Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Tuesday, April 20, 2010


Members absent: Derek Kimball, Mo Qayoumi

Guests: Jagdish Agrawal, Shawn Bibb, Emily Brizendine, Linda Dalton, Linda Dobb, Toni Fogarty, Jim Houpis, Mark Karplus, Michael Lee, Mike Mahoney, Tom McCoy, Glen Perry, Carol Reese, Gretchen Reevy, Don Sawyer, Mike Schutz, Donna Wiley, Gale Young

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

1. Approval of the agenda

M/S/P (Caplan/Mitchell) to approve as modified to add the discussion of the online coordinator’s job description/search as item #13.

2. Approval of the minutes of 2-23 and 3-2-10

M/S/P w/two abstentions (Caplan/Lubwama) to approve the minutes of February 23, 2010 (Correct “division” to “conference”)

M/S/P w/one abstention (Gubernat/Mitchell) to approve the minutes of March 2, 2010.

Corrections: Spelling of Provost Houpis’ last name; incomplete thought regarding Sally Murphy; correct numbers to reflect that 140 staff members were affected; last page under item 12, second paragraph, to read “historically, prior to the president’s arrival, there was a tradition of lack of planning…”

3. Reports
   A. Report of the Chair

Rush Woods reported that Chico’s ASI President, Joseph Igbineweka, a Nigerian student, was stabbed multiple times by an attacker who used racial slurs and told Joseph he would be shot. Woods stated that Joseph, who is known for his work on racial harmony, will recover. The Chair expressed sadness that he was a victim of a hate crime, not in a bad diction of town, and that we need to be more vigilant and fight racism in our country. The Provost added that he knows Joseph well and reiterated that the student works hard to promote diversity and cross-cultural leadership. It was noted by another member that San Diego has also had problems.

The Chair received a request from Sue Opp, who wishes to present an update on the Graduate Initiative at the next Senate meeting. The Chair attended a meeting of Academic Senate Chairs, who share good relationships with each other. Among the topics discussed were the graduation initiative and access concerns.
Reichman reported on his attendance at the ASI meeting. Topics included a proposal to amend their election code to state that only those who previously served on ASI committees/board would be eligible to run for ASI President. Reichman stated that the proposal was problematic as it could be seen as exclusionary.

Reichman also reported that the agreement with AC Transit ends in June (those with CSUEB ID could ride between EB and BART for free), noting that the Hill Hopper bus service has been stopped. ASI negotiated a $14 per quarter flat fee for a limitless AC transit pass anywhere the bus system goes; this did not make it on referendum, as it would impose extra fees to all for the benefit of few.

Eagan stated that many students ride the bus—both initiatives speak to an insular ASI. Lee added that there is a university sustainability plan, so transportation will have to be addressed. Dalton added that we have to change the culture of how we commute to campus; this discussion belongs to university, not to ASI. Bibb stated that only a portion of the contract with University Enterprise and AC transit passes is paid for by ASI; Alternative Transportation funds are included as well, therefore the companies should not have only approached ASI with this, but included Enterprise Operations as well; Bibb will refer back to Brown to be part of those negotiations.

Gubernat represented the Chair at the SSAC meetings. Discussion items included international students admission requirements and data; she recalled that there is a senate task force on international students and inquired about the status of their work. Sue Opp reported on the Graduation Initiative, including the development of peer mentoring, block scheduling, and looking at proposals for stimulus money (of which 40 were received, 20 of which have been forwarded to administration for review).

PEMSA is beginning to consider impaction for 2011-12, which would allow us to limit transfer students to about 1,000 from a pool of about 2,000 applicants and we could also require higher transfer GPA’s. The University must submit a proposal for impaction by April 30th. Reichman requested to see the proposal and thought it best to write it such that we could cancel. Dalton noted that CSUEB administration plans to submit a proposal as a placeholder, as any proposal would not have to be implemented. Reichment added that we will need to look at the impact of any such proposals on diversity and to determine if some majors would be disproportionately impacted over others.

Dalton stated that CSUEB’s enrollment management challenge can only be managed by impaction at the undergraduate level. The State Master Plan for Education mandates that we must admit every eligible transfer candidate who meets the deadline. Diversity data shows roughly the same proportionate number of students from diverse backgrounds with a GPA over 3.0 as under 3.0. The likelihood of implementing the impaction plan will depend on budget. If the target does not increase, we will likely be overenrolled in 10-11; the probability of implementation is high for 11-12. Dalton will bring the draft proposal to ExCom’s next meeting. Reichman and Gubernat requested that ExCom be provided a copy of the proposal by next week.

