

FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 3/12/2020**Minutes of Meeting of February 20, 2020**

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: Sara Berzenski (excused), Soheil Boroushaki (excused), Marcy DeVeaux, Kate Gurewitz (excused), Delinah Hurwitz, Samira Moughrabi (excused), Mutombo Nkulu-N’Sengha, Caleb Owens, Iswari Pandey (excused), Jeanne Robertson (excused), Adam Swenson (excused), John Whitener, Jun Zhan

The Faculty Senate Minutes for [December 5, 2019](#) were approved with changes via email.

1. Announcements

There were no announcements at the beginning of the meeting.

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

Spring 2020 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 2/27/20 meeting. The elections will be held in March.

3. Policy Items

Judy Schmidt-Levy, Chair of Personnel, Planning and Review Committee
Jim Mackin, Interim AVP of Faculty Affairs

First Reading - [Addition to Section 632.3d \(Service Learning\)](#)

Judy Schmidt-Levy explained that this policy change is to include community-based and service-learning as examples of instructional contributions in Section 632.3d.

There was no feedback on this policy item.

First Reading - [Section 634.1 \(Consultation Policy\)](#)

Judy Schmidt-Levy shared that this policy change would require that consultation from faculty and students in the PIF and PAF process follow Section 613, Oral or Written Comments about Faculty.

A Senator requested that the last few sentences of the supporting reasons be included in the actual policy. Schmidt-Levy explained that the language from the supporting reasons is already included in Section 613 (Oral or Written Comments about Faculty).

4. Policy Item

Christina Mayberry, Chair of Educational Policies Committee
Elizabeth Adams, AVP of Undergraduate Studies

First Reading - [Community-Based Learning Policy](#)

Christina Mayberry explained that this policy was passed by EPC and SEC in the early 2000s but never made it to the Senate. This policy is an updated version of the original policy. Mayberry shared that CSUN recently received a Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement. This policy change will include service-learning, now called community-based learning, as examples of instructional contributions. The Senate discussed course classifications, how courses are approved by EPC, service learning, C-BL and CS coding. Senator Heinen shared that nationally the term used to describe service learning is now community-based learning.

5. AB 1460/AS 3403 Discussion

President Stein said that this agenda item was added after Senator Ruiz and Senator Tonyan made a request to add this item to the meeting agenda. Professor Theresa Montano from the Ethnic Studies Council gave a brief overview of AB 1460 and expressed her desire for Senators to support it. Senator Tonyan shared PowerPoint slides about the ongoing and current ramifications of the Executive Orders and the parallel efforts of AB 1460, the proposed CSUN Equity and Justice Graduation Requirement and the ASCSU Ethnic Studies Requirement. Senator Tonyan explained that the slides express the concerns of CSUN's Ethnic Studies colleagues. President Stein said that AB 1460 is on the Senate floor and waiting to be voted on. Professor Tracy Buenavista from the Ethnic Studies Council gave an overview of AB 1460, AS 3403 consultation, the history of Ethnic Studies and the concerns of Ethnic Studies Council. Buenavista also shared that the CSU Ethnic Studies Council recently released a letter requesting that the ASCSU cease fire in their opposition to AB 1460. Buenavista also expressed concern about the framing of the recent Qualtrics survey that requested faculty feedback on AS 3403 from the Senate Executive Committee. Senator Ruiz said that it is not unprecedented for the legislature to be involved in educational equity and justice.

A few Senators expressed concern that faculty were giving feedback on the AS 3403 resolution when the outcome of AB 1460 has not been decided. A Senator requested for faculty to not move forward with completing the Qualtrics survey that is due on February 28, 2020. The Senator said the resolution should be discussed after we find out if AB 1460 passes. Several Senators expressed confusion regarding the different discussion topics (AB 1460 and AS 3403). A Senator shared that AB 1460 was voted on and supported by the Democratic Party last year. Another Senator expressed the need for CSUN to give feedback to the Chancellor's Office on AS 3403. Another Senator expressed concern about the framing of the Qualtrics survey and made a request for the survey to be reframed in a neutral way and be sent out again to faculty. President Stein explained that the survey questions came from the Chancellor's Office and apologized for the additional commentary on the survey. President Stein expressed the need for CSUN faculty to provide feedback to AS 3403. A Senator explained that there is a

misunderstanding about AS 3403. It was mentioned that AS 3403 will allow individual campuses to have input on the SLOs of an Ethnic Studies requirement. Professor Gina Masequesmay expressed concern with the Chancellor's Office not consulting with campuses before implementing executive orders that affect students of color. A Senator shared that she has started an anti-racist group on campus and there is a need for CSUN faculty to participate in an anti-bias training. The Senator also mentioned that having students of color take an Ethnic Studies class will aid with student success.

