

FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 10/24/19**Minutes of Meeting of September 26, 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: Soheil Boroushaki, Mauro Carassai (excused), Delinah Hurwitz, Doug Kaback, Virginia Kennedy (excused), Rodica Kohn, Susan Love (excused), Debra Berry Malmberg (excused), Kristy Michaud (excused), Roxanne Moschetti (excused), Samira Moughrabi, Mutombo Nkulu-N’Sengha (excused), Jeanne Robertson, Carmen Saunders-Russell, Scott Sturgeon (excused), John Valdovinos (excused), Theresa White (excused), John Whitener (excused), Del Williams

The Faculty Senate Minutes for [May 9, 2019](#) were approved as distributed.

1. Announcements

- a. Faculty President Stein announced that the Affordable Learning Solutions (AL\$) meeting is scheduled for October 23rd, 9:15 in the Ferman Presentation room; come see how you can save students money and how other faculty have made this work in their classes.
- b. Faculty President Stein shared that the Library Committee will have an interim chair for the fall semester.
- c. Senator Henige announced that the Provost’s event, “Campus Conversation on Student Success: Matadors Rising – We Can Do This” on October 2 was well attended and well received.
- d. Senator Spector shared information about the Matador Momentum wallet cards. The cards were placed at the back table.

2. Election of Senate Executive Committee Member

President Stein shared a brief PowerPoint explaining the responsibilities of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC). To fill the one empty spot on Senate Executive Committee, nominations of Senators were accepted. All nominees briefly introduced themselves to the Senate. Professor Julia Heinen, Interim Director of Community Engagement (faculty in the Department of Music) was elected to serve on the Senate Executive Committee.

3. Policy Item

Judy Schmidt-Levy, Chair of PP&R

First Reading – [Section 622.3.1.a \(Listing of Academic-Administrative Employees\)](#)

PP&R Chair Judy Schmidt-Levy said that this proposed policy makes changes to how Section 622.3.1.a refers to management positions reporting directly to the Provost and Vice President for

Academic Affairs. The Senate briefly discussed the titles included in the policy and the duties of the Assistant Vice President of Graduate Studies.

A Senator made a motion to waive the first reading of the policy so that it can be moved to an action item on the Senate floor.

MSP to waive the first reading of the policy.

MSP to approve the policy.

4. President's Report- President Dianne F. Harrison

President Harrison thanked the Senators for their dedication to student success and welcomed them to a new semester. President Harrison gave a brief update on student success, Democracy Counts and the EOP 50th Anniversary Celebration. CSUN welcomed their first cohort in the six year class for GI 2025. CSUN's current 6 year graduation rate for FTF is at 55.5% for the Fall 2012 cohort and the goal is to be at 66% by 2025. The FTT 4 year graduation rate for the Fall 2015 cohort is 77.4% with a goal of 81%. A goal is to work on closing the opportunity gap rates for FTF (by bringing the rates to zero). For the Fall 2013 cohort, the FTF is around 14% for underrepresented students and 11% for Pell students. It was mentioned that CSUN underserved and better served students succeed at higher rates when taking 15 units or more (regardless of economic status or ethnicity), similar to national trends. Every student has a choice of how many units they would like to take. President Harrison also shared that CSUN will undertake student success work with the help and leadership of the new Provost, Mary Beth Walker. President Harrison encouraged faculty to support and fully engage with Provost Walker to support students in achieving their goals.

President Harrison also shared that according to the Democracy Counts 2018 survey results the voting rate of students increased from 14.6% in 2014 to 48% in 2018. Other institutions are at 39.1%. Also, 59% of students registered to vote (21% of students registered to vote in 2014). CSUN is exploring having a Voting Center on campus to support student and community needs for convenient voting sites. More information will be shared in the future. President Harrison will share the Democracy Counts 2018 survey results with Mary-Pat Stein so that she can share it electronically with the Senate.

President Harrison announced that that EOP will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary Celebration on Friday September 27, 2019 at 6:45pm at the Soraya. Doors open at 6:00pm. After the EOP announcement, President Harrison introduced the CSU Board of Trustee Dr. Romey Sabalius, a professor of German in the Department of World Languages and Literatures at San Jose State University. President Harrison explained that Chancellor's Office regularly schedules formal campus visits to give the Trustees an opportunity to learn about the various CSU campuses. Questions were postponed until after Trustee Sabalius's report.

