

2007/2008 Academic Senate

MINUTES  
October 22, 2007

**I. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. and attendance was taken. Thirty-Eight Senators were present.**

<b>Ex Officio:</b> Present: Van Selst, Sabalius, Gorman, Henderson, Lessow- Hurley, Kassing	<b>CASA Representatives:</b> Present: Fee, Kao, Schultz-Krohn, Canham, Hendrick
<b>Administrative Representatives:</b> Absent: Najjar, Sigler, Phillips, Lee	<b>COB Representatives:</b> Present: Roldan, Campsey Absent: Jiang
<b>Deans:</b> Present: Parrish, Stacks, Merdinger, Wei	<b>ED Represent:</b> Present: Langdon, Rickford, Maldonado-Colon
<b>Students:</b> Present: Reyes, Lazarowich, McDaniel, Prothro-Jones, Grabowski Absent: Howes	<b>ENG Representatives:</b> Present: Backer Absent: Gao, Meldal
<b>Alumni Representative:</b> Absent: Thompson	<b>H&amp;A Representatives:</b> Present: Van Hooff, Mok, Desalvo, Brown Absent: Butler, Vanniarajan
<b>Emeritus Representative:</b> Absent: Buzanski Present: Savage for Buzanski	<b>SCI Representatives:</b> Present: McClory, Kaufman, Hilliard Absent: Bros
<b>Honorary Senators (Non-Voting):</b> Absent: Norton	<b>SOS Representatives:</b> Present: Peter, Hebert, Von Till Absent: Zia
<b>General Unit Representatives:</b> Present: Romo, Sivertsen Absent: Liu	

**II. Approval of Academic Senate Minutes – Minutes of September 24, 2007 were approved as is.**

**III. Communications and Questions –**

**A. From the Chair of the Senate:**

Chair Lessow-Hurley made the following announcements:

The chair announced that Dr. Wayne Savage was sitting in for Dr. Peter Buzanski as the

Emeritus representative. The Senate welcomed Dr. Savage.

The chair announced that Senator Merdinger had requested that all Senators please complete the ACE Sloan Survey when they receive it. A 40% return rate is needed in order to qualify for the grant-making process. Senators must use their official email address to answer the survey.

The chair congratulated Senators Meldal and Bros on the success of the Senate Retreat. One of the issues that surfaced during the Retreat was the current draft of Access to Excellence, the CSU strategic plan. The Executive Committee decided to convene a subcommittee of the policy chairs, the Provost, and Rona Halualani to talk about ways to divide-up the draft of Access to Excellence and share it with the committees. The committees would then come up with some feedback for the steering committee on Access to Excellence.

The chair asked all Senators to use the microphones so that their comments could be accurately recorded in the minutes. It was noted that it is extremely difficult to pickup voices in the back when the microphones are not used, and this sometimes becomes an issue when comments are not recorded in the minutes.

The chair announced that there was a full agenda

**Questions:**

Senator Sabalius said, “I heard an interview that Tom Bowen gave on the radio to the Rotary Club last week, and he described that when he arrived here on campus there was a faculty group that wanted to get rid of football. This isn’t accurate, because we only wanted to get out of Division 1. Tom said recently the leader of that group came to him and said that they would stop pursuing that goal. He never mentioned “Spartans for Sanity” by name, but I don’t know of any other group he could be referring to. I talked to James Brent, the only person I would consider the leader of that group, and he said he never talked to Tom Bowen, ever. I wonder what Tom was referring to?”

President Kassing said, “I wasn’t at the Rotary Meeting Tom spoke at, but let me tell you what I think that conversation was about. First of all, Tom Bowen wasn’t here when Spartans for Sanity was in the conversation about intercollegiate athletics and football. What Tom has learned has come from the rest of us in conversation. He should be very careful about what he says, because he wasn’t here. I don’t think Tom has ever talked to James. I know he got a letter from James. Tom might have been referring to some second-hand comments that were made. If he claimed it, then he was inaccurate.”

**IV. Executive Committee Report –**

**A. Executive Committee Minutes –**

**October 8, 2007** – No questions.

**B. Consent Calendar** – Approved with three additions from AVC McClory.

**C. Executive Committee Action Items:** None

**V. Unfinished Business -** None

**VI. Policy Committee and University Library Board Action Items. In rotation.**

**A. Instruction and Student Affairs Committee (I&SA) –**

Senator Sivertsen presented *AS 1368, Policy Recommendation, Access to Instructional Material: Timely Identification of Textbooks (First Reading)*. Senator Sivertsen said, “This is really not up for debate. This is a policy that has come down as a result of a lawsuit and we can’t decide whether we will do it or not. However, the campus has the opportunity to really make this a proactive, positive, supportive policy. The campus itself through IRC has made it very clear that they will provide opportunities for people to be successful in the endeavors that are required by this policy. Finally, what I want to say is that while the front end of this is considerable and frightening in some ways, it is very important to focus on it as being very important for our students. We want our students to have the best access possible. If we think about it this way, then maybe we can go about it in a positive way.”

Chair Lessow-Hurley asked if she could make a friendly amendment to the title to say

“Access to Instructional Material: Timely Identification of Textbooks, Course Readers, and Library Reserves.” Chair Lessow-Hurley said, “Senator Meldal polled the department chairs about what they already do to make textbooks accessible, and a lot of this is simply an attempt to codify what they already do. Also, once this policy was drafted, we took it back to every department chair to make sure this was what they had in mind.”