6. Provost's Report- Provost Mary Beth Walker

Provost Mary Beth Walker reported on the following:

1. Provost Walker shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Senate on student success. Students have been encouraged to enroll in 15 or more units. For first semester outcomes, in the fall of 2019, 60.6% of full-time freshmen took 15+ units (fall 2018, 39.4% of full-time freshmen took 15+ units). There was an increase in units across all demographic groups (race, PELL status, first generation).
2. Full-time freshmen enrolled in 15+ units achieved higher first term GPAs than their peers who were taking fewer than 15 units. Overall, the first-term GPAs for students taking 15+ units in the fall of 2019 was 2.89 (2.61 in 2018). Full-time freshmen enrolled in 15+ units were less likely to be on academic probation than their peers who were enrolled in fewer than 15 units (15% of full-time freshmen taking 15+ units were on academic probation). For full-time freshmen taking under 15 units, 25% were on academic probation. Students are succeeding at higher rates. Provost Walker thanked CSUN faculty for their work on student success and mentioned that the data shared, along with the results at the college level, are available in the Office of Institutional Research. Many campuses across the country have used the momentum approach that CSUN is using.
3. Dr. Melanie Bocanegra has accepted the position of AVP of Student Success. Dr. Bocanegra will start at the end of March.
4. There were 68 recently approved faculty searches.

The Senate discussed student success, graduation rates, the different needs of various student populations, the budget, student financial aid, mental health, advising, Pell eligible students, tenure density, average unit load, the transfer pipeline and enrollment. A few Senators mentioned that they were concerned about the mental health of the students who are taking over 15 units a semester. Provost Walker said that freshmen students who were taking 15+ were given up until week 11 to drop their courses. It was also mentioned that Academic Affairs and Student Affairs are taking into account the mental health and basic needs of students who are taking 15+ units. A Senator suggested that the university should examine how to support the students who are involved in the momentum movement (of taking 15+ units) and the students who are not taking 15+ units. Another Senator expressed concern about the cost of students taking 15+ units per semester and how it affects the university and department budgets. The Senator said that the increase in units might bankrupt the university. Provost Walker said the funding model has not changed and it will take time to work it all out. The university's goal for the 6 year graduation rate is 66%. The university cares about the success of all of its students.

7. Pending Business – Tabled Motion: The CSUN Ethnic Studies Council will be consulted on the SLOs for an Ethnic Studies graduation requirement

MS: The CSUN Ethnic Studies Council will be consulted on the SLOs for an Ethnic Studies graduation requirement

A Senator made a motion to table the motion. The motion was seconded. The Senate voted.

MSP: To table the motion until a future meeting date. The motion was tabled.

8. Senate Reports

a. Statewide Academic Senate CSU Update – Jerry Schutte

President Stein said that all Senators received the statewide report via email. There was an ASCSU update meeting held last week on February 13, 2020.

Link to written report: https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/ascsu_jan2020.pdf

b. CFA Report – CFA President Nate Thomas

President Stein shared that Senator Thomas was unable to attend the Senate meeting. A written report was sent to the Senators.

Link to written report: <https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/cfareportfeb.pdf>

9. New Business

AB 1460

A Senator made a motion to support AB 1460. It was seconded. A Senator gave a brief overview of AB 1460, the legislative process and the ASCSU's conversations with State Assemblymember Shirley Weber about AS 3403. The Senator shared that AB 1460 is on the state Senate floor and is on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Another Senator requested to move forward with voting in favor of AB 1460. It was mentioned that it is a motion of sentiment and support for Ethnic Studies. The Senate discussed Assemblymember Shirley Weber, the ASCSU, the legislative process, faculty governance over curriculum and AB 1460. A Senator also inquired about why AB 1460 does not include community colleges and UCs.

MSP: that the CSUN Faculty Senate support AB 1460. A Senator made a motion for a paper ballot that was seconded. The Senate voted 26-21 and the motion passed. President Stein said that a resolution with the motion will be created and distributed.

Qualtrics Survey in response to AS 3403

President Stein said that she would meet with the Senate Executive Committee and they would decide how to proceed with the survey. The Senate voted to discard the results of the Qualtrics survey in response to AS 3403. President Stein requested that the Ethnic Studies Council contact her with their feedback so she can put together a response to AS 3403 by the deadline. President Stein said that there will be not be another Qualtrics survey that is sent out and she will work with the Senate Executive Committee to decide how best to proceed.

Announcements

Senator Tonyan thanked President Stein for her service. Senator Bendavid requested that faculty take the time to educate themselves on California's new voting machines for the upcoming election. Senator Bendavid also requested that faculty vote for her in the upcoming election. Senator Heinen shared information about the *We the People* committee and encouraged Senators to join the committee. Senator Heinen also invited faculty to sign up and attend the upcoming *We the People* faculty workshops with their classes. It was mentioned that student voter participation has increased from 11% (2014 election) to 48% (2016 election). The goal is to continue to increase student voter participation. Senator Vrongistinos shared that from Friday until Tuesday there are voting stations in Redwood Hall on campus.

President Dianne Harrison's written report was shared with the Senate via email.

Link to written report:

<https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/presidentsreport022020.pdf>

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19pm.

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