

FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 3/11/2021
Minutes of Meeting of February 18, 2021
Via Zoom

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

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: Michael Bennett, Jeff Campbell, John Whitener

The Faculty Senate Minutes for [November 19, 2020](#) were approved as distributed.

1. President's Report – President Erika Beck

President Beck reported on the following:

https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/presreport-021821_0.pdf

After her report, President Beck responded to questions. Faculty President Neubauer will share the invite via email with the Senate for the virtual *California Briefing on 25 Years of HSIs in Accelerating Latinx Student Success* event scheduled on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00p.m.

2. Announcements

- a. Faculty President Neubauer announced that he shared the email about the virtual event *California Briefing on 25 Years of HSIs in Accelerating Latinx Student Success* that CSUN is hosting.
- b. Faculty President Neubauer said that Professor Veda Ward is on leave this semester and CSUN Associated Students needs a new faculty representative. Meetings are Mondays at 9 am. Faculty interested in being the faculty representative to the Associated Students Senate can contact Faculty President Neubauer.
- c. Faculty Award Nominations are due on February 15, 2021 and supporting materials are due after spring break on March 22, 2021.

3. Policy Item – Graduate Studies Committee

Casey terHorst, GSC Designee

Danielle Spratt, Chair of GSC

Amy Levin, AVP of Graduate Studies

First Reading – [Policy on Certificates](#)

Senator Danielle Spratt shared that this policy change updates the current language of the certificate policy and adds a new certificate type to the existing policy. The Senate discussed certificate programs, regional accreditation and a Senator expressed concern with striking out the business practices items in the policy.

4. **Resolution Regarding Voluntarily Adding Student Supportive Language to Syllabi**

Educational Policies Committee

Dan Weingarten, Chair of EPC

Elizabeth Adams, AVP of Undergraduate Studies

Senator Dan Weingarten shared that this resolution was passed by EPC and is being forwarded to the Faculty Senate.

MSP: To change “Educational Policies Committee” to the “the Faculty Senate” in the resolution. “WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of CSUN is concerned....” and “RESOLVED, That the Faculty Senate strongly urge faculty...”.

MSP: to approve the resolution with the requested changes. The resolution will be distributed by Faculty President Michael Neubauer to all CSUN faculty.

5. **Policy Items – Personnel, Planning and Review Committee**

Judy Schmidt-Levy, PP&R Designee

First Reading – [Section 612.5.2 \(Peer Class Visits and Access to Course Materials\)](#)

Senator Judy Schmidt-Levy said that this policy item changes “shalls” to “wills” and also requests that faculty make course materials available to observers for class visits. A Senator inquired about the timeframe necessary for class visits, Senator Schmidt-Levy will bring the feedback back to the PP&R.

First Reading – [Section 706.3 \(Peer Class Visits and Access to Course Materials\)](#)

Senator Schmidt-Levy said that this policy item is similar to Section 612.5.2 but is the equivalent language for Lecturers. There was no feedback on this policy item.

Action Item – [Section 612.3 \(Composition of PP&R/Language in 600 with Faculty By-Laws\)](#)

Senator Schmidt-Levy said that this policy item corrects the sections referenced in the Faculty By-Laws. Faculty President Neubauer explained that the policy referenced a section in the By-Laws that no longer exists.

MSP: to approve this policy item with no changes

Action Item – [Section 641.2.3 \(Service Credit\)](#)

Senator Schmidt-Levy said that PP&R used the Senate feedback received regarding service credit and consulted with the union. The union did not have any problems with the proposed policy change.

MSP: to approve this policy item with no changes

6. Faculty Elections: Nominations for Faculty Officers, Statewide Academic Senators, Senators at-Large and Standing Committee Representatives

Spring 2021 faculty elections will be held in March for faculty officers, a CSU Statewide Academic Senator, and Senators-at-Large. Nominations were taken for these positions and additional nominations will be taken by petition. Recommendations for Senate-elected positions on the Standing Committees were also taken. The Senate Office will contact the nominees to see if they are willing to run for these positions and share the Standing Committee recommendations with the Senate Executive Committee. The Senate Executive Committee will finalize the ballots at its 2/25/21 meeting. The elections will be held in March.