Link to written report: <https://www.csun.edu/sites/default/files/presreport092619.pdf>

5. CSU Board of Trustee Report

Romey Sabalius, Professor and CSU Board of Trustee

Trustee Romey Sabalius gave a brief introduction, explained his role as a CSU Board of Trustee, updated the Senate on the ASCSU, the General Education Task Force, Graduation Initiative 2025, the executive orders, remedial math and legislative funding of the CSU. A Senator asked about how faculty can make a difference and have their voices heard on a larger scale. Trustee Sabalius explained that the voice of faculty has been heard at the system level, especially concerning shared governance and the executive orders. Trustee Sabalius mentioned that preliminary data shows that the CSU graduation and retention rates are improving. A Senator requested data on the graduation and retention rates. Trustee Sabalius said that the most recent numbers will be presented at the Graduation Initiative Symposium in Sacramento in October. The four year and six year graduation rates can be improved. Trustee Sabalius encouraged Senators to share their student success concerns and solutions with their administration and statewide Senators. A Senator requested a copy of the evidence and student success literature from the Chancellor's Office that supports getting rid of remedial math. Trustee Sabalius said that he will request the literature from the Chancellor's Office and share it with the Senate. Faculty President Stein asked Trustee Sabalius to send her the literature. Faculty President Stein will share the literature on the Senate website. Trustee Sabalius said that if faculty members have articles that they would like to share that suggest getting rid of remedial math is not helpful for students, they can send the literature to him via email. Trustee Sabalius also mentioned that he recently received an article from Senator Stevie Ruiz.

6. Budget Report

Colin Donahue, Vice President of Administration and Finance/CFO

Faculty President Stein shared that the Senate invited VP Colin Donahue to give a budget update in response to the article that mentions the CSU hid \$1.4 billion dollars in reserves. VP Donahue shared a PowerPoint presentation and gave an overview of the 2019-20 budget, GI 2025, CSUN's reliance on one time funds, CSUN central reserves (by the end of the year it will be about \$11.6 million), state appropriations, preparation for an economic downturn, student revenue, state university grants and the state audit. He mentioned that the controversy surrounding the state audit was how the budget was characterized. VP Donahue said that student revenue at CSUN has declined due to FTES increasing and headcount decreasing. Also there has been a decline in non-resident students over the past three years (it is down about 1,000 students/decline of \$13.5 million). Fee revenue is tied to headcount. The operating budget is about \$482 million.

VP Donahue also shared that his division is using new budget data dashboards (with current budget numbers) for their reporting. Other CSU campuses are using the same budget software to help people better understand their budgets. Faculty President Stein requested that VP Donahue explain the state audit. VP Donahue explained that the audit looked at year end fund balances from each CSU campus, which is different from actual reserves. Our current university reserves could cover 2 months of operating funds. Since the audit, VP Donahue has received feedback from CSUN's University Planning and Budgeting Group (UPBG). UPBG requested that VP Donahue identify what is a reserve and what is not a reserve in the University budget. VP Donahue will share the direct link to the budget data dashboard with Faculty President Stein to share with the Senate. VP Donahue would like feedback from the Senate on the dashboard. VP Donahue's unit is working on creating a GI 2025 budget dashboard. A Senator said that if faculty are interested in learning about how budgets operate they should join the University Planning and Budgeting Group (UPBG). Faculty President Stein mentioned that UPBG's meetings are open and she encouraged faculty members to attend the meetings.

A faculty member asked about indirect costs associated with grants and the lack of money given to departments. Provost Mary Beth Walker explained grants, indirect costs and mentioned that there are overhead costs associated with grants. Provost Walker said that the university needs to examine the infrastructure of grants. She wants to make sure faculty have the incentive to continue applying for grants. She offered to continue the conversation at a later date. A Senator inquired about CSUN's budget mentioned in the audit. VP Donahue explained that the \$72 million mentioned in the report is part of \$1.4 billion operating fund. The \$290 million mentioned in the audit is including the auxiliary funds.

