Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 28, 2006

Members present: Cal Caplan, Denise Fleming, David Larson, Nan Maxwell, Susan Opp, Mo Qayoumi, Henry Reichman, Eric Suess, Steve Ugbah

Members absent: Dianne Woods

Guests: Carl Bellone, John Charles, Fred Dorer, Mark Karplus, Myoung-ja Lee Kwon, Jose Lopez, Penny McCullagh, Don Sawyer, Arthurlene Towner

1. Approval of the agenda

M/S/P (Maxwell/Ugbah) to approve the agenda

2. Approval of the minutes from the meetings on October 31, November 14, 2006

No minutes to approve

3. Reports

A. Report of the Chair

The Chair announced the following upcoming events: Ice, a dance performance on December 1 and 2 in the Dance Studio; the Holiday Craft Faire, hosted by the Department of Social Welfare on December 4; a lecture by Ron Galloway on “Why Walmart Works and Why It Makes Unions Crazy” on November 29 in MU 2079; and, the CSU system premiere of “From Where I Sit” on November 30 in the University Theatre.

Reichman reported that President Qayoumi has asked Sonja Redmond to convene a team to begin discussions for Phase 3 of the student housing project. There are currently 800 beds with an initial projected occupancy of 65%; occupancy is now at 75%, with the likelihood of reaching 80% by spring quarter. The University is now working on a plan to collaborate with Chabot College to house some of its students here. Within the next 18 months, it is likely that we will need close to 1000 beds. President Qayoumi would prefer to not renew the lease with I-House (former Carlos Bee hall), thus, the move toward Phase 3 of student housing. Such a building project usually takes about 6-7 years to complete; the President hopes to move Phase 3 forward in two-three years; minor amendment to the Master Plan and environmental impact study needed. Reichman will serve on the committee as a member of the faculty. It was affirmed that this will go to CPPC; noted a dining commons is in the plan.

Reichman announced that the Provost search is progressing smoothly and is approaching an important phase; the final four candidates (2 CSU Deans, 2 long-standing Provosts) will be coming to campus in the next week. There will be a scheduled meeting time for an interview with ExCom and a public forum for faculty, staff, and students to meet each of the candidates.

The Board of Trustees meeting on November 15 was disturbing; CFA’s demonstration was the largest in history. There were 18 representatives from East Bay, more than 1000 faculty more than 500 students and staff in attendance. The Board did not take notice of the demonstration. When the meeting ended state Senator Gloria Romero took the microphone; during her speech 22 students held a sign up in front of the audience.

The preceding day, during committee meetings, the Budget Committee passed a request that exceeds the compact and includes a buy-out for the expected student fee increase of 10% for next year. The budget also includes $71.1m for ongoing costs, of which $38m is allocated for compensation and $58m are allocated for other costs, including deferred maintenance. The Statewide Academic Senate agreed to call attention to two resolutions from the November meetings, including one on meeting unmet needs and ACR 73, which calls for a tenure track ratio of 75%. The 75% tenure track recommendation was made approximately five years ago, but there has been no action taken on it.

Reichman urged the Board of Trustees to move that $40m in funds be added to the $71.1m. Trustee Craig Smith moved and Herb Carter seconded, but the motion was defeated by the Board of Trustees. Comments made during the discussion were discouraging; the CO considered the amount a laundry list; Hauck said that the legislature never committed money to it.
Finally, we have not received an official response to the letter about President Rees’ salary. Reichman recommends letting the situation lie.

B. Report of the President

President Qayoumi announced that Dr. Linda Dalton has accepted the position of Vice President of Enrollment and Planning. In early December, he will convene the Committee on Budget, Planning, and Assessment and is asking Reichman to ask COBRA to identify 4 of its members to include on the committee.

