

2007/2008 Academic Senate

MINUTES
February 18, 2008

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

Ex Officio:

Present: Sabalius, Gorman,
Henderson, Lessow- Hurley
Absent: Van Selst, Kassing

Administrative Representatives:

Present: Sigler, Lee, Najjar, Phillips

Deans:

Present: Parrish, Stacks, Wei,
Merdinger

Students:

Present: Reyes, Lazarowich,
Grabowski, Zeier
Absent: McDaniel, Prothro-Jones

Alumni Representative:

Absent: Thompson

Emeritus Representative:

Absent: Buzanski
(Savage attended for Buzanski)

Honorary Senators (Non-Voting):

Absent: Norton

General Unit Representatives:

Present: Romo, Sivertsen, Liu

CASA Representatives:

Present: Fee, Schultz-Krohn, Canham
Absent: Hendrick, Kao

COB Representatives:

Present: Campsey
Absent: Roldan, Jiang

ED Represent:

Present: Maldonado-Colon, Rickford
Absent: Langdon

ENG Representatives:

Present: Backer, Meldal
Absent: Gao

H&A Representatives:

Present: Belet, Desalvo, Van Hooff,
Absent: Mok, Vanniariajan, Butler

II. Approval of Academic Senate Minutes – Minutes of January 28, 2008, were approved as is.

III. Communications and Questions –

A. From the Chair of the Senate:

Senators Buzanski and Norton are absent today. However, Dr. Wayne Savage is attending the meeting in Senator Buzanski's place.

The Senate acknowledged what happened at the Northern Illinois University and expressed their concern and dismay.

The Chair acknowledged the important stand President Kassing had taken in suspending blood drives on campus, and emphasized that it was a suspension and not a ban. The intention behind the suspension is to pressure the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to review and change their policy, so that blood drives can resume on campus as quickly as possible. The President's office received a letter from Karen Miller, a mother, in Austin, Texas. Ms. Miller and her husband applauded SJSU for standing up for equal rights for gays. Mr. and Mrs. Miller's son is gay and faces discrimination in some form everyday. Mr. and Mrs. Miller stated that decisions such as those taken at SJSU give them hope.

The Chair announced she had sent the link to the faculty campus climate report to Senators this week. She was disturbed to see comments indicating that faculty are unsatisfied with Senate leadership. There are two points of view on the Senate. The first view is that the Senate can't and doesn't do anything. The second view is that the Senate is responsible for everything and does it wrong. Faculty do not seem to realize that the Senate is not responsible for all policy on the campus, such as the use of motorized vehicles which is covered by a Presidential Directive. The Chair has worked hard to get the Senate seats filled and to have contested elections. If faculty are unhappy with the Senate or Senate leadership they are encouraged to join the Senate.

The Chair announced that nominating petitions for vacant Senate seats are posted on the web, and encouraged Senators whose seats are expiring to run for the vacancies, and/or encourage their colleagues to run for the Senate. Nominating petitions are due in the Senate Office on February 29, 2008.

The Chair gave an update on the Online SOTEs policy that the Senate passed at the January 28, 2008 meeting. The CFA has some concerns about the policy. The new contract language is more assertive about the need to meet and confer in areas where there are potential contract issues. The Chair announced there will be a meet and confer, but until that time the president will not sign the policy. This issue is now between the CFA and the administration.

The final draft of our Access to Excellence strategic plan has been posted to the web. Dr. Rona Halualani will give an update at the March Senate meeting.

B. From the President of the University –

Provost Sigler gave a briefing on behalf of President Kassing who is out of town at an Executive Council meeting. The Provost said, "President Kassing wanted me to tell you that all of us are deeply saddened by the recent events at the Northern Illinois University. I know VP Lee gave a presentation on campus security at the last Senate meeting, but she is willing to speak with you again today."

Senator Rickford said, “Many of the programs you’ve discussed are designed for after-the-fact, I was wondering if something could be designed to have some discourse with students and have them alert us?” VP Lee said, “That is what I was referring to when I talked about the Threat Assessment Training.”

VP Phillips said, “Counseling services had a training session on February 7 and 8 by Dr. John Nicoletti, who is an expert on threat assessment. As a result of the training session, we are in the process of developing a plan for the campus to put together a vortex. My description of a vortex is two-fold in purpose. The first purpose is that a vortex is a central repository of information to assist in the detection and interruption of violent acts. Most, although not all, perpetrators of violence on campuses are known to someone on campus. The problem is that various silos of information are not put together in any centralized location so that the detection and interruption can go forward. One notion is that a vortex is the location of a centralized repository of information. The other notion of a vortex is a centralized core group of people that will evaluate that information and determine whether or not some interruption activity needs to be instituted. We are putting together a plan right now. We have some measures in place, but after consultation with Dr. Nicoletti we will improve those substantially.”

