

FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 12/1/2011
Minutes of Meeting of October 27, 2011
Jack and Florence Ferman Presentation Room

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

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: Michael Bennett, John Bruton (excused), Sakile Camara (excused), Douglas Carranza, Dorothy Clark (excused), Daniel Cutcher, Amanda Flavin, Abel Franco, Sheila Grant (excused), Nicholas Habib, Sharon Klein (excused), Amy Levin (excused), Jennifer Matos (excused), Daniel Odom, Mary Schaffer (excused), Adam Swenson (excused), Barbara Swerkes (excused), April Taylor (excused), David Wakefield (excused), Dayanthie Weeraratne, Steven Wexler, Jeff Wiegley, Dianah Wynter

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for September 22, 2011](#) were approved as distributed.

1. Announcements

- a. Stepanek thanked Frehlich (Vice President of the Faculty) for being on standby to start the Senate meeting; Stepanek anticipated being late because of a time conflict related to the presidential search.
- b. The Faculty Retreat is on January 17-18, 2012. A link to register is on the Faculty Senate website.
- c. In honor of President Koester's retirement, a Jolene Koester Presidential Scholarship Endowment has been set up. Senators were invited to contribute to this fund. A flyer describing the scholarship was distributed.
- d. Bendavid said that she was appointed by the National Education Association to the Women's Issues Committee; only 12 people in the nation serve on this committee.

2. Satisfaction by Examination Resolution

Jerald Schutte, Chair of Educational Resources Committee (ERC)

Link to proposed resolution:

<http://www.csun.edu/senate/resolutions/sberesolution102711.pdf>

This resolution comes to the Senate from ERC for consideration. Schutte said that this proposed concept is a slight variation from something we already do – Credit by Challenge Examination (Section A-8 of the University Catalog). This model uses the existing format of Credit by Examination; however, the student would enroll and pay for the class in the normal manner and take an examination instead of taking a course. A passing score on the exam

would entitle the student to unit credit and satisfaction of the course requirement. Schutte explained that with shrinking general funds, this model would benefit the campus by reducing SFR's, departments would benefit financially, and graduation rates would increase by allowing students to take impacted courses and satisfy them by examination. Schutte envisions that faculty would develop pools of questions and graduate students would assist in working with the faculty and testing the students. Schutte said that Provost Hellenbrand, several administrators and deans, faculty, and students are all supportive of doing this.

Some of the comments and questions raised by the Senate included:

1. There are many challenges for students and faculty to make this successful; freshman may not be ready for this independent, unsupervised alternative.
2. Some departments said that this concept could work for some of their courses.
3. EPC should look at the courses to decide what types of students and courses would work best using this examination approach.
4. How can the GE writing requirement be structured into this concept?
5. Will special provisions be made for students who don't pass the course during the beta test?

Senators agreed that it was not necessary to vote on this resolution. They directed Schutte to go forward, with caution, on beta testing this *Satisfaction by Examination* concept. They asked that he consult with EPC and to report back to the Senate on his data and findings when the beta test is complete.

3. **Section 672.2.4 of the Administrative Manual on Sabbatical Procedures** Magnhild Lien, Chair of Personnel Planning and Review Committee (PP&R)

Stepanek gave some background information on how changes are made to the Administrative Manual (Section 600). Lien said that it is PP&R's intention for Section 600 to be consistent with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. She said that an inquiry resulted in PP&R discovering a change that needed to be made to Section 672.2.4 (Sabbatical Procedures). PP&R proposed the elimination of language (see strike-out below) to bring us in compliance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Section 672.2.4 states the following,

... The probationary and tenured members of the Department may choose to elect a Professional Leave Committee to act in lieu of the Department Personnel Committee for purposes of evaluating the sabbatical applications, ~~or they may choose to delegate responsibility for evaluating the sabbatical applications to the Department Chair.~~

Article 27.5 of the CBA states: *A Professional Leave Committee composed of tenured faculty unit employees shall review sabbatical applications.* The contract does not have a provision for delegating this task to the Department Chairs so PP&R is recommending that mention of that choice be stricken out of the Section. In addition, our campus procedures requires the department chair to make an impact statement, thus creating a conflict of interest, which makes the chair ineligible to serve on the Professional Leave Committee.