President Qayoumi reported that he received a letter from a group of women faculty and faculty of color (calling themselves the “Diversity Council”) who have requested a role on the President’s cabinet. There was discussion about the request. Opp asked what the current make-up of cabinet is. Qayoumi said “direct reports”: Redmond, Sawyer, Burt, Dorer (until the new Provost arrives), Charles, Metz, and Dalton are members. Maxwell and other members stated that some of the concerns raised by the group merit discussion; the question was through what channel, i.e., Senate, FAC?

Concerns were raised about an organization forming that could be viewed as exclusive; some members never heard about it and would like things to be more open. There are issues that need to be addressed, but may not necessarily be addressable by one representative or in one fell swoop. Whatever process is used needs to be inclusive. Fleming and others said that the President has been onboard just a short while; the issues that were raised have long preceded the President’s arrival and, while they are important and should be taken seriously by the entire university community, it is inaccurate and unfair to place the blame on the President.

Reichman raised the possibility of broadening the charge of FDEC to include the issues raised as well as WASC issues. FDEC appears to view their role as overseeing the hiring process. Reichman said that Dave Larson might be able to shed some light on this. Reichman agrees that the concerns raised by the group should be a central focus on campus and that there should be a place for independent voices to come together and express concerns; this is one way that democracy works. Several people who signed the letter currently serve in elected positions. The group’s mission statement includes a troubling statement that they will “monitor and ensure” that search committees will do certain things. It is good to recommend targets and develop scorecards and to play a role in the process, but to say that they will be the monitors is troubling.

Seuss suggested approaching the group and encouraging them to serve on faculty governance; this would place the focus on service to the community. Ugbah said that many of these individuals have given quite a bit of their time to service already; he would have to think hard about a position on the cabinet. Opp applauds these people for pointing out that we have more work to do. Several members said that the issues that were raised by the group are being discussed and that these be referred (again) to FDEC, the WASC Campus Climate Committee, and others to track discussions and frame a response. Sawyer stated that every one of the issues are part of FDEC’s charge and suggested it would be productive to review the document specifying FDEC’s charge. Caplan suggested that we might raise the presence of FDEC in our structure, but not a standing committee; keeping these discussions within faculty governance gives a structure wherein faculty have a place and structure to raise these issues; urged opening the lines of communications with the group and creating a conduit for concerns and issues. The President noted that a meeting on Dec 7th has been scheduled and includes Towner and Cimino, and suggested a member of ExCom also be present. It was suggested that Larson as AALO and Maxwell as Vice Chair attend; self-selected people cannot make or carry out policy, but they can influence it. The issue will be placed on the FDEC agenda in early Winter Quarter.

M/S/P (Reichman/Caplan) Larson, as AALO; Nan Maxwell, as a member of ExCom and whose field is labor force economics, to meet with the DCI on Dec 7; and to place this statement on the agenda of FDEC and have the President attend the meeting.

C. Report of the Statewide Academic Senators

Committee meetings will be held on Friday, Dec 8

4. Appointments

M/S/P (Caplan Opp) Confirmation of email appointment of Eric Suess as Science member of Fairness Committee for Fall.

5. Report from the Language Task Force (Fleming)
M/S/P (Fleming/Maxwell) to suspend the Language Task Force pending the completion of the MOU process for MLL. The committee may be reconvened with new membership, at the discretion of ExCom.

Fleming reported that the Language Task Force has not made significant progress. This is probably due to the uncertain status of the Modern Language and Literature Department and the important role the department will play in any forthcoming language requirement recommendations. After discussion, it was suggested that the ExCom renew its charge to the committee once the MOU for MLL is completed.

6. Report from the Task Force for Online Education

Reichman reported that the next meeting is scheduled tomorrow; feels optimistic that they will finish a full draft of policy and bring to next ExCom meeting or first one in Winter quarter to decide about sending it to CIC or FAC or put as a BEC for the Senate. The committee has worked on this with a basis from a number of other CSU policies.