Provost Sigler said, “I listened to a panel of experts talk about this last Monday. They identified the same approaches we are taking. One is to have integrative threat assessment that brings together different people from different units across campus, and the other is cross training with local law enforcement agencies and individuals that are experts, such as in how to diffuse a bomb, and finally to communicate accurately, appropriately, and timely. We will do our absolute best to implement best practices.

I also have some really good news to share with you. AVP Merdinger and I had the pleasure of attending an event last week in conjunction with ACE at which we received a \$200,000 award and commendation. We are one of five masters level universities in the country that received this grant and award from ACE and the Sloan Foundation. This is a project that AVP Merdinger has devoted a lot of time and effort to for faculty career flexibility. In the future, AVP Merdinger will be sharing some of the plans we have. All of you made this possible by participating in the survey. In addition we have a beautiful glass bowl they gave us and we are trying to find a place in President Kassing’s office to put it. I was also very pleased to see at one of the luncheons that they were honoring universities that were committed to service learning and community service, and we were listed on the President’s Honor Roll. Congratulations to all of you.

Tomorrow is census day. As of today, spring enrollments are at a record high. We have 24,586 FTES, and a headcount of 30,921 students. This may change a little bit tomorrow, but these are extraordinary numbers. Thank you to VP Phillips and his team, and also to all of you who accommodated all of the students in your classes.

I want to report that this year there was a change in the contract for provision of sabbaticals, but the university has met all the requirements of the contract. I have approved, on the president’s behalf, a record number of sabbaticals. From 1991-2007, the university awarded

V. Unfinished Business - None

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

A.

to strike the last line that reads, “and make recommendations for a permanent sustainability committee on the campus.” I think if it is written this way in the resolution it is taken for granted that something like this is desirable.” Senator Backer said, “I will bring that back to the committee. There are three different outcomes we expect the task force to have. First, we need them to survey the entire university. Second, we want them to look at other universities. Last, we want them to come up with recommendations.”

Senator McClory said, “I wonder if Senator Sabalius would agree with making that last sentence in the Resolved clause read, “and make recommendations concerning a permanent sustainability committee on the campus.” Senator Sabalius said, “Yes.”

C. Instruction and Student Affairs Committee (I&SA) – None

D. University Library Board (ULB) – None

Senator Peter said, “The ULB met a week ago today. Jane Light, the Director on the city library joined us to give an update on where th

very hard to let someone know you are in your office when you teach from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at night.”

Senator Van Hooff said, “We are fortunate to be in the newly renovated Clark Hall. However, one of the problems in the evenings is that the lights are dim and it is really dark. Many older faculty members have been complaining about that. Even though I know it is really expensive to have panic buttons in all the offices, maybe we could at least put them in the hallways. I have been very concerned about this situation on our floor. I know there are many people in Clark Hall that would agree with me.” VP Lee said, “That is the purpose of the blue light phones. We have them on the floors of almost all the buildings. I don’t want people to forget we have that. All you have to do is lift them up and it will say the location. However, you do raise a question. We are talking about evenings when we have classes, but let’s talk about when the campus should be closed. During the holidays, when the cam

the smoke-free campus group. In addition, we are working on EOP, and time, place and manner. On March 4, 2008, we are going to have a student forum on the proposed cuts to the CSU system and the California budget deficit, and how this is going to effect students. We are working on that with Rose Lee and the AS Director of Student Fees. Lastly, we are working on a march for higher education to be held in Sacramento, CA on April 21, 2008. Basically, the focus for this march is to freeze student fees at the state level. We will be requesting \$386 million. That would cover the proposed \$312 million in budget cuts to the CSU system, and the proposed student fee increases.”

E. Vice President for University Advancement – No report.

F. Statewide Academic Senators –

Senator Sabalius said, “A week ago we met but no resolutions were passed. I want to compliment our campus, because often when we go to draft a policy for the CSU system we look at what the campuses have. Our campus often already has bylaws and/or policies in place. We are doing a good job and are covering the issues well.”

Senator Gorman said, “I also attended the CSU statewide committee meetings. I sit on the Academic Affairs Committee. We also discussed the Access to Excellence issues, and we are concerned about the lack of reference to international education. I also am a Commissioner of the statewide Extended Education Commission. That commission is overseeing a process of grant solicitation for expanding international educational opportunities.”

X. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.