrary, she will provide an update. A Senator asked if the President can comment on preliminary data on students' performance since the

implementation of the executive orders. President Harrison deferred to Interim Provost Stella Theodoulou who mentioned that she reported on the data last month. In 115 there was an 86% passage rate, which is in line with the previous 3 year passage rate. Interim Provost Stella Theodoulou requested for everyone to review the student success emails that have been distributed on a regular basis that discuss the passage rates of courses affected by EO1110.

### **3. Budget Update – (≈30 min)**

Colin Donahue, VP of Administration & Finance and CFO

Diane Stephens, AVP of Academic Resources and Planning

President Stein mentioned that there have been many questions lately about the campus budget so Colin Donahue and Diane Stephens were invited to give a brief overview of the budget. Colin Donahue shared a PowerPoint with the Senate and gave an overview of the 2019-2020 University Budget Plan. Donahue discussed the governor's proposed budget, enrollment, student fees, deficit spending, reserves, state appropriation increases and the budget timeline. Donahue mentioned that there was a reduction of 2% in each division. Donahue also mentioned that a referendum for a General Obligation Bond to be placed on the ballot is receiving traction and the CSU has not seen this type of bond since 2006. It was mentioned that the governor's proposed budget shows CSUN would receive 2% of state funding for enrollment growth, which is helpful because CSUN is overenrolled. Donahue said that if any faculty member needs data on the budget they can request it from him.

Diane Stephens also shared a PowerPoint and gave an overview of the Academic Affairs budget. Stephens discussed the general fund budget, the Academic Affairs reduction plan and the 2017-18 expenses. Stephens mentioned that Academic Affairs is about 70% of the university budget. Stephens said that the university exempted any division with a budget below a million dollars from budget cuts.

The Senate discussed the budget, attrition and hiring of faculty, enrollment, the CSU funding needed to produce more graduates, FTES and lobbying for headcount. A Senator requested for a website with information on the budget breakdown. Donahue said that he will share the information with President Stein to share with Senate. Donahue said they are working on updating the budget website to include more information. Stephens mentioned that the financial services website has reports of the actual expenditures for the prior years and the academic resources and planning website publishes the divisional budget by college. A Senator asked Donahue if it is possible to receive PowerPoints in advance in the future. Donahue said that he would be happy to attend future Senate meetings to give budget updates on an as needed basis and will send his presentations in advance. President Stein said that she would share the PowerPoint presentation from today with Senators.

Main Budget Website: <https://www.csun.edu/financial/budget>

Academic Resources and Planning Website:

<https://www.csun.edu/academic-resources-planning>

#### **4. Policy Item – Graduate Studies Committee**

Casey terHorst, Chair of GSC

Amy Levin, Assistant VP of Graduate Studies

##### **First Reading – [Comprehensive Examination Policy](#)**

President Stein encouraged all Senators to give feedback on the Comprehensive Examination Policy. Casey terHorst explained that this policy change is to allow students who do not pass 697 to have the option to switch to 698. Discretion would be left at the department level to allow this option. There are currently two culminating experience options. The options are 697 (a comprehensive exam) and 698 (thesis or graduate project). Casey mentioned that Senator Spector sent him suggested changes for the asterisked statement in the policy that would clarify the language of the policy and remove the asterisk.

A Senator inquired about how credits will be handled if a student switches from 697 to 698. Levin mentioned that GSC recently discussed this issue and there is currently no clear answer. What most likely will happen is a student will receive no credit for 697 and will receive credit or a letter grade for 698. Another Senator requested that the policy be consistent in spacing (single spacing or double spacing). A Senator expressed concern about the availability and compensation of faculty graduate advisors for students who would be switching from a comprehensive exam to a thesis. Another concern was the time needed to complete a thesis along with when the course would be offered in a department. Another Senator expressed concern about the support available for students and the financial aid implications. Levin explained that it is important for departments to be on board for this policy change. It will be the departments' choice. The hope is that a student will develop relationships with their faculty and they will mentor them throughout the process. A Senator explained that the questions being asked are beyond the scope of the Graduate Studies Committee and have to be left at the departmental level.