7. **Provost's Report-** Provost Mary Beth Walker

Provost Mary Beth Walker reported on the following:

- i. Provost Walker said that she uses three words to describe CSUN: commitment, compassion and creativity.
- ii. The Student Success website has links to current student success research. Provost Walker encouraged Senators to review the website. She said that faculty are the key to student success. CSUN currently has their first cohort of GI 2025.
- iii. Average Unit Load (AUL) for the new first-time freshman is 14.72 units (up from 14.03 units). AUL for all undergraduates is 12.9 units (up from 12.77 units). There is a new Matador Academic Challenge where full-time freshman taking at least 15 units can drop up to 3 units through week 11 without penalty. They would get a W. Late drop dates are common throughout the country.
- iv. Student advising is linked to student success. First-time freshman are advised at the HUB on campus. The HUB has advised 4,158 students between June and August of 2019. Out of 5,000 appointments only 44 students did not show up for their appointments. For freshman advising, EOP students still are advised in EOP satellites, Liberal Studies students are advised by the Liberal Studies Advising Office and student athletes are advised by the Matador Achievement Center. Provost Walker attended a meeting at the Chancellor's Office with campus leaders. It was reported that students in the CSU were surveyed and they want higher quality, faster and friendlier advising along with having academic and career advisement closely linked.
- v. The overall retention rate for FTF is around 81%. In the Freshman Peer Mentoring Program in Student Affairs there was an 89% retention rate. Traditionally underserved students had a 91.5% retention rate.
- vi. There are 66 faculty openings at CSUN (AMC 10, BUS 9, EDU 5, E&CS 21, HHD 3, HUM 9, S&M 3, S&BS 5, LIB 1). Faculty Affairs has received position announcements for 30 of the positions. Eighteen positions have been approved and posted.
- vii. The first round interviews for the Dean of the College of Education has been completed. The AVP for Student Success position is posted and a committee has been formed. The goal is to have interviews before the winter break. The AVP of Faculty Affairs ad was approved. They are moving forward with the AVP for Research and Sponsored Programs search.

A Senator had a question about retention, student success and financial aid. The Senator mentioned that students are having issues with enrolling late because they are not receiving their financial aid on time. Provost Walker explained that financial advising is related to academic and career advising. Some students may need financial literacy training and she wants to weave financial advising into academic advising. Another Senator mentioned that their students are having

issues with finding parking spaces and are arriving to class late. Provost Walker said that it is an issue and we need to be creative to find ways to fix it. Another Senator inquired about student success and students with disabilities. The Senator mentioned that students who are Deaf and the Deaf Studies Department have the burden of requesting their own interpreters for events. Provost Walker said that the CSU has created an Accessibility Initiative that requires all CSU's to make sure that all resources are accessible. Provost Walker mentioned that she is interested in learning more about what the university can do to make things more accessible. Another Senator shared that they are having an issue with understanding the different roles of the different administrators. The Senator asked if administration can work with faculty to help them better understand the different roles of the administrators so that they can work together on shared objectives.

A Senator also inquired about what the university is doing about homelessness and food scarcity. Provost Walker shared that there are many campus initiatives that need to be shared with students. Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. William Watkins explained that the CSUN with A Heart website has all of the available resources for students (food, housing, financial support, mental and physical well-being and communities of support). A faculty member shared that mental health affects student retention. Senator Vicente said that Associated Students is also working on making sure that students know about the resources available to them. Associated Students is working on new program called Matador Munchies. For the program, students would sign up on a list and receive a text message (with the location) when there is left over food at an on campus event. A Senator asked about town halls on student success. Provost Walker said that emails have been sent out with the information on the town halls and she hopes that everyone attends. Provost Walker also mentioned that she is meeting with each individual department at CSUN. Senators also discussed support services for summer sessions and student success for working students. A Senator requested for students to be surveyed on student success. The survey would request students to define student success. Provost Walker mentioned that a student survey would have to be facilitated through Student Affairs. Dr. Watkins mentioned that Student Affairs currently has student success surveys that are in progress.