SEC voted unanimously to support PP&R on this decision and requested that this be communicated to the faculty. The Senate accepted this justification and took no further action.

4. **Faculty Special Election – Steven Stepanek**

- a. **Election Results** – The amendment to the Constitution of the Academic Senate CSU to include a statement upholding academic freedom passed by 96 percent in favor.
- b. **Report on the use of Moodle to Hold Election** – The first online election went very well. Some minor improvements to the process will be made for future online elections. We are planning to hold the spring general election electronically and will provide further updates to the Senate. The Senate was assured that during the election time window, the Senate Office will keep election results private and confidential.

5. **University President Search Committee Update**

Stepanek reported that the presidential search open forum was held this morning; the Board of Trustees and the campus Advisory Committee received valuable input. We were complimented for being polite and respectful. Senators were invited to send additional input about what characteristics they would like to see in a new president to Stepanek, Neubauer or Ward. If input is sent in the next few days, it can still be integrated into the larger report. Stepanek stressed that there will be many opportunities for input even if it is decided that there will not be open forum sessions with the candidates.

6. **President’s Report – Jolene Koester**

President Koester reported on the following topics:

- a. **Ongoing Activities** – President Koester said she and other members of the University leadership team are focused on accomplishing the objectives detailed in her convocation address. This includes working on fine tuning some of the functions of the Valley Performing Arts Center, and work with the vice presidents in framing a 10-year resource plan for the University which is a conceptual framework. This conceptual framework will be shared with campus groups and is essential for making policy choices for this campus and smart strategic plans for the future. Other priorities for the semester are to continue work on the graduation and student success initiatives and to launch an effort to build engagement of our employees in providing exemplary service.
- b. **Budget** – We still don’t know whether a shortfall in state revenues will trigger an additional \$100 million mid-year reduction to the CSU, and we also don’t know whether this would be a baseline cut or just a one-time reduction. However, we are planning for the reduction. There is also a potential reduction due to over-enrollment that we may have to accommodate. A group will be going to the Chancellor’s Office on Friday morning to explain the reasons for our high fall enrollments.

7. Senate Reports

a. **CFA Report** – Nate Thomas

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport102711.pdf>

CFA President Nate Thomas said that we are still working on contract negotiations. There will be informational picketing on the CSUN campus on Tuesday, November 8th from 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm. The objective is to inform the parents, students, and the community on some of the higher education concerns facing the CSU. On November 17, there is “concerted actions” statewide at Cal State Dominguez Hills and Cal State East Bay. CFA is asking that you support these efforts. Thomas encouraged CFA members to complete the “Enough is Enough” E-commit cards (page 2 of link above).

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

Hellenbrand said that if the presidential candidates do not come to campus, it’s possible that more people will be invited into the process after being sworn to secrecy. The position will be advertised well to large campuses across the U.S. to bring in good candidates. They would like to have 6-7 semi finalists.

CSU, Los Angeles and CSU, Dominquez Hills are 10% over target and our campus is 6 ½% over target. Hellenbrand gave his reasons why these campuses are above target. Higher fees are increasing the unit load and people are staying in college because there are no jobs. We do not have a redirection policy so it’s harder to spread enrollment throughout the CSU.

Mandatory Early Start is still a mess but we are making some headway. We know what we are doing with math and have a rough idea what to do for English. We are working with IT to prepare an IT vision. The Academic Affairs division is financially in good shape but we need to work on the long range funding issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Submitted by:

Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary

April Taylor, Secretary of the Faculty

Sandra Chong, Substitute for the Secretary