Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

11/30/11

All in attendance except Mary! Minutes taken by Parliamentarian

From 2:15 to 3, the Senate Executive Committee met with one of the Provost candidates.

1. Chair’s report – Jim Hill:
   No movement yet on resolution towards constitutional amendment to allow a means of getting a staff person on the Senate. Parliamentarian volunteered to assist Chair with this.

2. Academic Senate Agenda for December 7th 2011

   Janine Gasco (EPC) initiated a discussion regarding the idea to put forward an Exec resolution on the Online Initiative. The concern is about the pace with which this online initiative is underway, that so many questions are unanswered (on this campus, a list of 21 questions has been generated), and that the oversight structure for this initiative appears to be outside of any existing structures. The Exec asked the President in our last meeting with her a number of questions. We need to follow up with her on those questions and many more questions remain. Two campuses have passed resolutions asking for suspension of the initiative until 80% of faculty senates agree to the initiative.

   The potential resolution (Sense of the Senate) we’d put forward would be something which would state the importance of faculty involvement in the online initiative prior to it going forward. We would also identify 5 core questions in the rationale for this resolution. The actual resolution would be that the process 1. Slow down, 2. Involve more faculty input, and 3. Address questions raised.

3:30 Time Certain: President Garcia

   Good news: Gilbert Foundation granted CSUDH a quarter of a million dollars for a math summer institute. This involves a collaboration between the University Advancement office, the Math Department, and Student Enrollment.

   Other good news: CSUDH was awarded a Gear Up grant for 3 million dollars, partnering with a Los Angeles Middle and High School.

   Holiday party in the Library on Dec. 15th.

   Since student stress is high at this time of year, a glossy brochure was developed to address resources for student mental health services [“CSUDH Quick Look – Student Mental Health” brochure distributed].
John Tracey (SPELLING?) came on campus. He is an alum who is currently 2nd in command at Boeing.

Enrollment: will admit fewer in Spring. Trying to normalize 10,000 FTE for year. A glossy brochure on enrollment facts has been developed [“CSUDH Enrollment Facts – Fall 2011” brochure distributed]. The number of applicants to CSUDH has increased by almost 2,000 since 2007. President Garcia says to look at the changing demographics reflected in these numbers in the brochure, as well as in our surrounding community. We need to be more intentional about keeping the diversity of our student body, specifically African-Americans and Samoans and Tongans who used to make up more of our surrounding community.

Retention rates have been improving. The administration has been working hard with community colleges to get those students who hadn’t completed developmental work to go back and do so.

Fall applications are up about 12%. There are currently 7,372 admits for fall. We are up 32% in transfer students and 20% in first time freshman.

Budget still up in the air. We all hear that revenues are not in as expected.

Provost search underway. Many faculty turned out for the open forum yesterday for the first candidate.

Opened up to questions:

Janine Gasco (EPC) asked the President to follow up on the issues that were raised in the previous Senate Exec committee meeting about the Online Initiative. The Chancellor’s Office website states that a 501c3 has been created (documents have been filed) and the plan is to being the initiative by February.

The President replied that she was not aware of the 501c3 already having been pursued and that she would check into it.

Gasco then raised a concern about the fact that oversight of the initiative fall outside of normal oversight bodies, e.g. curriculum committees. The newly hired Executive Director reports to a new Governing Board which was appointed by the Chancellor.

President Garcia replied that there are two faculty members on the new Governing Board.

Gasco replied that those faculty are not elected by the faculty body at large of the CSU but rather were appointed by the Chancellor. Gasco then raised the question of the role of vendors/auxillary units and whether that is intended to side step faculty controls.

The President replied that this new Executive Director cannot hire faculty. The new hire intends to come to visit each campus on a “listening tour” (format as of yet undetermined) to hear from faculty. She will look at existing online programs. She cannot hire faculty nor set up curricula.
Instead her job is to *facilitate* system wide programs where hiring/provision of faculty is done by the faculty of each campus. There are many details still yet to be worked out.

Thomas Norman (FPC) raised the issue of the range of options on the table, with centralization at the most extreme. He asked is her facilitation role one of marketing? Of establishing certain programs with a particular regional base (e.g. online MBA for South Bay region)?

Garcia said that this is all up in the air. She gave the example of Arizona State University planning to do a Ph.D. in Women’s Studies throughout the state. Although it would be based in Tempe, it would be state-wide and draw from faculty throughout the ASU system. President Garcia said that the online initiative will capture the niche market of students who would otherwise be looking for degrees at for-profit institutions.

Gracso communicated concern with the pace of the initiative, stating that the Chancellor’s website states a kickoff date of February, when the person was just hired.

The President stated that there will be some programs starting in February, programs already in existence. While their first official meeting (of the Governing Board on which she is a member) with the new Executive Director isn’t until next week, they have already had a conversation with her to suggest that the Online Initiative start out with something which will be less threatening to faculty. They intend to start with languages. She gave the example of providing an online major in Japanese. This doesn’t already exist, but it will be system-wide online major in Japanese can be created by putting together courses that currently exist at a number of different CSUs. She said that the university/department from which the course comes needs to get FTEs, of course, and those sort of issues still have to be hammered out. Another way the Governing Board suggested the new Executive Director tread lightly would be to start out with existing online programs and transform them into system wide online programs.

