Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Members present: Jennifer Eagan, Denise Fleming, Susan Gubernat, Derek Kimball, Chris Lubwama, Jim Mitchell, Susan Opp, Henry Reichman, Dianne Woods

Members absent: Mo Qayoumi, Asha Rao

Guests: Dee Andrews, Diedre Badejo, Carl Bellone, Linda Dalton, Debbie DeAngelis, Fred Dorer, Michael Leung, Nan Maxwell, Tom McCoy, Jim Okutsu, Glen Perry, Eric Seuss, Terri Swartz, Donna Wiley, Rhea Williamson, Gale Young

1. Approval of the agenda

M/S/P (Kimball/Lubwama) to approve the agenda

2. Approval of the minutes of 10-27-09

No minutes to approve

3. Reports

   A. Report of the Chair

Opp reported that ExCom received a thank you note from Carl Bellone.

Trustee Herb Carter will meet with ExCom at the meeting next week, November 10, from 2-3 pm, after which the regular Ex Com meeting will begin.

The final list for the Fall University-wide election is now complete. The election has been held up for lack of nominees.

   M/S/P (Gubernat/Lubwama) to approve the final list.

Opp thanked those faculty who agreed to be nominated as candidates for the Professional Leave Committee. Reichman thanked Opp for her efforts to secure adequate numbers of nominees.

Opp reported that in 08-09, CIC updated the policy on priority registration to include a provision for Senate Office notification when priority registration numbers exceed 500. W10 priority registration numbers currently exceed 750. The areas of greatest increase are Athletics, Honors, Vets and SDRC.

Phelps reported that there were 40 new Honors students, primarily 1st time freshmen.

DeAngelis reported that that all athletes’ names have been submitted, including freshmen (84), seniors (43), tryouts, and those who will not be playing a sport in W10, although in the past frosh and seniors were not included.

Reichman stated that the policy has always been to grant priority registration to athletes in the term of their sports season due to the impact of extensive practice time on course scheduling. The rationale for priority registration should not be used for students trying out for a sport as there would be nothing to prohibit students from trying out for a sport every quarter simply to obtain priority registration status.
With regard to veterans, he agreed that it is difficult to determine who is within two years of the end of their military service, although with some effort, that could be done. He added that all of our students have difficulties and obligations. Opp reminded ExCom that most CSUs are giving priority reg to all vets and that we have a max of 200.

Bellone suggested that Honors could be limited to priority for juniors and seniors, but added that we are the least-funded Honors Program in the CSU.

M/S/P (Reichman/Mitchell): To enforce current priority registration criteria in all areas, and uphold past practices by eliminating priority registration for freshmen in athletics and honors for Winter ’10, and send a referral to CIC to consider any policy changes for future quarters, such as whether or not to continue the policy change regarding freshmen.

Perry estimated that this action would bring priority reg down to 607, which is a good improvement.

B. Report of the President

The President was out of town on business. Dorer reported that the search committee for the Provost position has been formed and has met once with President.

Dorer stated that candidates for the AVP, Academic Programs and Graduate Studies position will be on campus for interviews during the week of November 16.

C. Report of the Statewide Academic Senators

Reichman attended the Admissions Advisory Council as a Senate representative. There is new legislation pending that would allow high school students to use CTE electives to fulfill area G college prep requirements. This would impact CSU admissions criteria.

Reichman also discussed system-wide efforts to reduce enrollment by 40,000 by next year. This is the first time there in the system’s history that there has been an intentional effort to reduce enrollment. Applications are up 50% over last year.

4. Appointments

Joanna Lee and Ellen Woodard to serve on the PACE Advisory Committee
Cal Caplan to serve on the Honorary Degrees program for F09 to replace Glynn Custred as emeriti rep
Richard Makopondo, HRT to the Faculty Diversity & Equity Committee (FDEC)
M/S/P (Eagan/Mitchell) to approve

5. Report from the Task Force on Academic Reorganization

Opp reported that the Task Force on Academic Reorganization has completed its charge. Other CSUs are holding town hall sessions, but none besides CSUEB have been initiated by the Academic Senate.