7. Provost's Report- Provost Mary Beth Walker

Provost Mary Beth Walker reported on the following:

1. There was a decrease in the DFU rates in Fall 2020 (9 ½%) compared to Fall 2019 (under 11%). There was increase in equity gaps in DFU rates for traditionally underserved students (less ½% point). There was an increase in equity gaps in upper-division courses. DQ rates decreased. Continuation rates decreased slightly (300 students). CSUN will be reaching out to students that disenrolled to encourage them to reenroll.
2. For faculty hiring, CSUN has unchilled some of the faculty positions put on hold last spring (15 out of 24). Sylvia McCauley (History) and Elena Miranda (Geological Sciences) will be working in the Office of Faculty Affairs as Faculty Equity Advocates to help improve recruitment and retention in faculty hiring.
3. MPP Evaluations are held every 5 years. An evaluation link was sent to faculty for Dean Joyce Feucht-Haviar. Dean Farrell Webb's evaluation will occur this semester.
4. A committee is planning for Fall 2021, keeping in mind LA County and Department of Health Guidelines.

Following her report, the Provost responded to questions. The Senate briefly discussed financial aid, student disenrolling for financial reasons, fall planning, the distribution of CARES Act funds, the faculty equity advocates, equity work across campus, recruitment and retention of faculty of color, vaccinations and DFU rates. UPBG is currently working on and discussing how to distribute the CARES funds. VP Colin Donahue mentioned that CSUN is working with LA county regarding vaccinations.

8. Senate Reports

a. Statewide Academic Senate CSU Report– Elizabeth Sussman

Senator Sussman reported on the following:

1. Senator Sussman gave the Senate a brief overview of the January ASCSU meetings.
2. Senator Theresa Montano is one of the Faculty Trustee Finalists.

3. Chancellor Castro attended the statewide meeting and EVC Loren Blanchard gave his final address. EVC Blanchard has taken a position as a president at the University of Houston Downtown.
4. ASCSU reviewed several resolutions. Passed resolutions concerning increased internet bandwidth for CSU, condemning events of Jan 6th in D.C., addressing the need for compassion and treatment of employees, fair workload of faculty, ongoing collaboration with Ethnic Studies and other resolutions.
5. At the Board of Trustees meeting at the end of January, Chancellor Castro said that there will be no tuition increase for the 2021-22 AY and that if the assumptions for state and federal support hold, he will not support a system-wide furlough program and they will do all they can to avoid additional layoffs of permanent CSU staff or faculty due to lack of state funds.

The Senate discussed statewide discussions (if discussions currently include equity gaps and pell grants), lecturers, the broadband resolution, and inquired about if actionable items pertaining to the need for compassion and treatment of employees resolution, childcare, fall scheduling, CARES Act funding and relief, communication between campuses, the Department of Education and the faculty trustee selection process. A Senator shared that CFA is sponsoring a broadband bill. Senator Swenson will follow-up with his standing committee to inquire about a resolution concerning the CARES Act funding and caregiving responsibilities.

Link to written report:

<https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/ascsureport-jan.pdf>

b. CFA Report – CFA President Nate Thomas

Nate Thomas shared that CFA statewide has been involved in advocacy for COVID-19 workload relief at the Chancellor's Office and there was a recent townhall. There is a letter writing campaign that faculty can participate in. Thomas said there has been pushback at the Chancellor's Office. CFA is still bargaining regarding non-economic issues (ie. parental leave, health and safety, intellectual property) and working on updating the CBA contract.

The Senate discussed the CBA contract, COVID-19, parental leave, economic vs non-economic issues, faculty workload issues, collective bargaining, intellectual property issues, effective caregiving policies, retention, graduation and organizing with staff, faculty and students. Thomas said that it is in the works to start a labor council at CSUN.

A written report was sent to the Senators.

Link to written report:

https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/cfareport-feb_0.pdf

9. New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14pm.

Submitted by: Yoko Mimura, Secretary of the Faculty and Nicole Wilson, Recording Secretary