

2007/2008 Academic Senate

**MINUTES
May 14, 2007**

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. and attendance was taken. Forty-three Senators were present.

Ex Officio:

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

Administrative Representatives:

Present: Najjar, Sigler
Absent: Lee, Phillips

Deans:

Present: Parrish, Stacks, Merdinger,
Wei

Students:

Present: Reyes, Lazarowich
Absent: McDaniel, Prothro, Howes,
Grabowski

Alumni Representative:

Present: Lewis for Thompson

Emeritus Representative:

Present: Buzanski

Honorary Senators (Non-Voting):

Present: Norton

General Unit Representatives:

Present: Romo, Sivertsen, Liu

CASA Representatives:

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

COB Representatives:

Present: Roldan, Jiang
Absent: Campsey

ED Represent:

Present: Langdon, Rickford
Absent: Maldonado-Colon

ENG Representatives:

Present: Meldal, Backer, Gao

H&A Representatives:

Present: Van Hooff, Harris, Butler, Vanniarajan
Absent: Leddy, Belet

SCI Representatives:

Present: Bros, McClory, Kaufman, Hilliard

SOS Representatives:

Present: Peter, Hebert, Von Till, Zia

II. Approval of Academic Senate Minutes – None

III. Communications and Questions –

A. From the Chair of the Senate:

Chair Lessow-Hurley announced that the AVC (AVC McClory) had requested that approval of the Consent Calendar be moved to the end of the meeting, and asked if there were any objections from the body. There were no objections.

Chair Lessow-Hurley welcomed all the new Senators.

Chair Lessow-Hurley thanked all Senators that ran for the Senate Officer positions.

B. From the President of the University – None

IV. Executive Committee Report –

A. Executive Committee Minutes – None

B. Consent Calendar – Approved with changes 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. Professional Standards Committee– None

B. Curriculum and Research Committee – None

C. Organization and Government Committee – None

D. Instruction and Student Affairs Committee – None

E. University Library Board – None

VII. Nominating Committee Report –

Chair Lessow-Hurley announced that the nominating committee consisted of herself, Senator Veregge, and Senator Thames. The committee tried to have contested elections wherever possible.

VIII. New Business –

A. Election of Senate Officers for 2007/2008:

1. Election of Vice Chair-

Chair Lessow-Hurley asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Chair Lessow-Hurley announced that the nominees were Senators Meldal and Sivertsen. Senators Meldal and Sivertsen gave brief statements of interest.

Senator Buzanski made the following comments in support of Senator Meldal. "I've been teaching here at SJSU since 1960, so Senator Sivertsen is a junior member. I've served here through eight different presidents, only three of which were any good. I really do know how the Senate works. I've been a member of the Senate since about 1965. I have served on a lot of committees, and I have been the Chair of the Senate. Senator Meldal is a person I've come to know and appreciate as one of the hardest working, most intelligent individuals who is willing to

work hard to do the necessary things, and to undertake responsibility. He has been Chair of the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee, and before that he was a member of the Curriculum and Research Committee. I've seen him complete assignments there that were just outstanding."

Senator Jiang asked, "Can we ask the candidates questions?" Chair Lessow-Hurley said, "Yes." Senator Jiang said, "I was somewhat struck by Senator Sivertsen's statement when she said, "Who wants to run for the Senate?" My question is, what should we do to make the Academic Senate more relevant to the faculty?"

Senator Meldal said, "This is a very important question. This is a problem. The Senate is viewed as not as relevant as we probably believe it is to the faculty and students. The members of the Executive Committee have discussed this over the last year. This has been a consultative process going on about how to engage the community influenced by Senate decision-making prior to it coming to the Senate floor. The relevance of the Senate, in my opinion, is not so much the Senate itself, as it is the senatorial structure. In other words, [the senatorial structure is] the committees under the Senate. Those structures are the ones that can reach out and engage the overall university community. The answer lies not so much in this body as such, but in what are the tasks the committees are picking up, and what are the means by which they proceed in dealing with these issues. As many of you know, right now we have Access to Instructional Materials in the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee. That committee is engaging with the university council of chairs and directors. I would expect it to engage in the Fall with faculty in general regarding how we can make access to these materials workable for the faculty."

