CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

OFFICE OF THE
ACADEMIC SENATE

Approved as presented

Minutes of the Executive Committee, Tuesday, January 24, 2006

Members present: Kevin Callahan, Jennifer Eagan, Denise Fleming, Susan Gubernat, Nan Maxwell, Julie Norton, Henry Reichman, Don Sawyer, Eric Soares

Members absent: Cal Caplan, Norma Rees, Steve Ugbah

Guests: Carl Bellone, Bob Brauer, John Charles, Susan Correia, Karina Garbesi, Armando Gonzales, Mark Karplus, James Kelly, Dick Metz, Michael Schutz

1. Approval of the agenda

M/S/P (Norton/Eagan) to approve the agenda

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting on January 10, 2006

Minutes not yet available

3. Reports

A. Report of the Chair

- Sandra Ehrhorn from the CSUEB bookstore has solicited over $20,000 in book donations for Katrina victims. Sawyer distributed a memorandum from Ehrhorn listing major donors and asked that faculty thank publisher representatives when they come to visit.
- In local news, the Daily Review featured CSUEB in two articles, one on the inception of a four-year program in Nursing on the Concord campus and the other on Men’s Basketball senior guard Mike Wood, who is 40 points from breaking CSUEB’s all-time career scoring record.
- Upcoming events include Latino Education Summit from 8:30-1 p.m. on the Hayward Campus; Art Gallery Display of William Blake’s Book Art, from 5-8 p.m. on February 1; KPE will host the 2006 Alliance Scholar Lecture on Exercise Benefits on performance with guest speaker Daniel M. Landers on February 1; the second annual Renaud-Wilson Dance Festival will hold 7:30 p.m. performances on February 3 and 4, and a 2 p.m. performance on February 5.
- Soares and Gubernat announced that as part of the Distinguished Writers Series, Suheir Hammad will be on campus on February 8 at 7 p.m. in the Biella Room.
- Sawyer thanked ExCom members for their generous contributions to the Academic Ambassador Scholarship at Homecoming [and especially thanks Provost Kelly for matching ExCom’s contributions, which provided the opportunity to present TWO scholarships.]

B. Report of the President

- Interim Provost Kelly reported for the President. There are new chairs in the President’s Conference Room, which were ordered a year ago. Chairs from the PCR have now found a home in the library conference room.
- Kelly reported on status of admissions for 06-07: as of January 23rd, 1590 freshmen, 1671 transfer students, and 36 graduate students were admitted; last year at this time, there were only 17 students admitted.
- Problems from last year’s graduation ceremony were reviewed and proposed changes for this year’s graduation were announced and discussed; there will be 3 graduation ceremonies this spring: one at the Concord campus, one at CSUEB. The Provost noted that he wants this to work well, so he is talking with many venues about the proposed changes.
- It was announced that having the wait list on “automatic” during add-drop period added 53 FTES, and ExCom reported that it was better for department offices as well.
- Posters of CSU East Bay were distributed and are available at Enrollment Services
C. Report of the Statewide Academic Senators

- Reichman reported that there are meetings of the CSU Senate this week. Fiscal Affairs has been working on a resolution regarding the “take-backs” slated for some universities. The proposed resolution is being positively received by several members of the Statewide Executive committee.

8. Progress Report to ExCom from the Committee Reviewing the Research Office (time certain 2:30)

Opp stated that the Committee Reviewing the Research Office has met six times thus far this year. They have been gathering data from other CSU’s about the structure and function of pre and post-award functions. The Committee has also analyzed data from the past ten years, including the number of proposals submitted and the numbers funded. Gathered input from faculty, as well as speaking with members of the Foundation and Julie Glass from the Office of Faculty Development. While a report is still in draft form, awaiting further feedback, the Committee believes that there is room for improvement; to that end, the review and suggestions for improvement in the form of an Executive Summary will be on the Ex Com agenda at a later date.

4. Appointments

Confirmations of email votes for RPT Workshop participants and replacement of Wort on the Senate for Winter 06 (Simmons-Mosley)

5. Approval of the preliminary list of nominees for the Winter ‘06 University-wide Election

M/S/P (Soares/Maxwell) to approve the preliminary list as amended to show Maxwell under “At-large” senator, rather than CSU Academic Senator

6. Update regarding COBRA discussions (Garbesi)

- Garbesi reported that COBRA has been meeting weekly; discussed how to move COBRA’s reports to the Senate more effectively; there are some “blurred lines” between serving on COBRA as part of faculty governance at the same time as being a member of the President’s Budget Advisory Committee. There is a time constraint on making recommendations to the President as COBRA is due to provide same by Friday, January 27. This leaves little time to confer with Ex Com and the Senate. Provost Kelly noted that they just learned that the President’s meeting with West will be on February 14th, so that would leave time for Senate feedback on the document, if the Senate met on the 7th of February. Garbesi hopes to share data and process with Ex Com and the Senate on that date, including data from Kris Erway on five-year trends in different divisions; some areas had enormous cuts (25%), some areas cannot be cut (eg. Police); Academic Affairs was only cut about 3%, so will have to provide the lion’s share this time.

