

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

OFFICE OF THE  
ACADEMIC SENATE

Approved as corrected

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Senate, Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Members Present: William Alnor, Becky Beal, Korey Brunetti, Luz Calvo, Cal Caplan, Chris Chamberlain, Don Choi, Michelle Collay, Rohan Dixit, Jennifer Eagan, Lynn Eudey, Kelly Fan, Denise Fleming, Toni Fogarty, Susan Gubernat, Erik Helgren, Linda Ivey, Evelia Jiminez, Joshua Kerr, Derek Kimball, Joanna Lee, Evelyn Lopez-Munoz, Christopher Lubwama, Mike Mahoney, Bijan Mashaw, James Mitchell, Christopher Moreman, Julia Olkin, Mo Qayoumi Asha Rao, Gretchen Reevy-Manning, Henry Reichman, Michael Schutz, Jeffery Seitz, Aline Soules, David Stronck, Eric Suess, Claudia Uhde-Stone, Ellen Veomett, Dianne Rush Woods

Members Absent: O. Bobby Aden, Dee Andrews, Marissa DeHerrera, Roger Doering, David Epperson, Melissa Grottkau, Barbara Jackowski, Michael Lee, Rita Liberti, Eve Lynch, Monique Manopoulos, Lynn Paringer, Elaine Shingleton, Jillian Trevisanut, Meiling Wu

Guests: Pat Jennings, Terry Jones, Tom McCoy, Sue Opp, Annette Walker, Gale Young

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 2:06 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

M/S/P (Chamberlain/Schutz) to approve the agenda

2. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting on 4-6-10

M/S/P (Mitchell/Caplan) to approve the minutes of 4/6/10 as amended

3. Reports

a. Report of the Chair

The Chair announced that the Honor's Convocation will be held on Saturday, May 15 at 10 a.m. Woods encouraged all to attend and support those students who will be recognized for their academic achievement.

The Chair announced the Commencement schedule as follows: COS: Friday, June 11 at 6 p.m.; CLASS: Saturday, June 12 at 9 a.m.; CBE: Saturday, June 12 at 3 p.m.; Concord: Sunday, June 13 at 9 a.m.; CEAS: June 13 at 2 p.m.

Rush Woods announced that the Bookstore will now be renting textbooks to students. This may decrease costs to students by as much as 50% and students will be able to rent online. They may highlight text; there will be an option to buy the textbook later in the quarter.

The Chair announced that there will be a special Senate meeting for faculty-led discussion around budget issues on June 8, from 2-4. Save the date! ExCom gathered faculty budget-related

questions and is working on the format. Thirty responses have been received so far and ExCom is using the questions to develop themes to shape the agenda.

Sue Opp reported on the outcome of the Student Research Competition held 4/30-5/1 at San Jose State. Four student groups competed. Psychology undergrads Mikel Delgado and Lorie Curtis won first place in the undergraduate Behavioral and Social Sciences category for their study on "Housing Activity and Behavioral Welfare of the Laboratory Pigeon." Their advisor is Dan Cerutti (Psychology).

Caplan announced that the Women's Water Polo Team completed their season at a conference in Bakersfield. They were 3-1 in the tournament and 24-12 for the season. They took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in league play and 5<sup>th</sup> place in the tournament; a fabulous year for our team.

#### b. Report of the President

The President announced that the Provost is away conducting fieldwork for his research.

Qayoumi stated that there will not be much work done on the budget in Sacramento until the primary season is finished, sometime around mid-June. He hopes to hear more about the budget and/or the May Revise at the Board of Trustees meeting next week. It has recently been announced on the news that State revenues are down.

#### c. Report of the Statewide Academic Senators

Reichman reported that the Statewide Senate meets in Committee and Plenary starting tomorrow (5/5) at the CO. Friday is the organizational meeting to elect officers for 2010-11. Agenda items are available on the web.

#### d. Report of CFA

McCoy reported that the Governor promised that \$305M will stay in the budget for the May revise. McCoy stated that this decision may well be due to a threatened student hunger strike and the March 4 Day of Action. Urged all to keep up the pressure on Sacramento, particularly as the summer approaches.

