

2008/2009 Academic Senate

MINUTES
November 17, 2008

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. and attendance was taken. Forty-six Senators were present.

Ex Officio:

Present: Lessow-Hurley,
Meldal, Whitmore,
Cavu-Litman
Absent: Sabalius, Van Selst

Administrative Representatives:

Present: Najjar, Phillips, Sigler, Lee

Deans:

Present: Parrish, Merdinger, Stacks,
Meyers

Students:

Present: Cerda, Hypes, Levy, Lichty,
Linder, Palumbo

Alumni Representative:

Absent: No representative assigned
yet.

Emeritus Representative: ~~Richard Zep~~

COB Representatives:

Present: Campsey
Absent: Roldan

ED Represent:

Present: Maldonado-Colon, Rickford, Langdon

ENG Representatives:

Present: Gleixner
Absent: Du, Backer

II. Approval of Academic Senate Minutes – Senator Merdinger asked if the minutes of ~~October 30, 2008~~ could be amended to reflect new information she had received regarding the Post-Promotion Increase Program. Senator Lessow-Hurley noted that corrections to the minutes should be made only if there is an error, however, today’s minutes can reflect the new information. Chair Meldal and Senator Merdinger asked that today’s minutes reflect that the members of the Post-Promotion Increase (PPI) Program department committees must be tenured full professors who are not eligible or applying for the PPI. If the department does not have enough full tenured professors, full tenured professors from the college or other colleges can serve on that department’s committee.

~~Present: Desalvo, Yanniarajan, Brown, Van Hooff, Mok
Absent: Butler~~

SCI Representatives:

~~Present: McCarty, Kaufman, Hilliard, McGee, & Alarcão~~

SOS Representatives:

~~Present: [unclear]~~

The Senate voted and the minutes of October 20, 2008 were approved as is.

III. Communications and Questions –

A. From the Chair of the Senate:

Chair Meldal shared some thoughts on Thanksgiving and its opportunity to reflect upon good people and experiences in the past year.

Chair Meldal and the Academic Senate congratulated Senator Sivertsen on her recent marriage, and announced that a card was circulating for anyone that wished to sign it.

Chair Meldal sadly announced that Mrs. Whitmore's father passed away last week. A card for Mrs. Whitmore is also circulating for those Senators that wish to sign it. Chair Meldal and the Academic Senate expressed their condolences.

Chair Meldal reminded Senators to bring the budget books they received today to the December 2008 Senate meeting. VP Lee will be giving a budget presentation at that meeting.

CSU on Friday that know how to do this to advise us. We are just trying to figure it out right now.”

Senator Heiden asked, “Is this a written policy?” President Whitmore said, “Yes.” VP

Questions:

Senator Hebert asked, “What is meant by the “pool” in section I.B.2. 8th line?” AVP
Stephen Branz responded, “It may not be the best word, but what we were trying to do is
come up with a way to say that there is an absolute cap placed by Executive Order (EO)

Questions:

Senator Buzanski asked, “Why is there a split infinitive in the first sentence?” Senator Maldonado-Colon said, “I will take care of it.”

Senator Norton said, “How long are the records to be kept?” Senator Maldonado-Colon said, “We discussed this, but there was an issue with storage space, so we were not sure what would be the pleasure of the body.”

Senator Sigler said, “I am curious as to why this policy is coming from the Professional Standards Committee?” Senator Maldonado-Colon said, “Because, we got the referral.” Senator Sigler commented, “It seems to me it would be more appropriate coming from another committee.”

Senator Lee asked, “Does this apply to all committees across the university?” Senator Maldonado-Colon said, “Yes.”

Senator Norton said, “Does this apply to RTP and similar units or departments where confidential matters are discussed?” Senator Maldonado-Colon said, “If it is not a public meeting then it cannot be shared, should I add language?” Senator Norton said, “There should be language that refers to excluding confidential meetings.”