Student Success website:

<https://www.csun.edu/student-success>

Direct Link to research website:

<https://www.csun.edu/student-success/student-success-literature-resources-0>

CSUN with A Heart website:

<https://www.csun.edu/heart>

8. Introduction of Standing Committee Chairs

The Senate Standing Committee chairs introduced themselves and briefly described their committee's charge:

Academic Technology: Chris Sales, Computer Science

Educational Equity: Marcella DeVeaux, Journalism

Educational Policies: Christina Mayberry, Oviatt Library

Educational Resources: Nazaret Dermendjian, Civil Engineering and Construction Mgt.

Extended Learning: Virginia Kennedy, Special Education (not in attendance)

Graduate Studies: Casey terHorst, Biology

Library: TBD

Personnel Planning & Review: Judy Schmidt-Levy, Counseling Services

Research and Grants: Karin Crowhurst, Chemistry and Biochemistry

9. Senate Reports

a. **Statewide Academic Senate CSU Report** – Jerry Schutte

Faculty President Stein shared that there is an ASCSU update meeting on October 3, 2019 at 2:00pm in UN 211. Senator Schutte reported on the following:

- i. ASCSU update meetings will be held on a regular basis. They are scheduled a few weeks after each ASCSU meeting. The meetings will last an hour.
- ii. ASCSU passed about 15 resolutions in May. The ASCSU voted on the General Education Task Force Report on GE. Two resolutions were passed. One vote was to not accept the report and the other vote was to not receive the report. The resolutions failed.
- iii. ASCSU recently passed a resolution in response to AB1460. The resolution will be sent out to the campuses for feedback. There are five questions in the resolution. Feedback will be shared with the Chancellor. Senator Schutte said that the Senate Executive Committee will create a google form with the questions. Faculty President Stein said that she will send out the form to all faculty.
- iv. There was a resolution passed regarding the proposed quantitative reasoning requirement. Schutte encouraged Senators to share their input.

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

Senators were encouraged to attend the ASCSU update meeting to find out more details about the ASCSU report. Faculty President Stein will send out the meeting information to Senators. A written report was sent to the Senators.

b. **CFA Report** – CFA President Nate Thomas

Nate Thomas yielded his time at the meeting. If anyone has any questions about the CFA report they can contact Nate Thomas. A written report was sent to the Senators.

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

10. New Business

Associated Students Resolution in Support of North San Fernando Valley Bus Rapid Transit Project

Associated Students (A.S.) President, Senator Diana Vicente shared a PowerPoint on the North San Fernando Valley Bus Rapid Transit project and an A.S. Resolution in support of the project.

Senator Vicente explained that A.S. is fighting for the rapid line to be built on Nordhoff instead of Roscoe Boulevard. This project is funded Measure M (the 2016 ballot measure approved by LA County's residents for \$180M). The project is projected to start in 2023 and end in 2025. Senators interested in supporting the resolution could individually sign the petition that Senator Vicente placed at the back table. It was optional. A Senator inquired about adding Metrolink to the copy list of the resolution. Senator Vicente explained that Metrolink is already in support of their efforts. Faculty President Stein said that Senators can visit the Metrolink website for more information about the North San Fernando Valley Bus Rapid Transit Project.

EPC Motion

A Senator raised a question about the Senate voting three times to not work on curriculum and EPC working on curriculum. Faculty President Stein said that this topic should be brought back to the next Senate meeting due to the lack of time. A Senator made the motion that, "The Educational Policies Committee will work on GE curriculum, policies and practices." The motion was seconded.

MS: The Educational Policies Committee will work on GE curriculum, policies and practices.

Senator Mayberry (the chair of EPC) briefly explained how EPC is currently operating since the Faculty Senate vote to not participate in the implementation of the executive orders. The Senate discussed GE Plan R, GE Plan E, what EPC is currently reviewing, administration reviewing curriculum proposals, the Senate vote to not participate in the implementation of the executive orders and faculty purview over GE curriculum. Curriculum that was viewed and conditionally passed last year by the Academic Affairs Council has been sent back to EPC for review and approval.

President Stein tabled this item until the next Senate meeting due to time. President Stein requested the Senate think about what they want to do with GE curriculum.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38pm.

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