7. Report from Ed.D. Resolution Committee

Caplan stated that he sent the draft resolution to Lopez and Brizendine. The resolution asks for cooperation and support in development of the Ed.D. on this campus. This is important because it is the first applied doctorate in the system; in order to undergo scrutiny and meet all demands, it is critical to have support and cooperation of the campus community. Also, the resolution addresses the process through which it will be reviewed, i.e., all campus review processes and all program standards. It is important to realize that we already have a joint doctorate with UCB, SFSU, and SJSU; the development of the joint doctorate on this campus is well respected in system and considered well thought out.

Maxwell questioned whether she could support a resolution calling for unqualified support without knowing how funding will be addressed. Interim Dean Brizendine is also concerned about funding; we could put in a resolve that affirms the resolution and calls attention to the funding issues.

Reichman stated that the funding issue is somewhat problematic as the statewide resolution only partly achieves funding. It is unclear that the funding mechanism in the legislation, i.e., fees, is enough for start-up costs; candidates will pay what UC doctoral students pay, so it is hoped that the program will eventually pay for itself. The reality, however, is that if we do not move forward with the independent doctorate, others in our service area will do so, effectively locking us out of the market. We are already developing the program and there is a search in progress; the resolution is intended so that the faculty will be able to first consider the program before it is written. Dorer noted that there is support for the doctorate and that its structure can be shaped in many ways. Reichman suggests attaching a draft explaining to the Senate the kind of program that is envisioned along with examples from other campuses and a judicious selection of the program standards.

It was agreed to treat this as a “first reading” of the resolution; Lopez agreed to send a 1 page summary of the proposed program to be added to the resolution background. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

8. Report regarding Upcoming University Events (Commencement, 50th Anniv, Inauguration,…)

Reichman stated that President Qayoumi made a decision to separate commencement into college events. Also, 2007 is the anniversary of the charter; this makes for a nice coincidence with the inauguration of the President. An inaugural committee has begun to meet; there will be also be a committee to plan events for the university’s anniversary.

The President has agreed that the inaugural be a keynote event of the anniversary; it will be held on Friday, June 1, a.m. in the Amphitheatre, followed by a light lunch reception and events around campus. There will be an evening inaugural gala, by invitation; this will be held in the new Student Union. Aramark plans to bring in top chefs and provide a tasting. A call has been issued via the
Deans for proposed events for the anniversary and the inaugural week, perhaps one day for each of the four colleges and something at the Concord Campus. While there may be concerns about money that will be spent; however, this event is a tremendous opportunity for the university and can be used to leverage more fund raising, build the capital campaign, and increase enrollment.

Suess stated that he has read newspaper accounts and saw a report on Channel 2 that covered the change in commencement with a very positive slant, noting the safety implications in the changes. He suggests having TV and news reporters cover commencement. Reichman also suggested inviting high school principals, student government representatives, and district superintendents to commencement.

9. Discussion of Classroom Renovation and Faculty Input

Reichman stated that Haber (AVP, Facilities Planning) will send a list of how facilities rates classroom needs, e.g., paint, furniture, window treatments, etc. Reichman will distribute the list and solicit faculty input on these proposed renovations. Dorer suggested circulating the list through the deans. In response to Caplan’s question, Charles stated that there will be an effort to standardize and improve smart classrooms.

10. Possible Update regarding Faculty Support Services Reorganization

Dorer stated that he, Charles, and Towner have met to discuss the reorganization of Faculty Support Services. There is a floor plan for area where the Senate space is. Towner is working with Chico and Jensen on the plan; there is a move towards having ORSP merge with Faculty Support Services. Towner stated that Opp, Chico, and Jensen are working on an initial proposal to bring to her for review.

Reichman stated that Dorer should have the initial proposal come before Ex Com in writing and that since this project significantly affects faculty, it should also be presented to the Senate.

11. Adjournment

M/S/P (Caplan/Maxwell) to adjourn at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Fleming, Secretary