B. Report of the President

The President is at an Executive Council meeting. The Provost reported a desire that the search for a permanent dean for CEAS be started this quarter (asap). ExCom would serve the interim
search committee to approve the job description. Houpis noted his plans to advertise over the summer and convene the committee in early Fall, have the candidates visit and hopefully hire in November.

M/S/P (Reichman/Lubwama) to initiate the search process in accordance with policy.

C. Report of the Statewide Academic Senators

The next plenary is in May. Gubernat distributed CSU English Council Position Statement on Mandatory Early Start, which was approved by a majority of those attending the English Council at their last meeting. There are continuing concerns regarding access, discrimination, and unfunded mandates.

4. Appointments

Susan Correia and the Chair have centralized call process for 2010-11 committees and the letter was provided to ExCom as an FYI; it was suggested that SSAC be added.

5. Confirmation of Email approval of the preliminary lists for the Spring elections

M/S/P (Fleming/Lubwama) to confirm

6. Approval of the committee documents deadline of May 14th (in order to be placed on the final Senate agenda this year)

M/S/P (Fleming/Caplan) to approve

7. Draft 09-10 BEC 6, ExCom Recommendations Regarding Concord Campus Representation

M/S/Withdrawn (Rao/Lubwama) to place on the Senate agenda

Concerns were raised regarding the difficulty in indentifying specific “Concord faculty,” since Concord Campus regular faculty is not a category that we have and those who teach there continually changes. Although there are concerns about disenfranchisement, this proposal has potential to result in over-representation. Suggestions included charging committees to designate one member as a Concord Campus liaison to report to the Concord Campus Advisory Committee.

Caplan stated that in order for a group to have representation, it must be defined in the Constitution, which Concord as a separate entity does not. We would need to define what they are and what determines the inclusion of a faculty member into that entity; and, if all that were done, there is still no mention of the number and proportion of that representation.

Brizendine stated, with regard to the suggestion that liaisons be appointed, that the issue is not about the flow of communication and information to the Concord faculty, as she does that, but rather the unique needs of the campus and the awareness of these needs on committees where decisions are made. Faculty who teach in Concord are aware of these issues whereas others are not.

Discussion ensued as to how faculty would be identified, who they would represent, and whether
encouraging faculty who know the Concord campus to run for committees would be effective. Reichman offered to work with the Chair to develop a new plan that is specific and concrete. Fleming offered to help with that.

8. Draft 09-10 BEC 7, Proposal to modify the Bylaws to require lower voter participation in elections to modify the Bylaws

M/S/ withdrawn (Reichman/Eagan) to place on the Senate agenda for consideration for placement on a University ballot.

ExCom noted that people feel disconnected and that if they were unsure of the ballot measure, they did not want to say yes. ExCom wanted to have informal discussions to come up with a better proposal.

9. 09-10 CAPR 12, Request for temporary suspension of the MA Program in Sociology

M/S/P (Reichman/Gubernat) to place on Senate agenda

Any students who applied, but will not be admitted due to a temporary suspension, will receive a refund of their application fee. It was noted that this policy allows programs to reanimate in the future.

10. Discussion to address the petition for a Special Senate meeting regarding the budget

The petition for a special Senate meeting regarding the budget is valid. A long discussion ensued regarding the intent of those who signed the petition, e.g., desire for information, desire for a forum to raise concerns, etc. There was consensus that an agenda is needed, that an effort should be made to determine what items the petitioners would like to see on the agenda, and provide answers in some way to faculty questions (if answers are available) and that the Chair should facilitate the meeting. It is not a gripe session nor a rally and collegiality is of concern. If the meeting is late in May or early June, the Senate can also receive an update on the May revise. The Provost is willing to attend to help inform. Some of the issues coming out of this meeting can be taken up at the ExCom Summer Retreat. Discussion will continue at the next meeting, but the Chair asked that interested members meeting with her to draft an agenda for discussion next week.

11. Diversity Plan (not yet available)

12. ExCom suggestions for agenda items for next week (none)

13. Adjournment

M/S/P (Gubernat/Rao) to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Fleming, Secretary