A Senator requested data on the passage rates for comprehensive exams. Casey shared that over 18,000 students have attempted the comprehensive exam over the last 10 years and about 1,296 students have taken it twice. Approximately 138 students did not pass. Another Senator requested that the third sentence in the supporting reasons be included in the policy. Another suggestion was to add language that clarifies that students have the option to switch to another option if they fail the comprehensive exam. It was suggested to not strike F in the policy but instead add the wording “unless the department has defined otherwise”. President Stein mentioned that the feedback will be shared with Graduate Studies Committee and this policy may come back in the future with changes. If Senators have other suggestions they are to contact Casey terHorst or Amy Levin.

#### **5. Discussion of CSUN Senate Response to ASCSU Taskforce Draft Report on GE**

Faculty President Mary-Pat Stein requested that Senator Neubauer present a resolution that he wanted to bring before the body. Senator Neubauer mentioned that he has a resolution that was forwarded to Nicole Wilson and President Stein prior to the Senate meeting. The resolution recommends that CSUN would like the Academic Senate of the CSU to reject the General Education Task Force Draft Report. Senator Neubauer mentioned that he consulted with others before bringing the resolution to the Faculty Senate. Senator Schutte explained that the ASCSU

Taskforce Draft Report on GE is on the docket for the May 16, 2019 plenary meeting. The ASCSU will decide if they will accept or reject the report. President Stein asked the Senate to determine how they would like to proceed. A Senator made a motion to review the resolution. It was seconded. The Senate reviewed the resolution and discussed rejecting versus accepting the report, the importance of responding to the ASCSU GE Taskforce report and if they should use the first reading language in AS 3378 for the ASCSU Statewide Academic Report.

The Senate made motions and added “recommend”, “rejection of”, a whereas statement with information on the American Institutions requirement, replaced “intrude upon the responsibility” with “erode the rights and responsibilities”, added more specific language to the first resolved statement that requested for the ASCSU to reject the GE Task Force Report and refer the GE Task Force Report to a new subcommittee and the GE Program Review Committee. After making the changes above, the Senate voted and approved the resolution.

**MSP:** to approve the Resolution to Recommend Rejection of the General Education Task Force Report with the requested changes. The Senate voted; motion passed.

Approved Resolution:

[Resolution to Recommend Rejection of the General Education Task Force Report \(February 2019\)](#)

## 6. Senate Reports

### a. **Provost’s Report-** Interim Provost Stella Theodoulou

Interim Provost Theodoulou mentioned that as of June there will be a change in the advising structure. CSUN is moving to centralized advising for freshman in the fall. This will not affect EOP because EOP students will still be advised by EOP advisors. All other advisement will remain in the colleges. This will presumably help CSUN with reaching our GI 2025 targets. Sixteen of the 23 CSU campuses are using centralized advising. Advisors will be taken from all over campus and it will allow a 300:1 freshman advising ratio. There will be an open forum on May 17, 2019.

### b. **Statewide Academic Senate CSU Report** – Jerry Schutte

Senator Schutte mentioned that the ASCSU Committee of Teaching and Learning is giving out 23 teaching stipends in 5,000 increments for applications for MA teaching and learning that focus on student success. Faculty can self-nominate. Applications are due May 3, 2019. Senators can contact Senator Schutte with questions. Senator Schutte also mentioned that he will be in the governor’s office in two weeks to discuss bills affecting the CSU. Senator Schutte asked Senators to review the bills and email him with any feedback before his meeting.

**Link to written report:**

[https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/ASCSU%20Report\\_March.pdf](https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/ASCSU%20Report_March.pdf)

A report was sent to the Senators for the March ASCSU plenary meeting.

### c. **CFA Report** – CFA President Nate Thomas

**Link to written report:**

[https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/CFA%20Senate%20Report\\_April.pdf](https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/CFA%20Senate%20Report_April.pdf)

A written report was sent to the Senators.

**7. New Business**

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.

Submitted by: Kim Henige, Secretary of the Faculty and Nicole Wilson, Recording Secretary