Senator Heiden commented that there should be language that explains the detail of the minutes for certain meetings, such as a record of those in attendance, the vote, main outcomes, etc.

Senator Kaufman said, “I have two questions. What is the procedure if a department doesn’t do this? Who is the enforcer?” Senator Maldonado-Colon said, “The Chair or an Administrator.” Senator Kaufman said, “In the scope of the policy it refers to the records being accessible, I’m assuming this means we know where to find them, and not to making them accessible to persons with disabilities? Maybe, we could come up with some other language to distinguish this.”

Senator Van Hooff asked, “Can we record only the action items?” Senator Maldonado-Colon said, “On the 3rd line it says a description of the decisions made.”

Senator Langdon asked, “Would these records be required to be on paper, or on CD?” Senator Maldonado-Colon replied, “It is up to the department.”

D. Curriculum and Research Committee (C&R) –

Senator Von Till said, “Today we have two reports from AVP Bob Cooper. The first report is on the Board of General Studies (BOGS), and the second report is on the General Education (GE) Taskforce.

BOGS Report

AVP Cooper said, "I'm not sure how many of you remember last year, but there was a recommendation by the Senate that BOGS spend this year focused on assessment of the overall GE program. BOGS agreed to do that, and put the continuing certification of GE courses on hold. With respect to its normal functioning, BOGS has been cleaning up some leftover work from last year and doing certification of new course proposals as they come in. All current courses were given an additional year in their current certification until new processes are worked out.

As part of acting on the recommendation from the Senate, there developed two different threads in the BOGS with respect to assessment of the GE program. One is responsive to the letter from WASC that continued our status as a university in good standing and is focused on assessing student learning of the goals and outcomes defined in our GE guidelines. The other is an assessment of the structure of how we do GE by comparing it to what other universities are doing and looking at whether we should reconsider our whole strategy of infusing GE across all the colleges and allowing any department that can provide a proposal that is judged adequate to teach in any area of GE. I was surprised by that latter thread, because it developed late at the end of discussion in the BOGS, so I am not going to detail that any further.

The more pressing part to me is the part required by WASC for our accreditation that we focus on assessing the student learning of the goals in GE. There has been a slight change in context from when the Senate considered this last spring. There is a new EO that defines the GE program for the CSU system. Happily, we were ahead of the curve in two ways. First, the guidelines that we adopted in 2005 were designed with the American Association of Colleges and Universities' (AAC&U) Liberal Education and American Promise Initiative, so we have to do very little with respect to the definitions of our categories in GE. There are some minor modifications, but very little. The other fortunate situation for us is the policy with respect to syllabi or greensheets that was adopted by the university, because it already requires everything in the EO on our greensheets.

We lost Gail Evans to San Francisco State, but she was very instrumental in providing input to the Chancellor's Office in designing this new EO, so we owe her thanks for the degree to which our policies and practices on this campus are compatible with what is required in the new EO.

The challenge for us in assessing student learning of the overall outcomes is that it has to be done at the very end of the student's completion of the GE curriculum. For us, that means in one of the SJSU studies courses in the R, S, or GE courses. It is a challenge for us to do everything in

advantage of then always being put at the end of the SJSU GE curriculum. However, this has two disadvantages. One disadvantage is that it constrains the order in which the students have to take those courses, since some of them are also used to complete a requirement in the major. The other disadvantage is that there could be some limitation on the offering of courses potentially delaying student's graduation, because we now have a more highly sequenced prerequisite structure for GE. The other alternative is to do assessment in all three categories, R, S, and V. Then to only use for assessment of the overall GE program data from students that are at the end of their GE curriculum. Approximately, 1/3rd of the data in each area would be useful.

I'm laying this out because the BOGS is interested in input from others on ideas as to how to do this, because each of the ways we could do this has both positives and negatives.

In assessing the overall GE program, the strategy will be like we used in the major programs, focusing on one or several student learning outcomes per year, so we are not assessing everything we are trying to do in the program each year. The notion is that over a sequence of years, all of the outcomes in the program would be assessed.

