Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting  
September 13, 2010

Present: Kaufman, Heiden, Lee, Najjar, Selter, Ng, Von Till, Kimbarow, McClory, Peter, Kolodziejak, Van Selst, Gleixner, Laker, Kassing

Absent: None

Guests: Lessow-Hurley, Nance

1. The Executive Committee voted and approved the consent calendar (15-0-0).

2. The Executive Committee voted and approved adding Cathleen Miller as a Senator from the College of Humanities and the Arts for a term ending May 2011 (in accordance with Senate bylaw 1.6.2.c.).

3. The Senate Office recently sent out the call for nominations to each college for the faculty-at-large seats on the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees for the Selection of the President. The colleges of Applied Sciences and the Arts, Business, and Engineering had only one nominee, and that nominee will represent his/her college at the October 11, 2010 Senate meeting. The colleges of Humanities and the Arts, Social Sciences, and Education had multiple nominees and are currently conducting runoff elections. Ballots are due in the Senate Office no later than noon on Friday, September 24, 2010. Statements of interest/qualifications from each of the college representatives will be posted on the Senate website the week before the October 11, 2010 Senate meeting. The Senate will choose the two faculty representatives at the October 11, 2010 meeting. Questions about the selection process for all non-faculty nominees should be directed to Chief of Staff Bill Nance.

4. The Executive Committee discussed the call for nominations for the search committee for the AVP of Student Academic Success Services. Nominations were due in the Senate Office on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. To date the Senate Office has received a total of only seven nominations. The Executive Committee decided to extend the deadline for nominations until the end of the week on Friday, September 17, 2010. The Provost Office will send an email to the campus community encouraging them to submit a nomination, and will give a description of the time frame and workload involved.

5. The Executive Committee discussed a recent referral to the Organization and Government Committee regarding the selection process for members of the AVP search and review committees. The Organization and Government Committee will be exploring ways to make this process more transparent and to give junior faculty more of a chance to serve on these committees. A member suggested possibly establishing a jury pool. Another member suggested separating the searches and reviews. Suggestions can be forwarded to the Organization and Government Committee.
6. University Advancement has started working on a project to redesign the SJSU website. The project should take between 6 and 8 months to complete. Students from the Department of Art and Design are involved in helping to make it more externally focused. Cyril Manning, Director of Communications in the Public Affairs Office will lead the redesign. His office has established a set of “Web Redesign Guiding Principles” that were distributed to the Executive Committee. Any questions can be directed to him.

7. The Executive Committee discussed faculty rights in student conduct issues. Several faculty members have raised concerns as to why student conduct cannot be included in the grading process, when the conduct in questions affects the entire atmosphere in the class. VP Laker cautioned the members of the Executive Committee to take into consideration the possibility that there might be some mental illness, and that college is also a new environment for many students and it takes time to adjust. A member further commented that there are differences in what is acceptable in different cultures and households, and this may carry over into the classroom. For instance, a student might speak too loudly, or use inappropriate language. VP Laker suggested putting civility language into the syllabi, and stated that he had this language in his syllabi. Several members expressed interest in seeing his syllabi, and VP Laker offered to forward copies. Another member commented that at the graduate level behavior is graded. VP Laker further commented that he would be happy to intervene whenever it was necessary.

8. The Executive Committee discussed a request from Victor Culatta, Director for University Housing Services, for a faculty member to sit on the Housing Appeals Panel. The Executive Committee discussed the need to select a faculty member with experience working with students from diverse backgrounds and family income levels.

9. The Executive Committee discussed the Smoking Policy. A member commented that before the current smoking policy was passed, extensive research had been done into the matter. It was determined that this is a bargaining issue that must be dealt with out of the President’s Office, such as with a Presidential Directive.

10. The Associate Vice Chair (AVC) Susan McClory distributed copies of Executive Order (EO) 1048 as well as the resolution from the CSU Statewide Academic Senate, and the English Council regarding the Early Start Program. A member asked if the Student Success Committee was involved, and the AVC replied that they had just begun discussing it. The Executive Committee decided that they should prepare a resolution in consultation with the Instruction and Student Affairs (I&SA), and Curriculum and Research (C&R) Committees.

(Minutes taken and prepared by the Recorder/Senate Administrator, Eva Joice on September 13, 2010.)