McCoy announced that the CBA expires on 6/30; a new cycle of negotiations will follow. The first steps toward a new contract take place this week with both sides exchanging sunshine proposals (issues to be addressed during bargaining). The proposals will be made public following a "quiet week." CFA's sunshine proposal was informed in part by solicited input from faculty. These proposals are not extremely detailed because there needs to be leeway to bargain; these proposals set the boundaries for what will be in the bargaining talks.

If no new contract agreement is reached, the existing contract stays in effect, with exceptions of certain programs, like FERP. McCoy advised those interested in FERP to apply for the program prior to June 3<sup>rd</sup> lest it be withdrawn after the contract expires. One can rescind from FERP prior to Fall if need be.

#### e. Report of Student Government

Rohan Dixit announced that there are open leadership positions on ASI and asked that faculty

encourage students to run for the positions. In response to a question from the Chair regarding the make-up of the Board, Dixit stated that two graduate students are on the ASI Board of Directors.

#### 4. **09-10 CAPR 12**, Request for temporary suspension of the MA Program in Sociology

M/S/P (Caplan/Shutz) with two abstentions to approve

Jennings noted that this was due to the reduction of 2 key lecturers and a faculty that is overburdened at the undergrad level. It was noted that this is not permanent, but was voted on by program faculty to deal with budget problems realistically.

#### 5. 09-10 cFDE 1, The Diversity Plan

M/S/P (Reichman/Kimball) with 5 abstentions to accept the document, and to add the charge that FDEC revisit the document as soon as possible to address and specifically include issues of gender, sexual orientation, disability, and other diverse constituencies.

Terry Jones presented the report, stating that it represents years of work. This is a “ground-up” document that began with conversations with faculty, and developed with cooperation from Deans, department heads and administration. He thanked Arthurlene Towner, Linda Dobb, Gail Young, and others for their contributions.

Senator Seitz stated that there is a narrow definition of diversity in the document; for example, there is no mention of sexual orientation apart from a WASC quote. Seitz noted that he participated in all the steps toward development of this document, including the Forum and FDEC/ExCom meetings. Luz Calvo added that there is an urgency associated with GLBT issues: at Long Beach, a transgender student was attacked in a restroom and permanently disfigured. It was also noted that persons with disabilities was not specifically mentioned apart from a WASC quote as well. Caplan noted that no one was excluded from this policy. While specifics were not mentioned, the document was generally inclusive of all and he was in favor of its acceptance. Kimball noted that, since this is a “living” document and can be updated, these concerns should be addressed quickly.

In response to these comments, Jones apologized to Dr. Seitz and the GL community as well as those with disabilities for not providing more specificity regarding the inclusion of these groups, which he pledges to work on so that there is no doubt that all communities of diversity are included. He stated that the document is a work in progress, so the plan can be adjusted and changed. This plan is intended to be available in print as well as on the web with the Academic Plan.

#### 6. Graduation Initiative Update (Opp)

Sue Opp provided an update on the EB Graduation Initiative. The CO goals, to be achieved by 2015, include raising the overall frosh 6-year graduation rate by 8 percentage points and reducing by half the gap in the graduation rates for minority students. In cases where a campus is within 6 percentage points of the national average of similar institutions (as is the case for CSUEB), then the increased graduation rate goal is 6% by 2015.

Part of the energy behind the initiative comes from President Obama’s challenge to improve

graduation rates. In addition, most California surveys believe the state's future is linked to college graduates. The CSU system has a relatively low overall 6-year graduation rate; the thinking was that a system-wide initiative would allow campuses to learn from each other. Opp added that it is especially important to focus on graduation rates during the budget crisis as there is the potential for rates to slide further behind. Several CSUEB individuals have been involved in discussions and planning, including Diana Balgas (Executive Director, Retention Services), Linda Dalton, Linda Dobb, Jim Houpis, Susan Gubernat, Sally Murphy, and Colin Ormsby.

CSUEB's 6-year graduation rate is 43.2% vs. 45.7% nation-wide, which is a gap of 2.5%. Our goal, therefore, is a 6-percentage point increase. The entering 2009 freshmen class is the target group for the goal. Our graduation gap for underrepresented minority students is 4%. Additional information about the initiative is available on sharepoint and monthly progress reports are available on the Web (in the same place as the Academic Plan... "About CSUEB" at the top left of the web page). Some campuses (SF and SJSU included) have larger gaps than ours, although Stanislaus and Monterey have no gap.

