

2009/2010 Academic Senate

MINUTES
May 3, 2010

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m. and roll call was taken by the Senate Administrator. Forty-one Senators were present.

Ex Officio:

Present: Baker, Meldal, Whitmore,
Lessow-Hurley, Kaufman,
Sabalius
Absent: Van Selst

CASA Representatives:

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

Administrative Representatives:

Present: Najjar, Lee
Absent: Phillips, Selter

COB Representatives:

Present: Roldan, Jiang
Absent: Campsey

Deans:

Present: Parrish, Bullock, Merdinger,
Stacks

EDUC Representatives:

Present: Kimbarow, Smith

Students:

Present: Orr, Starks, Gonzales, Levy
Absent: Armendariz, Pulu

ENGR Representatives:

Present: Gleixner, Backer
Absent: Du

Alumni Representative:

Present: Walters

H&A Representatives:

Present: Desalvo, Brown, Brada-Williams, Van Hooff
Absent: Butler, Fleck

Emeritus Representative:

Present: Buzanski

SCI Representatives:

Present: d'Alarcao, Hamill, Silber, McGee, McClory

Honorary Senators (Non-Voting):

Present: Norton

SOS Representatives:

Present: Ng, Heiden, Von Till
Absent: Lee (Sabbatical)

General Unit Representatives:

Present: Fujimoto, Sivertsen
Absent: Lin

II. Approval of Academic Senate Minutes–

Senator Buzanski made a motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2010. The motion was seconded. The Senate voted and the minutes were approved as written with 1 abstention.

III. Communications and Questions –

A. From the Chair of the Senate:

Chair Kaufman made the following announcements:

Senators were asked to please use the microphones so that they could be heard during questions and debate on the resolutions, and to use their name signs so that the chair and other Senators would know who they are.

Chair Kaufman thanked Vice Chair Von Till for chairing the April 19, 2010 meeting while he was out of town at a Senate meeting.

Chair Kaufman recently attended the Honors Convocation and the Faculty Service Recognition Luncheon, and commented on what excellent events they were. Chair Kaufman encouraged Senators to attend the next Honors Convocation if they have not already done so.

Chair Kaufman was recently invited to speak at the California State University system-wide student research competition. There were 10 students from each of the 23 campuses competing. The quality and level of the research was exceptional. Chair Kaufman encouraged Senators to attend the conference next year on the Fresno campus.

Chair Kaufman announced that the first candidate for the VP of Student Affairs would be on campus today, and an open forum is being held in Engineering 189 at 3:45 p.m. Chair Kaufman encouraged Senators to go to the forum. The second candidate will be on campus tomorrow, and two additional candidates will be on campus next Wednesday and Thursday and they will also hold open forums at 3:45 p.m. in Engineering 189.

Chair Kaufman announced that next Monday, May 10, 2010, will be our final Senate meeting of 2009-2010 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This meeting will be immediately followed by the first meeting of the 2010-2011 Academic Senate from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., where we will welcome new Senators and elect Senate Officers for next year. As of today, we are still seeking a nomination for the Chair of the Organization and Government Committee. Chair Kaufman asked Senators that were interested in Chairing O&G to contact him, or the AVC, Susan McClory.

Chair Kaufman announced that Senator Buddy Butler recently had a kidney transplant. Get Well cards were passed out for Senators to sign.

B. From the President of the University –

President Whitmore made the following announcements:

The President, Senator Lessow-Hurley, and the Government support staff of SJSU went to Sacramento to argue for the Governor's recommended budget with our legislators last Tuesday (April 27, 2010). UC Chancellors, CSU Presidents, and Presidents and Chancellors from community colleges across that state were all there. The event was well received.

However while there, the Presidents were told that April revenues are not as high as were expected, and most of the support offered by the legislators was contingent upon whether there was any funding available. The President also commented that we will not know what our budget will look like until late summer or early fall. The next step in the budget process is a May revise that looks at the revenue from April and May and then makes adjustments.

President Whitmore announced that we will have a record number of graduates this year. A special event will be held during commencement where the President will give out honorary degrees to individuals that were sent to detention camps during World War II.

President Whitmore encouraged Senators to meet the candidates for VP of Student Affairs and to give their feedback to the search committee. President Whitmore thanked Senators for their

support during this very difficult year.

IV. Executive Committee Report

A. Executive Committee Minutes – There were no questions about the Executive Committee minutes of April 26, 2010.

B. Consent Calendar –

The Senate voted and the Senate Calendar for 2010-2011 was approved as is.

AVC McClory commented that there was no consent calendar for this meeting. Initial Senator policy committee assignments will be on the consent calendar for approval at the first meeting of the 2010-2011 Academic Senate next Monday. AVC McClory did not receive Committee Preference Forms from three Senators and they were placed in remaining vacant seats.

