

**2007/2008 Academic Senate**

**MINUTES  
April 16, 2007**

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

**Ex Officio:**

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

**CASA Representatives:**

Present: Perry, Hooper, Fee, Canham

**Administrative Representatives:**

Present: Sigler, Najjar  
Absent: Lee, Phillips

**COB Representatives:**

Present: Jiang, Campsey  
Absent: Gehrt

**Deans:**

Present: Merdinger, Hegstrom,  
Stacks  
Absent: Wei

**ED Represent:**

Present: Rickford, Maldonado-Colon, Parsons

**Students:**

Present: Dresher, Bridgeman, Patel  
Absent: Antazo, Henderson, Reyes

**ENG Representatives:**

Present: Backer, Meldal  
Absent: Gao

**Alumni Representative:**

Absent: Thompson

**H&A Representatives:**

Present: Desalvo, Leddy, Van Hooff, Belet, Harris,  
Vanniarajan

**Emeritus Representative:**

Present: Buzanski

**SCI Representatives:**

Present: McClory, Kaufman, Bros, Hilliard  
Absent: Hamill

**Honorary Senators (Non-Voting):**

Present: Norton

**General Unit Representatives:**

Present: Thames  
Absent: Liu

**SOS Representatives:**

Present: Peter, Hebert, Von Till

**II. Approval of Academic Senate Minutes –**  
Minutes of March 19, 2007, were approved as amended by Senator Peter.

**III. Communications and Questions –**  
**A. From the Chair of the Senate –**

Chair Lessow-Hurley said, "This is a difficult meeting for me to open. I will start by acknowledging the loss to our community with the passing of our colleague, Inger Sagatun-Edwards. Some of you knew her as a Senator, some knew her as a faculty colleague, and some knew her as a Dean. She passed away on April 2, 2007. We will certainly feel her loss.

I also have some very difficult news to share with you. I'm not sure how many of you are aware of this, but this morning at Virginia Tech University, a gunman shot something in the neighborhood of 30 students and faculty. The numbers are as of yet unclear. We are all members of the community of the academy. For those who have been lost, and those that are grieving, I'd like for us to share a moment of silence." [The Senate observed several minutes of silence in respect for those lost and grieving.]

Chair Lessow-Hurley made the following announcements:

Senator Lloyd Thompson will not be with the Senate for the rest of the semester. Senator Thompson recently had knee surgery and has been told to stay off her feet for awhile. Senator Thompson will be replaced by Carolyn Lewis for the rest of the semester. The Senate welcomed Senator Lewis.

Several of our Student Senators will be late to this meeting as they are enroute from Sacramento.

The Senate congratulated Senator Henderson on his election as next year's Associated Students President.

Chair Lessow-Hurley thanked Senator Najjar for his work on the event at the California Theatre last weekend honoring SJSU's 150th Anniversary.

The Faculty Recognition Luncheon is May 1, 2007. Anyone that hasn't purchased a ticket and would like to do so should contact Mireya in the President's Office.

Senate general elections have been completed, and AVC McClory will be announcing the results shortly.

Chair Lessow-Hurley recognized Vice Chair Thames. Vice Chair Thames announced that she had accepted a position as Acting Director of Counseling Services and would have to resign her position as Vice Chair of the Senate. Vice Chair Thames encouraged Senators to run for the Vice Chair position.

## **B. From the President of the University –**

Provost Sigler made the following announcements for the President:

President Kassing is in Long Beach attending a meeting of the Executive Council.

We will all miss Dean Sagatun-Edwards very much. Her family has established an endowment fund in her honor. Anyone that would like to make a contribution can contact VP Najjar in University Advancement.

The Honors Convocation is April 27, 2007. Provost Sigler would like to see everyone there. The event means a lot to the students.

On April 30, 2007, the legislature will be awarding SJSU a special proclamation honoring SJSU's 150th Anniversary. That week is also Founder's week. There are activities scheduled throughout the week.

On May 4, 2007, the Mayor of San Jose will be issuing SJSU a special proclamation at noon. Faculty are encouraged to come in regalia, and meet at 11 a.m. at the library. At 2:30 p.m., there will be panel presentation on the future of higher education in Morris Dailey. The Secretary of Education will be a keynote speaker.

The Access to Excellence Summit Conversation for the CSU system will take place in Orange County on April 24-25, 2007. Each campus will have approximately nine representatives. The CSU Statewide Senators, the Chair of the Senate, two students, 1 dean, and a couple of faculty members will represent SJSU at that conversation.

#### **Questions:**

Senator Buzanski said, "Many of us have been rather disturbed at a national phenomenon. Can you tell us who are the preferred lenders for student loans at SJSU, and if so why are they preferred, and are we as squeaky clean as I hope we are?" Provost Sigler said, "My response is that I heard that we are squeaky clean, but I don't know whether we do have any preferred lenders or not. I know that the CSU is looking at this very carefully. Last week the issue was discussed, and we were not on the list of campuses that were in trouble. However, there was a statement made that from now on they were going to require financial aide counselors to fill out conflict of interest forms. From what I have heard, many of the problems that have occurred came about as a result of the counselors referring students to certain lenders."

