Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Members present: Calvin Caplan, Julie Glass, David Larson, Nan Maxwell, Susan Opp, Gretchen Reevy-Manning, Henry Reichman, Dianne Rush Woods

Members absent: Sally Murphy, Mo Qayoumi

Guests: Bob Burt, Carl Bellone, Linda Dalton, Terry Jones, Mike Mahoney, Jodi Servatius, Aline Soules, Arthurlene Towner

1. Approval of the agenda

M/S/P (Maxwell/Larson) to approve the agenda with the addition that Bob Burt will give a presentation about the new Capital Campaign at the end of item 8.

2. Approval of the minutes from the meeting on April 15, 2008 (not yet available)

3. Reports
   A. Report of the Chair

   - A memorial event for Charlene Abendroth will be held today at 4:30 in MB1055.
   - The student rally in Sacramento yesterday received a lot of press coverage with a front page article in the SF Chronicle today and an article for Inside Bay Area. A report from Barry Pasternak including his remarks was e-mailed to Excom members.
   - The Honor’s Convocation will take place on May 17th at 2PM. Excom members are invited to be part of the platform party. There will be no faculty escorts, rather department chairs will congratulate the honorees. The Chair was told of this decision and expressed no opposition at that time. It is thought that if there is a lot of faculty dissatisfaction with the new procedure, that the practice of having faculty escorts can be reintroduced in future years.
   - It was noted that the FDEC and others have started to use the title DELO (Diversity and Equity Liaison Officer) for the former AALO (Affirmative Action Liaison Officer). The issue of making the name change official came up last year as part of the AALO report. Because the change would require a vote of the full faculty, the issue was tabled and not sent to the full Senate. The option of having an online vote was mentioned.
   - Nan Chico sent an e-mail regarding the web rebuild project. The project hopes to produce an accessible and navigable website. Raechelle Clemons has requested names of 4 faculty to interview and to gather input regarding the faculty portal on the new webpage. Mitch Watnik, Bob Zambetti, Nicole Howard, Sue Opp and Judith Faust will be invited to be interviewed. An e-mail will be sent from the Chair issuing the invitation and Nan Chico and Raechelle Clemons will be CCed.
   - A plan for the remaining Tuesday meetings for Excom and the Senate was distributed. There were some questions about deadlines for submitting documents from colleges and departments for review by CAPR this year. In particular some course/program discontinuances for the MBA need to be reviewed this year. It was agreed that the CIC deadline of April 29th would likely provide CAPR with enough time to deal with these generally non-controversial documents.
   - There is a new webpage linked to the Academic Affairs webpage for the Emeriti and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA). For information about emeriti access to desks/offices faculty can contact the Provost’s office.

B. Report of the President

The President is traveling and the report was given by the Provost.

   - The student research competition is May 2nd and 3rd on our campus. The key note address will be given by a Nobel Laureate Dr. A. Glaser of UC Berkeley.
- There will be an Active Shooter Drill on May 30th. The drill conflicts with the planned Diversity Symposium which will likely be rescheduled to May 29th.
- 23 acceptances have been received from new tenure track faculty to start in the Fall with several other offers out and another few searches still in the interview stage. It is expected that we will have at least 30 new faculty next year.

C. Report of the Statewide Academic Senators

There was no report

4. Appointments
- CBE replacement for Asha Rao on FAC for Spring; CBE replacement for Fung-Shine Pan and Hongwei Du on CIC for Spring

No appointments were made.

5. Approval of the Final List for the Spring Elections (provided at the meeting)

M/S/P (Rush-Woods/Maxwell) to approve

6. 07-08 BEC 3 revised. Faculty Support Services Advisory Committee (new draft/revision may be provided at the meeting after email input during the week)

M/S (Opp/Reevy-Manning) to place on the Senate agenda

M/S/P (Glass/Maxwell) to change the wording of the section Appointed by Excom to: “5 faculty members. It is expected that the committee membership will represent faculty with expertise and/or experience with as wide a range of areas being advised as possible.”

The motion to place on the Senate agenda as amended passed.