**Questions:**

Senator Van Selst said, “I have four questions for you. In the Seventh Whereas it talks about “textbooks and course-packs are often required courseware and must be available to all students at the same time.” That “must be” doesn’t have any reference behind it other than good will.” Senator Sivertsen said, “This came down from the courts.” Senator Van Selst said, “Probably a citation or reference would be appropriate. In Whereas 10, it refers to “requests of textbooks” and I assume it is the textbooks themselves that are being converted and not the requests. And, for the rationale have you considered including the CSU Statewide Senate resolutions from the last two years on accommodations. Finally, in number 2 of the policy itself, have you thought about procedures to verify the departments have established a policy?” Senator Sivertsen said, “I think that is one of those next step kind of things that will be done down the road.”

Senator Peter said, “Number 3 and 4 of the policy refer to a point of contact for instructional material decisions, I take it this means that currently our faculty submit their textbook orders directly to the bookstore, but under this policy they will submit their textbook order to the Provost and the Provost will then submit it to the bookstore?” Senator Sivertsen said, “That is not my understanding.” Senator Peter said, “Then I am confused. Number 4 says that the Provost will be informed by the faculty point of contact of instructional material decisions, and will then ensure that the Disability Resource Center (DRC), the Spartan Bookstore and any other interested or relevant party be informed of the material requested.



They will put out a notification.” Senator Peter said, “Why can’t the policy be more explicit about what that deadline is going to be?” Senator Sivertsen said, “The bookstore has said that the Fall deadline will be some time in April. They have not indicated a Spring deadline.” Senator Peter said, “In item 8, it mentions that if the material has not been identified, then there is a reporting mechanism which goes to the Provost for the purpose of informing the annual review. Can you elaborate on what that means?” Senator Sivertsen said, “Certainly for tenure-track individuals there will be some measure of encouragement to complete these appropriately.” Senator Peter said, “Does this mean some kind of letter will be placed in their personnel file?” Senator Sivertsen said, “We don’t know.” Senator Peter said, “Also, in number 7 it says the faculty point of contact will ensure that the university is informed of the instructional material choices for the section. A large number of sections get scheduled at the last minute as we wait for resources, does this mean that if we offer a last minute section, we have to have already picked their books for them?” Senator Sivertsen said, “Yes, the thought was that there would be a set of books available in the department for the instructor to choose from.” Senator Peter said, “Are there any alternatives that you can imagine that would enable timely adoption of course materials that do not infringe upon the academic freedom of a last minute faculty member to choose his/her own textbooks?” Senator Sivertsen said, “My thought is that in the not too distant future, there should be a vast selection of textbooks electronically available to choose from.”

Senator Van Selst said, “The response to both Senator Hebert and Rickford is that this policy does not touch ad hoc materials.”

Senator Mok said, “I just want to know how to handle the following problem. In the school of music we often accept students just the day before the semester begins to be in the orchestra. We can’t possibly prepare ahead of time for say a student that needs materials in Braille. How do you suggest we accommodate them?” Senator Sivertsen said, “My thought is that some of this material would be made available way in advance. In other words, the music the orchestra would play would already be available in accessible formats.”

Senator Sabalius said, “The policy seems to be rather labor-intensive to me. Would the committee consider further streamlining the process, and maybe add some provisions for flexibility within the framework of the law? Could you tell me what the objection was in the 8-1-1 vote in the committee?” Chair Lessow-Hurley said, “There were concerns about the workload and the compromise effort was the piece in the resolved clauses that speaks to making a point of that.”

Senator Rickford said, “Is it the intention of the policy to penalize the faculty that don’t conform?” Senator Sivertsen said, “We have no choice, it was not something that someone decided to do to make everyone on campus go crazy. It is a civil rights issue and we must comply with it. It is also an opportunity for us be creative.” Senator Rickford said, “My question pertains to item 8 in the policy, is that a civil rights issue also?” Senator Sivertsen said, “No. The intent was to encourage compliance.”

Senator Hebert said, “How does this policy affect non-text instructional material such as videos?” Senator Sivertsen said, “It does not address them at the present time, but my guess is that it will in the future.”

Senator Kaufman said, “Would you consider in the first resolved clause on the second page striking the term “instructional material” and then just removing the parenthesis around (textbooks, course readers, and library reserves)?” Chair Lessow-Hurley said, “I appreciate the clarification and perhaps you could give that wording to Senator Sivertsen after the meeting that would be very helpful.”

Senator Van Hooff said, “My concern is did the committee discuss the possibility of pirating textbooks?” Senator Sivertsen said, “That is out of our purview.”

Senator Van Selst said, “There is \$30 million in the CSU budget request next year for Academic Technology, it strikes me that making materials accessible out to be a priority in that request, would that be part of this resolution or should it be another resolution?” Senator Sivertsen said, “It seems to me before we finalize this resolution there should be some request for funding in it.”

Senator Sabalius said, “Wouldn’t it make sense in the first resolved clause and number 1 of

**D. Curriculum and Research Committee (C&R) –**  
Senator Kaufman presented

Senator Peter said, “Can you tell me a little bit more about what prompted the change in membership?” Senator Backer said, “The change in membership evolved out of lots of discussion and a lot of it relying on the Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) report which recommended that a majority of the voting members of any Athletics Board should be tenured faculty. We didn’t go all that way, there will be at least four tenured members.”

Senator Campsey said, “There are two influences, COIA and the NCAA peer review process.”

Senator Van Selst said, “Has the Athletics Department, Athletics Board, and FAR seen this and responded to it?” Senator Backer said, “Yes.”

**VII. Special Committee Reports – None**

**VIII. New Business –**

**Candidate Statements by College Nominees for the Faculty Representatives to the Presidential Selection Advisory Committee to the Trustees.**

Roger Alperin, Emily Allen, Chris Jochim, Annette Nellen, Kenneth Peter, and Dave Rudel gave their statements. (Note: Christine DiSalvo, and Roxana Marachi could not be present to give their statements.)

**The Senate voted by secret ballot and Kenneth Peter and Annette Nellen were elected.**