The further addition from the EO is that we will probably be doing something very similar to program planning for the GE program. This sort of overall review with an external reviewer is required by the new EO.

The goal for BOGS now is to try and get a preliminary draft that can be circulated to the campus by the end of this semester, and then to gather input from the rest of the campus. We would then come to the Senate in the spring, since some of this will require change to the guidelines which are endorsed by Senate policy. This is where we are with respect to BOGS.

Questions:

Senator Kaufman asked, "Suppose a student takes this presumed exit exam and doesn't know any of the parts of it, what would the consequences be?" AVP Cooper said, "I think the consequences have to be that we examine how we are structuring our GE program. As we talked about the assessment of the program, we realized it would be very interesting to have the opportunity to separate transfer students who took a majority of their core GE elsewhere from students that came here as first-time freshmen and therefore took their GE here. Just as happened in the past with respect to preparation in writing at the lower division level and the differential passage of the WST test, if we found big differences then we would have to work with the community colleges. If we find no differences, and our students as freshmen maybe are not doing well, then that will take us to the other half of this which is assessing how the individual courses are doing in meeting their student learning outcomes. Senator Kaufman said, "The goal then is not to put in place an exit exam for students, but to merely assess the GE program?" AVP Cooper said, "That is correct. Your question points to one of the challenges we have in how we are going to assess the GE program. If the assessment done in one of the SJSU studies courses has no impact on the grade, then the student is not likely to take it very seriously and it won't be a real assessment of the GE

things. One is to make the assessment process simpler and more focused in ways that will help improve student learning. The idea is to focus on one or a few student learning

VIII. New Business –

Senate Election Calendar for 2009 – The Senate voted and the Election Calendar was approved as is.

IX. State of the University Announcements. Questions. In rotation.

A. Vice President for University Advancement –

VP Najjar said, “The Alumni Association has worked closely with the Beach Blanket Babylon production. Many of the members are SJSU alums. They are performing on March 9th in the California Theatre from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will also be a VIP reception with the cast.”

B. Statewide Academic Senators –

Senator Kaufman said, “Most of the discussion at the CSU Statewide Senate was about the budget and we will know more about that after the BOT meeting going on right now. Besides that, most of the discussion was around agreeing to work as a collegial body with the administration to get through this tough budget time.”

C. Provost –

Provost Sigler stated, “First, I would like to tell you that this week, next week, and the following week, we will be conducting interviews with finalists for the Dean of the College of Applied Sciences and the Arts. We already interviewed one finalist, and the second one will be on campus tomorrow. I am really pleased, because we have a really strong pool. I’m sure we will be able to appoint a new dean.

This week is International Week and I hope you can participate in some of the activities. Tomorrow we have an outstanding speaker that will be delivering the Peter Lee Memorial Lecture. The speaker is Dr. Yolanda Moses from UC Irvine. She will be talking about the intersection between multiculturalism at home and an international global society.

Next week is Thanksgiving, and it is my favorite holiday. Forty-two years ago, I celebrated my first Thanksgiving in this country. I really realized what a wonderful holiday it is. It is an opportunity for all of us to focus on what is important-family, friends, and the blessings that we have. Among my blessings is the extraordinary opportunity to work at this university and to be your colleague. I wish you, your colleagues, and your families a joyous Thanksgiving Day.”

D. Vice President for Administration and Finance – No Report.

E. Vice President for Student Affairs – No Report.

F. Associated Students President –

AS President Cavu-Litman said, “Associated Students (AS) met with Chancellor Reed this weekend to discuss the California State Student Association (CSSA) membership.

We are working to bring back all campuses to the CSSA. Right now about 10 campuses are representing all 23. That meeting will take place in December in San Francisco.

Last week we had our first MySpace party. We are also having an open house today through November 20th. All of you are welcome to come by.

AS also recently hired our first Human Resources manager.”

X. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.