Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Tuesday, February 23, 2010


Members absent: Mo Qayoumi

Guests: Dee Andrews, Susan Correia, Linda Dalton, Fred Dorer, Mark Karplus, Michael Lee, Michael Leung, Susan Opp, Glen Perry, Carol Reese, Don Sawyer, Rhea Williamson

Meeting called to order at 2:00

1. Approval of the agenda

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

2. Approval of the minutes of 1-7-10

M/S/P (Fleming/Lubwama) to approve the minutes

3. Reports

A. Report of the Chair

Asked for those who represented the chair at committee meetings to give reports

Caplan reported on the CSU Senate Chair meeting. The Chancellor spoke on budget scenarios; chairs asked about possibility of furloughs. Reed would not rule out furloughs; may need to back into furloughs depending on the budget. Chairs discussed the role of faculty in shared governance in the graduation initiative; Reed was confident that faculty will come up with ideas that ensure quality. There was discussion about reducing GE requirements to improve the graduation rate and the potential impact. Reed stated that other IHE’s (e.g. Florida) do not have upper division GE.

The Chancellor has been involved in the prison versus education funding discussions and helped guide the Board of Trustees to ask for money to maintain quality. As a result, the CSU is the only state agency to receive additional funding in the governor’s budget. The Chancellor verbally emphasized the role of faculty, which is encouraging.

Caplan reported that our women’s water polo won today; they have beaten five teams in the last two weeks are now in third place in the WWPA Conference and 19th in the nation.

Woods reported that Super Sunday was well attended. President Mitchell (CSU Bakersfield) gave a presentation. AVP Greg Smith and committee worked hard to make it culturally
competent. 1500 potential students attended an event the following week to learn how to become a student at CSUEB. Last year they were able to be admitted on the spot, but applications are already closed this year.

The Chair reminded all to contribute to the ExCom fund for the Homecoming scholarship.

Gubernat reported on the Student Success and Assessment Committee. Working with Sue Opp, Linda Dalton, and others to look at positive ways to improve graduation rate. A monthly report is required. We are mandated to improve graduation rates for underrepresented minorities.

Woods added that we should look at existing programs and resources to assist underrepresented minorities, e.g., Upward Bound, underrepresented faculty, workshops, and other ways of working with students, etc. Discussion ensued about data and resources. Michael Lee suggested that any program-related requirements and data (e.g., for assessment) be sent to CAPR in the Annual Reports & 5-Year Reviews for seamless interface.

On the subject of using stim funds for this initiative, Eagan advocated that such funds be tied to saving jobs as diversity is being lost with the loss of lecturers.

Dalton added that the terminal year is the 6th year out. By 2015, we will have admitted all that will graduate by then. SSAC is not focusing at the program level, but, since graduation rates differ by program, we should look at this. Has also sent Rush Woods a high unit seniors proposal.

B. Report of the President

Dorer reported for the President, who is at an Executive Council meeting. Thursday will be Dorer’s last day; he expressed appreciation for faculty and staff commitment to serving students during such a stressful time. He announced that two colleges have incurred a $1.7M deficit.

M/S/P (Reichman/Kimball) that ExCom, on behalf of the entire faculty, thank Interim Provost Fred Dorer for his service on behalf of the university. We wish him the best in his retirement.

Don Sawyer reported that there have been over 110 incidents of vandalism (graffiti) on the campus around the Day of Action. University policy is to remove graffiti asap. The average cost is about $100 per incident; Sawyer encouraged all to get the word out that this is criminal action, some of which has been caught on video. Use of fliers works well to promote causes.

March 4 Day of Action is nationwide. Students and faculty from K-12 and universities will hold major demonstrations in San Francisco, Sacramento, and Los Angeles. At 11:00 am, there will be a student walkout, followed by a musical performance and open mic at the Agora, co-sponsored by ASI. Students will be encouraged to take a bus to San Francisco. No violence is anticipated; the focus is to keep the pressure on the state to restore funding.

ASI is sponsoring a forum at noon on Monday to discuss the budget. Corbett and Hancock will speak in the Union at 6:30, a broadcast by Stein will follow at 7:00. People from other campuses will attend and take questions. It would help to inform students of the venues and forums available.

C. Report of the Statewide Academic Senators
Gubernat reported that Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer Jeri Echeverria has announced her retirement and will be leaving by July.

The Statewide Faculty Affairs Committee held a joint meeting with the statewide ExCom regarding the graduation initiative; process was top-down. Deliverology is being espoused by several CSU presidents; they believe that reducing the size of GE programs will help the graduation rate. The Chancellor questions the purpose of upper division GE. Curricular change is supposed to start with faculty, so this will probably be an ongoing concern.

Reichman is liaison to the system-wide library committee. There are efforts to be more economical with resources, e.g., sharing of electronic resources, archiving journals online and regional archives. Library staff are thorough; there are procedures to ensure accuracy with a large grant to support the efforts.

Jen Eagan was recognized with applause for her video, which was highlighted at the CSU Council of Library Directors in Long Beach. Gerry Hanley presented the web video on "Affordable Learning Solutions" starring our own Jen Eagan (with a strong supporting role by our library colleague Tom Bickley. It will be up on the CO website soon. Linda Dalton was also praised in passing at the meeting as the best enrollment person in the system.