#### **IV. Executive Committee Report –**

##### **A. Executive Committee Minutes –**

##### **April 9, 2007 -**

Senator Stacks asked Chair Lessow-Hurley to elaborate on item number three. Chair Lessow-Hurley said, "There was a proposal in front of the CSU Statewide Senate which suggested that the campuses, via the Presidents, commit to certain international and associational directives with respect to sustainability. There are several relatively new faculty on campus that are interested in developing a focus on this campus around sustainability well beyond just facilities in terms of the curriculum and the whole way we do business. Dr. Nixon, in Urban and Regional Planning, proposed that we endorse the CSU statewide proposal and wrote this draft resolution and brought it to the Senate Executive Committee. It seemed a little premature. There is a high level of commitment in signing off on some of the documents that are suggested, and it seemed like there was a lot more work that needed to be done before we could bring this resolution before the Senate. We gave Dr.

Nixon our best advice."

**B. Consent Calendar – None**

AVC McClory presented two information items. Carolyn Lewis is joining us in place of Lloyd Thompson, and Benjamin Henderson will be leaving the Student Fairness Committee.

**C. Spring 2007 Senate General Election Results:**

There were elections held in three colleges; Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts, and the General Unit. In the General Unit election, Wiggys Sivertsen and Maria Romo were elected. In the Humanities and Arts election, Dominique Van Hooff and Buddy Butler were elected. In the Social Sciences election, Chris Hebert and Asim Zia were elected.

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

**V. Unfinished Business - None**

**VI. Special Order of Business:**

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

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

Senator Meldal presented *AS 1350, Policy Recommendation, Academic Integrity (Final Reading)*. Senator Stacks made a motion to return to this resolution after the student Senators arrive back from Sacramento. The motion was seconded. The Senate voted and the motion was approved. Senator Sabalius presented an amendment to strike the last sentence of the rationale. The Senate voted and the Sabalius amendment failed. Provost Sigler presented a friendly amendment to remove the word "proceedings," and to insert the word "of" after "handling" in the first line of the Rationale. **The Senate voted and AS 1350 passed with 1 Nay.**

Senator Meldal presented *AS 1359, Sense of the Senate Resolution, SJSU Shared Value for 2007-2008: Community (Final Reading)*. **The Senate voted and AS 1359 passed.**

**B. University Library Board (ULB) - None**

**C. Professional Standards Committee (PS) - None**

**D. Curriculum and Research Committee (C&R) -**

Senator Kaufman gave an update on the IRB Taskforce per Senator Hegstrom's request. C&R discussed the preliminary recommendations of the IRB Taskforce three weeks ago. C&R then sent recommendations back to the IRB Taskforce. Senator Van Selst announced that a policy recommendation would be forwarded to C&R from the IRB Taskforce this week.

#### **E. Organization and Government Committee (O&G) -**

Senator Hebert presented *AS 1353, Policy Recommendation, Amendment to Bylaw 1.6 (First Reading)*. Senator Hebert said, "The rationale behind this amendment is an incident that came up this semester when Debra David accepted a position as AVP of First-Year Experience leaving a vacancy in the Senate body. Apparently there is a great problem to run the regular Senate election and a special election simultaneously. The way the current bylaws are setup that would have been called for. What this does is hold off if a vacancy occurs during the Spring semester, and have the special election after the regular election. If you look at our website right now, you will see there are two special elections being conducted. This is really the only change. If the vacancy occurs in the Fall, no change from current policy. If the vacancy occurs after the regular election in the Spring, it would have no effect."

#### **Questions:**

Senator Norton said, "Perhaps, Senator Hebert should explain the changes in 1.61 b)." Senator Hebert said, "I kind of forgot about that, we worked on this so long. Originally, if there had been a vacancy of a short term it was filled by a college dean, no I'm sorry, if no candidate filed for the vacancy it would be filled by the Executive Committee by a person from that constituency. We changed that to being filled by a majority vote of the department chairs in the college. In the case that no one files for a vacancy that is presently filled by the dean, if it is a college, we are changing that so that it would be filled by an election by the department chairs of that college."

Senator Peter asked, "Just to clarify, I wasn't sure why it was difficult to do the two elections at the same time, and whether this would result in people having to vote in more elections more often. It seems to be difficult to motivate people to vote."

Senator Hebert said, "Basically it is a matter of staffing that is the rationale. The elections are pretty much ran by the Senate Administrator and she has other duties as well. Having to keep track of two sets of ballots going out to various colleges at the same time was difficult."