C. Executive Committee Action Items – None

V. Unfinished Business - None

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

A. Organization and Government Committee (O&G) –

Senator Heiden presented *AS 1438, Policy Recommendation, Creation of a University Sustainability Board (Final Reading)*. Senator Buzanski made a motion to approve the resolution. The Buzanski resolution was seconded. **The Senate voted and AS 1438 was approved as written with two abstentions.**

B. Instruction and Student Affairs Committee (I&SA) –

Senator Gleixner presented *AS 1435, Policy Recommendation, Probation and Disqualification Policy (First Reading)*.

Senator Orr commented on the student’s perspective on the existing policy, F96-11. According to Senator Orr, students feel the current policy is unfair to students that want to get into SJSU, but cannot because someone with a GPA below 2.0 is allowed to remain. Secondly, allowing students with a GPA below 2.0 to continue getting low grades just digs them into a deeper “GPA hole,” because they must still have a 2.0 GPA to graduate.

Senator Gleixner commented that there were three major changes in the new policy. The first change is in the way students get back in once they are disqualified. The most common way students get back into this university now is by the program of study option. The program of study option allows a student to make a semester plan with their academic adviser for two classes, and if they meet that plan by getting a “B” or better in those two classes, then they can apply to be reinstated in the university. This process reinstates students with less than a 2.0

GPA on probation. The proposed policy would remove that option. Students would now be required to use one of the four options outlined in this proposal. All of these four options currently exist.

The most common option is for students to take classes through open university. These classes count towards their major. Students can raise their GPA to above a 2.0, and then they apply to be reinstated and readmitted. Most students use this option and get back into the university in good standing.

The other options are for rare cases and include ways they can petition to be reinstated. These include instances when something out of the student's control led to them being disqualified. Another case might be a student that has been away from the university for more than 5 years that argues that they have worked and matured and their previous GPA shouldn't be used against them.

The second change is that F96-11 currently states that UG students must get better than a 2.0, and graduate students must get better than a 3.0 for their term GPA to remain on probation. The proposed policy removes "better than," so it would be 2.0 or better (Undergraduates)/3.0 or better (Graduates) for your term GPA to remain on probation and not get disqualified. The driving force behind these changes was the Associate Deans for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies. Right now UG students that are doing 2.0 work, and graduate students that are doing 3.0 work while on probation get disqualified because of this "better than" clause. Students on probation feel it is not fair to disqualify them when they are doing adequate work and they should be able to remain at the university.

The last change is the removal of the grade level GPA. F96-11 has a sliding GPA schedule. Currently, an undergraduate student is put on probation if their GPA is below a 2.0 (term SJSU GPA). However, students get disqualified from the university with different GPAs depending on their grade level. For instance, freshmen can go significantly lower than a 2.0, sophomores can go a little bit higher than that, but seniors are held to the 2.0. This sliding GPA schedule can allow students to accumulate a cumulative SJSU GPA that is significantly lower than a 2.0 as they progress through the higher grade levels at SJSU. The new policy would disqualify all students if their term GPA, while on probation, drops below a 2.0. Students that are getting below a 2.0 are just digging themselves deeper into a hole, because these students must have a 2.0 GPA to graduate.

Questions:

Senator Stacks commented that many faculty members are concerned about intrusive advising for those students that are in a probationary status. Senator Gleixner responded that under the old policy, F96-11, all students that are put on probation have an advising hold put on them and they have to see an adviser to have that advising hold removed. The university in general is putting a very strong effort into improving advising, and Senator Gleixner feels this will have a positive impact on all students including those on probation.

Senator Hamill commented that this sounds like a really good deal for the students because they won't get into these really deep holes as far as their GPA is concerned. However, when you look at the statistics, 554 students were disqualified under F96-11, but under the proposed policy 812 would be disqualified. This means the new policy is much more severe than the old policy. Senator Gleixner responded that it was 1% more severe. Senator Hamill responded that the difference between 554 and 812 was more than 1%. Senator Gleixner clarified that it was 1% of the overall student body. Senator Hamill asked if the number of students being disqualified under the new policy was significantly higher than the number of students being disqualified under the old policy. Senator Gleixner responded that yes, the number of students being disqualified under the proposed policy would be significantly higher than under the old policy.