Opp stated that this is a work in progress involving the entire university community. Comments and suggestions are welcome. SSAC (Student Success Advisory Committee) and UUAC (University Undergrad Advisory Council), two active committees at CSUEB, both came out of the last WASC Student Success process. The Plan is to 1) expand current efforts (such as centralizing advising in the new SSA building, providing faculty training for GE advising, enforcement of admission requirements and deadlines, and annual course schedules/roadmaps and 2) add new efforts this year, some of which have already been done (improve communication to targeted groups, develop policies regarding high-unit seniors, require an earlier declaration of major, reducing registration units in 1<sup>st</sup> pass/ 2<sup>nd</sup> pass, offering bottleneck courses in summer, and using stimulus funds to increase the grad rate. This is a work in progress, involving the whole university, not just the team.

Reichman thanked Opp for her work and noted that CSUEB's plan appears to be more realistic and potentially more effective than some other CSUs. Reichman also registered continuing concerns regarding the fundamental assumptions behind the initiative at a system-wide level, including the selection of a comparison group to make us look poor. When adjusting by income and socioeconomic status, we are leading the nation. We cannot raise graduation rates by an arbitrary number, especially when every study shows that many of the factors that contribute to change are out of our control. In addition, taking six years to graduate is about right for many students. Reichman added that the way we charge (in tiers, as opposed to by the unit) is problematic. However, he agreed that we could improve.

Opp responded by asking that comments about unfunded mandates without faculty consultation be put aside for this discussion, which was intended to be a local update on the issue.

Eagan concurred with Reichman both in commending Opp and the SSAC group which was already working on the issue prior to the CO mandate. She agreed with the plan for the short term – we need to graduate those with high units and restrict changes of majors, but there are problems, which include cutting class offerings that students need to graduate. Currently, CSUEB is trying to curb enrollment and get "super seniors" graduated and out. We enact these initiatives, but when budget times are better, we might want those enrollments. The life-long learners were positive in the past. Eagan asked what the CO plans to do if we do not meet target.

Discussion ensued about the potential for watering down course requirements, problems with

waitlist prioritizing, remediation, class sizes, standards, the need for more tenure track faculty, resources, and the impetus and quality of data driving the initiative. Stronck noted timeline vary, depending on circumstances - one student worked 40 hours/week the whole time and graduated in 8 years. Qayoumi stated that he is proud of our progress and that we started this process way ahead of the system. Over 70% of our students are transfers. We have a moral responsibility to determine what students need when they arrive and how to help them graduate. For some, 3 years to graduation is appropriate; for others, 8 years is appropriate. Qayoumi added that he would welcome an enrollment problem. There are underserved communities where the graduation rates are at about 20% over six years. What can we do as a moral calling to increase that? He encouraged faculty to look less at the stats and numbers and more at what we can do to help our students.

#### 7. ORSP Funding Update: There is \$\$\$\$ Out There!! How to Obtain Our Share! (Williamson)

Rhea Williamson reported that a diminishing number of campus operations are funded from the general fund, as opposed to years ago, when 100% of operations were so funded. Thus, there is a need to bring in grants to support research opportunities, go to conferences, increase publications, provide student support for underrepresented minorities and underserved communities, and academic recognition (dossier).

ORSP's priority is to focus on faculty, first and foremost, and to support all phases of research. There has been a large increase in award totals this year, from \$11,772,007 during 08-09 to \$26,214,980 to date for 09-10. The total number of proposals is about the same. Williamson stated that the benefits of funding include buying assigned time, travel benefits, student stipends, curriculum development, training programs, supplies and equipment (like lab upgrades), and paying for overload of up to 25% during the academic year and 125% during the summer.

CSUEB is a beta campus (1 of 4) for FRESKA, a faculty profile database. FRESKA can be found on the CO website ([www.calstate.edu](http://www.calstate.edu)) and search "research." There is a wealth of information provided there. Affinity Groups provide links for internal funding. ORSP services and forms are available on the CSUEB website, which will be revamped soon to make things easier to find. Faculty are welcome to drop by the office.

#### 8. Adjournment

No quorum to motion for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Fleming, Secretary