Senator Hebert presented *AS 1354, Policy Recommendation, Repeal of S05-10 and Adoption of The Planning and Budget Process at SJSU (First Reading)*. **The Senate voted and AS 1354 passed.**

Senator Hebert presented *AS 1357, Policy Recommendation, Academic Assessment Committee (First Reading)*. Senator Hebert said, "One of the first referrals O&G got this year concerned the charge of the Assessment Committee. The charge asked us to replace the college representatives with assessment facilitators from each college. In other words, the ordinary faculty would be replaced with the assessment facilitator. The rationale was that since the Assessment Committee was established six years ago, many of their duties had become institutionalized. It would increase the efficiency of the Assessment Committee to have personnel on the committee who were knowledgeable about assessment. The O&G Committee did not feel this would be wise. First, assessment facilitators are selected by the dean of the college. They are faculty, but would be chosen by an administrator for an

Academic Senate operating committee. Second, we did not like the idea of having too many true believers on a Senate operating committee. Third, WASC liked us having an Assessment Committee, so we decided not to abolish the committee. This in itself caused a problem with the proposed change, because if we removed all the faculty members selected by the Senate, it would no longer be an operating committee. We would have to downgrade it to a special agency. We wanted to keep it as an operating committee, but do something with this referral. We met with AVP Bob Cooper in late October, and it occurred to several committee members that instead of changing the committee to meet the charge, we should change the charge to match the membership. We then invited the Chair of the Assessment Committee to an O&G meeting. However, there has been no chair of this committee all year. As we looked at the membership, we found that only half of the seats were filled. Also, the committee has not met all year. We thought maybe one of the reasons the committee did not meet was that the charge was so onerous. We went through the charge and changed it to make it look more like an operating committee. We paired its charge down to the oversight of the assessment process and use of assessment data, and the committee would propose plans, proposals, and procedures as necessary to use assessment to achieve campus-wide goals. We did propose adding two college facilitators to the committee, simply because of their expertise and knowledge of assessment. This would be partially offset by the removal of the Director of Institutional Research."

#### **Questions:**

Senator Bros asked, "Has there been an analysis done about why there are so few members on the existing committee? The reason I ask is it doesn't make any sense to setup a committee if no one is willing to sit on it." Senator Hebert said, "O&G had not done an analysis."

Senator Peter asked, "Did you consider abolishing this committee and combining its charge with another committee, for example we combined research and graduate studies once. There are any number of ways we could make ourselves look good to WASC while reducing the committee list." Senator Hebert said, "I personally did not have the imagination to do that, and I don't recall anyone else on the committee doing so."

Senator Sabalius said, "I was not convinced by your reasons not to abolish the committee. This seems to be a case where the committee has achieved its goals, and now the committee takes on a life of its own. Would O&G please consider dissolving or merging this committee with another one." Senator Hebert said, "We could discuss it, but if the committee is to be abolished I think that would be up to the entire panel."

Senator Stacks said, "I was wondering with regards to Sense of the Senate Resolution, SS-S01-4, the 2nd resolved clause stated that academic units should be provided with funding. I wondered if you considered this when you thought about the membership of the committee and their workload." Senator Hebert said, "Not particularly because we are not creating a new committee here, we are modifying the existing committee. Technically, we are giving the committee less to do, rather than more to do."

Senator Von Till asked, "Why would you remove the Director of Institutional Research and not include those people who are most closely involved in assessment that would perhaps bring a lot of expertise to the committee. Senator Hebert said, "We had our reasons, I could not find it in my notes why we wanted to remove the Director of Institutional Research. We did not include college facilitators, because assessment is pretty controversial on campus. We did not want company men on the committee writing policy for faculty."

Senator Sigler said, "There is no Department of Assessment. There is a Director of Assessment."

**VIII. Special Committee Reports – None**

**IX. New Business – None**

**X. State of the University Announcements. Questions. In rotation.**

**A. Associated Students President (AS) -**

Senator Bridgeman said, "The majority of our board members are in Sacramento lobbying legislators to give us some of the money they have been cutting all year. We are also lobbying for passage of AB 175 which increases the CAL grant. In addition, we're lobbying for Tom McClintock who is in the Masters program here at SJSU.

**B. Vice President University Advancement -**

VP Najjar said, "I don't have much of a university report. I just wanted to mention that I am an alum of Virginia Tech, both undergraduate and graduate, and everyone in my family is from North Carolina. This has been a horrible day for my family. My niece's fiancé lives on the 3rd floor of the building where the shooting took place. He was not hurt. My mind has really been on these events today.

As far as Advancement is concerned, things are going well."

**C. CSU Statewide Senators -**

Senators Van Selst, Gorman, and Sabalius gave a brief update on issues before the CSU Statewide Senate including; textbook affordability, the role of research in the CSU, International education and global initiatives.

**D. Provost - None**

**E. Vice President for Administration and Finance - None**

**F. Vice President for Student Affairs - None**

**XI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**