C. University Library Board (ULB) – No report.

D. Professional Standards Committee (PS) –

Senator Backer presented *AS 1425, Policy Recommendation, Appointment and Evaluation Policy for Temporary Faculty (Final Reading)*. Senator Backer presented a friendly amendment to section IV.B.a.2, and IV.B.b.2, to strike the last line that reads, "The calendar for evaluations will be established by the Office of Faculty Affairs." Senator Backer presented another friendly amendment to V.C.8. line 8 to change that line to read, "and one (1) alternate for service on the Peer Review Committee in conjunction with a representative from the CFA." Senator Buzanski made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded. **The Senate voted and AS 1425 was approved as amended with 1 abstention.**

Senator Backer announced that the PS Committee was going to pull AS 1431, Policy Recommendation, Revision of the Policy for the Selection and Review of Department Chairs (Final Reading) from today's agenda. PS will bring it back to the September Senate meeting.

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

Senator Roldan commented that C&R has been doing some ground work and that the Senate would be seeing some policies next year on approval of certificates, program planning, and GE.

Senator d'Alarcao gave an interim report from a subcommittee of C&R charged with looking at ways to facilitate research at SJSU. That subcommittee was composed of Senators Stacks, Schultz-Krohn, and d'Alarcao. The subcommittee identified seven areas to focus on. The seven areas are; accounting for scholarly activity in our workload, fostering a research culture, maintaining a critical mass in research-based graduate programs, improving research infrastructure, strengthening our ability to provide adequate start-up funds for faculty, involving students in research, and developing ways to provide information and other assistance to research active faculty.

The subcommittee spent the time between October and March in an information gathering mode. The subcommittee met with the Senate in October and got feedback, and then went on to gather information from other groups on campus including the Academic Affairs management team, the University Council of Chairs and Directors, and various other groups and faculty members that expressed interest.

The subcommittee is currently in the process of formulating very specific recommendations to try and achieve the goals outlined above. The subcommittee hopes to come up with some initial policy recommendations by September 2010. The next phase would be to solicit feedback about what they've come up with from administrators, especially the Provost. The subcommittee is also thinking of having an open forum in October 2010. If everything goes smoothly, C&R would then bring some policy recommendations for first readings to the November or December 2010 Senate meeting, with final readings in Spring 2011.

Some of the challenges the subcommittee has been facing include coming up with solutions that do not have major financial impacts as well as coming up with interim measures for solving problems that require many years of work. The subcommittee also faced a gridlock problem when trying to balance making this an open and inclusive discussion while trying to stay focused. The subcommittee hopes to have some interim policies to present to the Senate somewhere around November or December 2010.

Questions:

Senator Van Hooff commented that this is a real challenge, because we expect faculty to produce research for tenure, but our resources keep shrinking. As chair of a department, Senator Van Hooff has a difficult time encouraging faculty to do more research, when she has no resources to offer them for travel, etc. Senator Van Hooff would be open to any ideas at this point.

VII. Special Committee Reports –

VIII. New Business – None

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

A. CSU Statewide Senators:

Senator Sabalius announced that the CSU Statewide Senate meetings would be held this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and either he, or Senators Van Selst and Lessow-Hurley would have a report at the last Senate meeting next Monday, May 10, 2010. Senator Lessow-Hurley announced that we still have no CSU Faculty Trustee. The Faculty are the only constituency that is not represented on the Board of Trustees. All the decisions that are being made are being made without any consultation with anybody on the faculty. Senator Lessow-Hurley commented that the Governor is in violation of state law. She believes there is a simple solution to this and that is for the CSU Statewide Senate to file a Writ of Mandate to force the Governor to do his job.

B. Provost – No report.

C. VP for Finance and Administration – No report.

D. VP of Student Affairs –

The Senate congratulated Dr. Eloise Stiglitz on her new job.

AVP Stiglitz gave a brief report on enrollment. Students had to declare their intention to enroll and pay by May 1, 2010. Currently, we are at 176% of our target enrollment for transfer students, and 109% of our target enrollment for freshmen. Our target enrollment for transfer students was 2,200, and we are at 3,800 students. Our target enrollment for freshmen was 2,800, and we are at 3,000 students.

Questions:

Senator Kimbarow asked if we would be penalized for being way over target. Senator Lee responded that it is not clear yet whether we will be penalized or not. The CSU VPs of Finance and Administration have urged the Chancellor not to impose penalties given the uncertainty of the budget, how late it will probably be, and how difficult it is to manage enrollment when you don't know how much money you will have. Hopefully, we will be allowed to keep our student fees. This would be enough to pay for some temporary part-time faculty to come back.

E. AS President –

AS President Baker announced that AS recently had their AS 55 Awards Banquet where they recognized 48 students that had excelled in leadership and academics. In addition, a group from AS, including AS President Baker, went to Sacramento last Monday and lobbied for public higher education.

AS is currently transitioning in the new AS President and Board of Directors. The new AS President is Tomasz Kolodziejak. Mr. Kolodziejak is an international student from Poland, and is currently the Director of Intercultural Affairs.

F. VP of University Advancement – No report.

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