Senator Sivertsen said, "I agree with what Senator Meldal said. I also think there are other things. One of the things that I would like to see happen more is talking with people, particularly new young faculty. I have been the Interim Chair of Campus Climate for the past year, and one of the things I hear a lot is how tired and worn out the faculty are, and I don't deny that. For me, talking to young faculty is a really important thing to do as a body of people. We need to help them prepare for the future. They will become their own government at some point. Let's not say we are too tired to do this, or too tired to do that. I know that happens. I also think it is important for us to find ways to reward young faculty for being on the Senate or Senate committees. I think one of the things I would try to do is to spend time with young faculty and try and get them to connect with us. You are tomorrow's decision-makers. Long after I'm gone, you will be making decisions about many things in the world. Faculty will be making decisions a long time after many of us are gone from this room. We need to leave behind a legacy of young,

energetic, committed faculty that want to be a part of the Academic governance."

Senator Sabalius said, "Our Senate is very lucky to have two very experienced and caring Senators run for Vice Chair. Unfortunately, only one can win. Senator Meldal has been Chair of the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee for the past year, and Senator Sivertsen has been Chair of Instruction and Student Affairs in the past. I just want to say that whoever does not get selected as Vice Chair I'd like to nominate as the Chair of the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee. We certainly want to take advantage of their expertise."

The Senate Administrator, Eva Joice, and the Associate Vice Chair (AVC), Susan McClory, distributed ballots to Senators. Ballots were collected and counted by AVC McClory, and the Senate Administrator. Chair Lessow-Hurley announced that Senator Meldal was the new Vice Chair.

- 2. Election of Associate Vice Chair/Chair of Committee on Committees-**
Chair Lessow-Hurley asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Chair Lessow-Hurley announced that Senator McClory was the only nominee. Senator McClory gave a brief statement of interest. Chair Lessow-Hurley declared Senator McClory the Associate Vice Chair/Chair of Committee on Committees by acclamation.
- 3. Election of Chair, Curriculum and Research Committee-**
Chair Lessow-Hurley asked for nominations from the floor. Senator Sabalius nominated Senator Kaufman from the floor. Chair Lessow-Hurley announced that Senator Kaufman was the only nominee. Chair Lessow-Hurley declared Senator Kaufman the Chair of the Curriculum and Research Committee by acclamation.
- 4. Election of Chair, Instruction and Student Affairs Committee-**
Chair Lessow-Hurley asked for nominations from the floor. Senator Meldal nominated Senator Sivertsen from the floor, and she accepted the nomination. Chair Lessow-Hurley announced that there was only one nominee. Senator Sivertsen gave a brief statement of interest. Chair Lessow-Hurley declared Senator Sivertsen the new Chair of the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee by acclamation.
- 5. Election of Chair, Organization and Government Committee-**
Chair Lessow-Hurley asked for nominations from the floor. Senator Sabalius nominated Senator Vanniarajan from the floor. Chair Lessow-Hurley announced there were three candidates. Senators Hebert, Backer, and Vanniarajan gave brief statements of interest. The Senate

Administrator, and AVC McClory distributed ballots. AVC McClory, and the Senate Administrator counted the ballots. Chair Lessow-Hurley announced that Senator Backer was the new Chair of the Organization and Government Committee.

6. Election of Chair, Professional Standards Committee-

Chair Veregge asked for nominations from the floor. Chair Lessow-Hurley announced that the only candidate was Senator Bros. Senator Bros gave a brief statement of interest. Chair Lessow-Hurley declared Senator Bros the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee by acclimation.

7. Election of Statewide Senate Representative to the Executive Committee.

Chair Lessow-Hurley asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Chair Lessow-Hurley announced that the nominees for the Statewide Senate Representative to the Executive Committee were Senators Van Selst and Gorman. Senators Gorman and Van Selst gave brief statements of interest. AVC McClory and the Senate Administrator distributed ballots. AVC McClory and the Senate Administrator counted the ballots. Chair Lessow-Hurley declared Senator Van Selst the Statewide Senate Representative to the Executive Committee.

8. Election of Faculty-at-Large Representative to the Executive Committee.

Chair Lessow-Hurley asked for nominations from the floor. Senator Sabalius nominated Senator Campsey. Senator Campsey was not present. Senator Von Till gave a brief statement of interest.

Senator Norton said, "I've known Senator Campsey a long time, and he has been on the Senate for a long time. I urge your support for Bill Campsey."

AVC McClory and the Senate Administrator distributed ballots. AVC McClory and the Senate Administrator counted the ballots. Chair Lessow-Hurley declared Senator Von Till the Faculty-at-Large Representative to the Executive Committee.

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

- A. Provost – moved to the next meeting.**
- B. Vice President for Administration and Finance – moved to the next meeting.**
- C. Vice President for Student Affairs – moved to the next meeting.**
- D. Associated Students President – moved to the next meeting.**

E. Statewide Academic Senators(s) – moved to the next meeting.

X. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.