Woods stated that it was difficult limiting the committee’s activities to gathering and listing input, as opposed to engaging in advocacy. A number of issues arose and faculty expressed many concerns. The report includes a summary of faculty proposals, with proposals that were repeatedly surfaced in bold font. The report also includes ground rules for academic quality and for academic procedure.

Woods conveyed faculty desire to have more information and involvement, as well as faculty concerns that information might be used by the administration to justify certain solutions. She thanked members of the task force for their participation.
Others reiterated the level of faculty suspicion about the purpose of the task force and the potential for the report to be seen as sufficient faculty consultation and consent.

Major recommendations include eliminating or moving summer quarter to self-support, closing the Concord campus, and establishing a new College of Health and Human Services.

Kimball urged caution against cutting too much to meet the 10% enrollment reduction so as not to over-impact W and SP quarters, which could cause students to be unable to find the courses they need to remain enrolled.

Gubernat, Fleming, Woods, Lubwama, and Eagan each called for extensive and open dialogue with administrators, access to concrete and detailed budget information, and information about what options are and are not available. Fleming asked why we have not had detailed budget reporting from COBRA and/or UPABC and called for more budget transparency. Woods advocated getting COBRA involved. Opp stated that UPABC has not met, which should have occurred; that would increase sense of faculty involvement. Dorer acknowledged that UPABC should have met.

Reichman stated that the Task Force initiative was welcomed by the administration at the summer retreat and reiterated that faculty need to be involved in the tough decisions.

Eagan stated that the Task Force Report underscores core values such as maintaining diversity, academic quality, and access. Since these values are also inherent in the charge of the University Layoff Committee, Eagan recommended that the UCL be presented with a copy of the report so that they may benefit from seeing these values statements.

Discussion continued on the implications of the report; the pros and cons of several options discussed in the report; the potential impact on students; and, what course of action, if any, ExCom might take.

Opp discussed the need to assess the value of programs beyond the numbers of majors and expressed concern that only about half of the campus’ programs have submitted their annual reports.

Dorer stated that consultations over last few months have occurred at college levels, involving deans and chairs. There have been intense conversations in the cabinet, and with the Provost Council, as well as some discussion with the Chancellor’s Office staff about what is allowed and what is not. The decline in allocation is about the same as what was spent on lecturers last year. The question is how to proceed strategically with another serious budget cut after 20 years of serious underfunding. What are the priorities that shape our future? The process must come to closure very soon.

Reichman stated that the problem with most discussions occurring at the college level is that the weak link in shared governance occurs at the college level. The councils of chairs govern; they are not representative of faculty and their votes are not proportional by number of faculty in each department. He added that program impaction should be included in the Task Force report and will share some ideas with ExCom by email.

Andrews stated that there are three problem areas: the budget as presented to UPABC is missing; institutional research has not been doing their job in providing needed data; and, the deans’ recommendations should be public information.

Eagan called for the Provost to provide ExCom with reports that were provided by the deans. Dorer will need to see if this is agreeable with the deans.

Dalton stated that the Cabinet takes ExCom discussions seriously and that single-topic discussions like these are powerful and suggests that time be blocked out on for future discussions. Dorer stated that the
issue is not about eliminating programs, but more about controlling enrollment and living with the budget cuts; he added that ExCom recommendations are taken back to the Cabinet.

Swartz stated that deans are guests at ExCom meetings, but are happy to share information. Badejo stated information goes from deans to chairs; she does not know how it gets from there to the faculty. She also expressed a need for clarity about what the expectations are across the colleges and urged Ex Com to recognize that the deans are working quite well together.

Discussion was extensive and open. The topic will continue at the next meeting.

6. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Fleming, Secretary