Kate Fawver asked why should faculty at CSUDH buy into this?

The President replied that it allows us to serve more students and get a bigger degree of the market of students out there who otherwise would be going to for-profits. We can offer it at a lower cost and provide a higher quality education. She pointed out the number of students of color who go to for-profits for their education.

Diane Miller asked about intellectual property issues and who owns the syllabus/courses?

Pres. Garcia said that the syllabi and the courses belong to the faculty. She said it is a University of Maryland model where the faculty retain ownership over their courses/syllabi rather than a University of Phoenix model where the university owns the courses/syllabi.

Jim Hill said courses belong to each campus where they originate but programs will now belong to the campus that takes the lead on the online offering. How are course changes to be made? Through what curricular review process? Those are campus based.
President Garcia said this is one of the details that has to be worked out.

Gasco said that it would help ease faculty questions to have the new Executive Director clarify in an email communication to faculty that the online initiative does not change the curriculum process/faculty’s ownership of the curriculum nor collective bargaining agreements, etc.

Fawver made a direct request of President Garcia to bring to the Governing Board for the Online Initiative. She requested that concrete benchmarks of success (of the initiative) be established.

[President leaves and Senate Exec discussion continues.]

Pat Kalayjian stated that this online initiative creates workload issues. Norman (FPC) stated that issue already exist regarding workload when one teaches in Extended Ed, in terms of whether it is part of regular teaching load and in terms of the pay rate one gets.

Miller raised the concern about how online courses at CSUDH have taken over previous in-person courses but are now run with enrollments well over their established caps. Will this occur in the online initiative?

Kalayjian stated that this issue of appropriate course size is being addressed currently in the Statewide Senate on the Academic Affairs Committee White Paper on Online Education. There is also the need for those who are to instruct courses online to have training in how to do so. Good online teaching is not merely a matter of mastering the technology. This white paper will also review the CATS report.

Fawver proposed that we add to the Resolution that we resolve the no policies be finalized by the Online Initiative Executive Director or Governing Board until the final version of the Statewide Senate Academic Affairs Committee White Paper on Online Education is received. Kalayjian is not sure of its target date. It may be mid-January. Three sections are done and three remain.

Gasco informed the Executive Committee that a video is available at the Chancellor’s office’s website. This video addresses some of faculty’s questions. It is available at:

http://its.calstate.edu/onlinelearning/webcasts

3. Vice Chair’s report- Ericka Verba
Intended to follow up on 3 pending resolutions with Provost Maki today but he did not come for his time certain at 4 pm.

Fawver raised a question about a previous item, that of older adults and their registration priority. They are being required to register last since they pay less. This is based off of the Chancellor’s office policy which is optional for us to follow. In the past, this was not followed but now is. The other issue is that of student summer fees, in which they have to pay for 6 units
at a minimum. We agreed to table these two issues and reconsider them in the Spring in the Executive Committee meeting.

4. EPC report – Janine Gasco
   Please see above, under Items 2 & 3. EPC has been principally occupied with issues pertaining to the online initiative.

5. FPC report – Thomas Norman
   The FPC has also been addressing the Online Initiative, from the faculty side. It appears that the President is saying that faculty don’t give up rights over the curriculum, nor is there outsourcing of our jobs.

6. Parliamentarian report – Diane Miller
   A Senate representative is needed for the CSUDH Technology Advisory Committee. A call for volunteers will need to go out. Gasco already sits on this committee as part of EPC. Fawver recommended checking the PM to see this committee’s charge and membership to determine the relevance of an additional faculty representative.

   A motion was made and seconded for the Parliamentarian to explore the idea of using clickers in the Senate for voting.

7. Statewide Senate Report – Kate Fawver and Pat Kalayjian
   Please see above under Item 3. Kalayjian already reported on the work of the Statewide Senate to issue a White Paper on Online Education.

   Kalayjian informed Exec that Board of Trustees meeting for the 5th was cancelled.

   Fawver informed the Executive Committee that Statewide Senators are at risk of losing their release (re-assignment) time.

   Fawver also reported that she asked the Statewide Senate to develop a resolution in support of CSU East Bay and DH faculty who went on strike, objecting to the way those faculty were portrayed in the Chancellor’s office memo following the strike.

   Fawver also reported that she asked the Statewide Senate to develop a resolution in condemnation of the treatment of students who sought to speak at the Board of Trustees meeting at the Chancellor’s office. She is concerned that while the UC Senate took a clear stand about what happened at UC Davis, our Senate has not done so regarding the situation at the Chancellor’s office at Long Beach.

   A question was raised about whether resolutions regarding this should be brought forward to our CSUDH Senate. Fawver said she would follow up with Statewide Senate first.