7. 07-08 CAPR 18, Five-Year Program Review for General Education

M/S/P (Opp/Larson) to place on the Senate agenda

8. Strategic Planning Summary and Priorities for Implementation (Dalton)

Two documents were provided titled “Strategic Planning Summary and Priorities for Implementation Spring 2008: Turning Vision into Action” (subsequently referred to as the SPS) and “Priority Setting from Academic Plan.” The SPS was praised all around, as was the hard work of Linda Dalton and her team. Some of the notable differences among groups reporting in the document “Priority Setting” were noted. These generally arose from the Cabinet group (which often lumped items together) and ASI, which included only the ASI Board. It was reported that the next step would be to post the SPS including links to all the relevant documents that advised it as well as the overall planning process. Dr. Terry Jones, Chair of the Faculty Diversity and Equity Committee was present and spoke to the strength of the SPS as a document that would hold the University accountable. However, he expressed serious concern that such a document would go forward before the completion of the FDEC’s Diversity Plan. This concern was echoed and supported by many members of Excom and others present. There was some disagreement as to when the Diversity Plan would be complete (2 – 3 weeks or substantially longer). It was strongly felt that the SPS as the lead off public planning document should have diversity “at its core” and that without the complete Diversity Plan providing strong fundamental input into the process, this core value would be lost. It was also reported that the FDEC is currently collecting very valuable and inspirational material that will inform the Diversity Plan. It was noted that there are other plans of substantial value that are still being formulated (like the retention plan), and that a planning process is, by its nature, ongoing. However, the importance of the Diversity Plan as an indicator of a new way of thinking and behaving was felt to be more fundamental than the overall evolutionary nature of planning. It was felt that the integration of the Retention and Diversity Plans was essential to the starting position. It was noted that there is a strong need for a document like the SPS soon in order to start the budget planning process. It will serve as a critical part of the budget cycle for priority setting. It was suggested that the SPS be re-titled as “An Interim Strategic Planning Summary and Priorities…” pending completion of the Diversity and Retention Plans and that some background information be posted along side of the document. The final decision will be made by the President’s Cabinet, and it is hoped that the concerns expressed at this meeting will be conveyed to that group.
Bob Burt gave a report on the upcoming comprehensive campaign. Currently work is beginning on priority setting. There are several new staff members in University Advancement who are engaged in this process. By June the pre-campaign plan should be complete. The entire alumni base has been screened to identify those with “major gift capacity” as well as to assess the overall philanthropic capacity of the alumni. The goal is to (re)connect alumni to the University and inform them of the strategic initiatives under development. It is expected that the overall effort will last 7 years. A call has gone out to the Vice Presidents and Deans to begin a consultative process to develop suggestions for campaign priorities. Wide participation is sought with opportunities to weigh in for faculty. The VPs and Deans will be asked to submit written input by May 8 and a verbal presentation to the Cabinet will be on May 9th. From this a preliminary list of priorities will be produced by May 20th and go out for a three week comment period. These will be discussed at Excom on May 27th and with the full Senate on June 3rd. A presentation will be given to the Educational Foundation at its quarterly meeting on June 26th. There will be conversations with top prospects over the summer with confidential conversations following in the Fall. Prospects will be asked about the priorities, if they could see themselves supporting them and/or if there were others they suggest. This will lead to a recommendation as to the size and length of the overall campaign. This will begin the “quiet stage” of the campaign, which will last about 3 years. At this stage the priorities will be finalized and 35 – 40% of the funds will have been raised. This is followed by 3 – 3.5 years for the largest and public part of the campaign.

If you have ideas and/or suggestions, please talk to your dean.

9. Assigned Time Task Force Report (provided earlier)

This report was addressed to Excom and the Provost. Excom can choose to simply offer “thanks” to the task force, pass to committees for possible policy development, place on the senate agenda with or without endorsement, etc. The Provost reported that he felt the document was very good and comprehensive. He appreciated the hard work put into addressing this important topic. He noted that with the current budget situation, all of the ideas in the report, though worthy, cannot be implemented. He also noted that consistency across colleges is not possible. For example, in order to maintain AACSB accreditation and attract qualified faculty in CBE, those faculty must be offered higher salaries and lower teaching loads. There are other issues around accreditation in CEAS as well as elsewhere which make a uniform policy impractical. He looked forward to implementing some of these ideas as the budget situation improves. In particular, he agreed that it would be good to offer more release to the Senate (noting that some release for committee chairs might be possible next year), for advising, and banking release for MA/MS thesis supervision (he noted that he had implemented such a policy at Long Beach). It was noted that the committee recognized the fiscal impact and that action could/should be taken when the structural deficit is closed. The committee also acknowledged that consistency across colleges should be sought “as much as possible.”

The discussion turned to how the document should be disseminated. A cover memo would certainly be required, and perhaps an executive summary should be created for distribution rather than the document itself. It was suggested that a significant and overarching theme in the document was of transparency and accountability. There was disagreement as to whether the report would be controversial as is. Some Excom members felt there were several issues that would create substantial controversy and result in unnecessary heated discussion regarding issues for which complete/partial information about current practices is not available.

M/S/P (Reevy-Manning/Woods) to table with one opposing vote. It was agreed that Excom would provide Reichman with specific concerns over the next week and that he would reconvene the task force to consider the recommendations.

10. CSU Joint Committee Report on Student Evaluations of Teaching

This item was tabled.

11. Adjournment

M/S/P (Reevy-Manning/Larson)

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Glass, Secretary