- The Interim Provost has provided some suggestions for potential cuts and appreciates suggestions; plans to look at 5-year trends within Academic Affairs and across the Colleges; none of the options is palatable; looking at assigned time a well as “other funds” such as parking. Garbesi reminded the body that the COBRA meetings are open and members were encouraged to “get in the dialog.”

- Maxwell asked about reductions being across the board, to which Garbesi replied that there is widespread agreement that different colleges may have reasons to handle things differently; COBRA cannot micromanage the details

- Sawyer noted that the Provost has charged the Deans with 6% and 8% reduction strategies

- Reichman stated that having a plan is important, but urged that focus not be lost on efforts to turn around the reduction. He also cautioned that a reduction in chairs’ assigned time determines the stipend, which in effect equates to a reduction in chair’s salary. He urged that the Interim Provost and COBRA invite unions into the discussions. Finally, Reichman urged that any reductions be monitored so that they do not automatically become permanent, and that, when funds become available again, those areas that lost funding be targeted for refunding.

- Kelly acknowledged that Gonzales provided figures and helped to clarify issues; he assumed no cut in chair assigned time, as it is called “administrative time.”
- Sawyer thanked Garbesie and extended thanks to the committee members. Discussion refocused on Reichman’s draft letter to Chancellor Reed and Vice Chancellor West. Reichman stated that his intent was neither to conflict with the President’s efforts, nor to duplicate them. Copies should be sent to President Rees and to the Statewide Academic Chair Thobaben; there is an issue of timing and it is hoped that this letter would complement the President’s efforts. Some corrections and recommendations for altered language were offered by ExCom members and VP Metz. The Chair will discuss the timing of the letter with the President. It was also noted that the Senate would not be copied on the letter in order to avoid looking like we’re “grandstanding.”

7. Discussion of 10 Year Academic Calendar issues raised at the Senate meeting and the University Calendar

Sawyer reminded ExCom that it was agreed that calendar issues raised on the Senate floor would be reexamined by ExCom. Sawyer reiterated the problems encountered the quarter and asked for input in framing a possible charge to FAC. Reichman expressed doubt that there will be a viable solution to losing two Mondays in Winter and Spring quarters; Maxwell complained that there was not adequate communication regarding the schedule change; Callahan noted that he can see a difference between Fall & Winter student learning due to reduced class time; Reichman warned of violation of contract if year was lengthened; Fleming suggested that class time could be lengthened over the course of the quarter. Sawyer will draft a referral and send it by email to start the process. ExCom will vote on the draft, if they agree to refer the issue.

9. Discussion of DegreeWorks and PeopleSoft Student Implementations

- Provost Kelly has been at three campuses where PeopleSoft has been implemented and stated that he welcomes feedback in the interest of making the transition run as smoothly as possible; he has several meetings across campus coming up so staff can give feedback as well. He noted problems with DegreeWorks which have turned people off to it; we want it to work and not be a hindrance.

- John Charles introduced Glen Perry, Asst to AVP for Special Projects, Enrollment Services; Charles also stated that he spoke with the Deans yesterday and will speak with the Council of Chairs soon; there is a non-optional advising module that accompanies PeopleSoft.

- Perry discussed the options for transition to PeopleSoft; we will leverage the lessons learned from DegreeWorks implementation. Extensive discussion ensued. A number of questions were asked regarding the effectiveness of DegreeWorks in accommodating transfer students. It was pointed out that DegreeWorks is being used in Enrollment Services for GE evaluations for transfer students. It has been shown to be ineffective in terms of use within the departments for grad checks. Until PeopleSoft Student is functional, there are two options: completely eliminating DegreeWorks and going to paper and pencil in the interim, or some hybrid of using DegreeWorks for GE only and paper/pencil for major grad checks. ExCom advised using the hybrid and that putting our resources into PeopleSoft rather than DegreeWorks would give us a better product to work with in the future.

10. Discussion of this issue was done in the President’s report.

11. Adjournment

M/S/P (Maxwell/Fleming) to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Fleming, Secretary