4. Appointments

None

5. 09-10 CAPR 9, Environmental Studies BA program modifications; and 09-10 CIC 14, Option Changes in Environmental Studies B.A.

M/S/P (Mitchell/Caplan) to place on the Academic Senate agenda

6. 09-10 CIC 15, Application of INTS Course for GE Area D4

M/S/P (Eagan/Caplan) to place on the Academic Senate agenda

7. 09-10 CIC 16, Application of Courses for GE Area C4

M/S/P (Lubwama/Reichmann) to place on the Academic Senate agenda

8. 09-10 CR 1, Nominees for the 09-10 Institutional Review Board

M/S/P (Caplan/Mitchell) to approve

Catherine Colson has been on UCB’s IRB, is a K-12 educator, has gone through the training, and has a strong interest in IR.

9. 09-10 cFAC 3, Faculty Office Hour Policy Revision

M/S/ (Reichman/Caplan) to place on the Academic Senate agenda

M/S/ with no objection (Caplan/Lubwama) to amend: Add after “one hour of telephone
availability, by telephone” add “or equivalent confidential means.”

Reichman noted that “…will inform the department of his/her office hours the first day of classes”, should be changed to “no later than”. He will bring it up on the Senate floor.

Dee Andrews, Chair FAC, sent policy to Human Development department for review/feedback.

Motion passed as amended.

10. Discussion of the $2.9M one-time funds allocated to Academic Affairs for 10-11 and 11.

Continued discussion of the EB plans to meet the anticipated budget cuts; use summer session, make sections larger,

Kimball reported on a letter from chairs advocating that the $1.2M currently allocated for initiatives on enrollment should go towards funding more courses, which would be more in line with stimulus goals and CO directives to open more classes and provide classes to graduate students. A strong case must be made, such as funds toward advising, on how funded actions assist graduation. Lubwama requested additional information from Dorer as to why the funds are going towards projects and not classes.

Dorer noted that the letter from the chairs to the President was discussed at the extended cabinet meeting. He stated that the Cabinet and the deans made the decision. Dorer implied that the funds could be spent in the fall quarter on classes, but there would be no follow-up funding for Winter and Spring. Taking in more students in the Fall means lack of faculty in Winter-Spring, which affects SFR. In addition, $1.2M was distributed to colleges to make up amounts for base budget. Education Doctorate fees are a problem right now. $214K in doctoral fees were set aside. It is legitimate to put money to support the graduation initiative in a targeted way. The other piece delved into was to bring stability to enrollment and how to reposition for later growth and to respond to opportunities. Dorer reminded all that information can be found online and that ideas/concern should be forwarded in a reasonable fashion, not confrontational.

Dorer noted that 140 staff notices went out, but not that many will be laid off. Discussion ensued regarding priorities for funding. Dorer stated that the cabinet focus is on students; however, Dorer just learned last week that two colleges are over budget ($1M and $.5M, respectively) due to an inadvertent lack of oversight there was over-scheduling for summer and fall; there is not enough money for spring quarter.

Reichman stated that this did not go unnoticed by faculty at the time and that concerns were raised regarding over-scheduling for summer and fall. Retaining funds for concrete proposals may be helpful, if done wisely. In the main, putting students first is giving them courses to graduate, both in GE and majors.

Fleming noted that accounting reports do not show overspending. Dorer noted that the “mid-year reports” last week looked at the first half and projected the last half. Dorer didn’t learn about the deficit details from Reese until last week, but we have to deal with it. EB doesn’t have much money in the pot. The deans are serious about trying to get it in line. Some ideas are to make sections larger and some CLASS chairs are in discussion about faculty teaching an extra course. CEAS is considering it. Gubernat stated that faculty colleagues are in triage at the moment. English composition wait list is at 577 and ESL population will be delayed in graduation. It is not our sense that students are “shopping”; they simply cannot find needed classes. Dorer noted
that students are the most upset and he is deeply concerned. He doesn’t think we can get away with funding courses out of self-support, which would save jobs and provide needed classes. Suggestions are welcome. Kimball noted that since college plans were not successful this year, they must be greatly changed for next year, as systemic problems must be solved. Dorer noted that we lost $10M, so $1.7M doesn’t solve the problem. EB must make the best use of the $2.9M.

In response to Mitchell’s question about the CEAS shortfall, Dorer stated that CEAS’ shortfall is due in part to ambiguity over $200K in doctoral fees; the program is losing money. Teacher performance assessment cost is $200K and is a state mandate (unfunded). We took in more cohorts last year than should have been. The rest is over-scheduling. However, this happened before Nelson arrived. The decline in funds was not anticipated.

Reichman noted that there is an accountability question and that teaching an extra course is a personal sacrifice. (He is teaching 3 courses in Spring.) He noted that there were early complaints about too many sections in CLASS for Fall. Why didn’t anyone listen? He wants to be assured that it won’t be done again. Someone should be accountable if others have to pay. This was not good for morale.

It was agreed that the discussion of the $1.2M should be continued next week so that the new Provost could hear faculty concerns.

12. ExCom suggestions for agenda items for next week

13. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Fleming, Secretary