

Minutes of the Academic Senate

April 3, 2008

1. Chairperson Carla Bossard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. on April 3, 2008. Roll was called and the following Senators were present: Chair Carla Bossard, Past Chair Ted Tsukahara, David Alvarez, David Bowen, Zach Flanagan, Deane Lamont, Lidia Luquet, Phil Perry, Martin Rokeach, Ed Tywoniak, and Parliamentarian Valerie Burke. Absent were Vice Chair Brother Charles Hilken, Barbara Grant, and Charles Hamaker.

Also present were: Robert Bulman, Gerard Capriulo, Dean Tom Carter, Martin Cohen, Provost Bethami Dobkin, Dana Herrera, Annalee Lamoreaux, Claude Malary, Steve Miller, Dean Frank Murray, Tom Poundstone, Associate Dean Chris Sindt, Marshall Welch (CILSA), and Dean Steve Woolpert.

2. Minutes of the March 13, 2008 Senate meeting were approved with one abstention.

REPORTS

3. Chairperson's Report – Chair Bossard made an announcement on behalf of Brother Charles that Brother Ronald has committed himself to a discussion with the faculty at the open forum on April 10. Provost Dobkin will host the forum for the first half focused on establishing capital campaign priorities, followed by the President for a discussion of the Vision Statement. The forum promises to be an exciting discussion and he encouraged all Senators to alert their colleagues and urge them to attend.

Chair Bossard announced that departments are going to be asked to generate criteria pertinent to their departments regarding expectations for scholarship, teaching and service to be used as a guide for rank and tenure.

Consent Agenda – Chair Bossard introduced the proposal for an Ethnic Studies Minor on the consent agenda. The Educational Policies Board approved the proposal by a vote of 15-1-0 at its March 31, 2008 meeting. The item was accepted on the consent agenda.

WASC has placed SMC on notice regarding three areas of concern, but more specifically diversity. Robert Bulman is forming a faculty discussion/action group to discuss the WASC concerns and develop strategies to deal with the issues. The first meeting will be held on Monday, April 14 at 4:30 p.m. in Hagerty Lounge.

4. Provost Update - Provost Dobkin reported on the Vision Statement and Strategic Planning overview. She distributed worksheets designed to facilitate the processes of establishing campaign priorities and drafting an academic strategic plan. She reported that she has asked the deans and the Vice Provost to work on both a vision and campaign priorities worksheet. This will also be part of the discussion at the April 10th forum. The intent is to set general directions for the institution.

The strategic planning overview will continue to be an open issue throughout the year, to be finalized by October in order to help format the process for the academic strategic plan by setting the goals and objectives in the various areas.

Provost Dobkin said that before answering the question of what does it mean to have a strong academic program, we need a definition of what we want to be. What does strength in academic programs look like to us? She said consensus is needed first, before planning how to make it happen.

Gerry Capriulo urged the Senate to establish an ongoing long-range strategic planning committee.

The Provost said the Library project is a high priority. A programming direction will be presented to the Board of Trustees in May. Dean Tom Carter announced that a consultant has been hired to draft the vision statement for the Library over the next six weeks. The first meeting will be held on April 11 from 9-10:45 a.m. for students, faculty, and staff followed by a focus group meeting for faculty in the afternoon.

5, Updates Concerning Online Learning Systems – Senator Tywoniak presented an update to the report made earlier in the semester to the Senate outlining the various ongoing technology initiatives and the technological vision statement. The report is being presented individually to each department on campus. Some progress has been made specific to online learning systems. A working group has been formed to introduce faculty to online learning systems, and to create excitement about using the new technologies and making sure the infrastructure is in place.

Specific charges for the project include:

- 100% of courses to be online,
- meet mandate to increase use of the Web and Learning Management Systems,
- plan for disaster recovery and business continuity,
- foster greening of our campus through Blackboard E-Res and Xanedu,
- inform faculty on tools available through Blackboard, podcasting, audio and video playback, learning through Wikis, etc.,
- address regulatory compliance regarding copyright issues.

Senator Tywoniak introduced the following staff:

Rae Peralta, Multimedia Development Manager/Trainer
Carmel Crane, Instructional Technology Manager
Martin Cohen, Librarian and College Archivist
Allie Porter, Library Electronic Reserves Manager

They each briefly discussed the technology available for faculty and staff and conducted short demonstrations. They reported that they are available to help faculty develop on line resources for their courses. They are more than willing to sit down with faculty one-on-one to address their individual needs.

6. Educational Policies Board – Steve Miller reported for the EPB. The EPB approved the Ethnic Studies Minor, which was approved on the consent agenda.

Steve Miller received a fast track proposal for a B.A. in Leadership and Organizational Studies Program. The Chair of EPB approves fast track proposals. Fast track programs are given a trial period of two cohorts before final full approval is necessary. Approval from the CFO, Provost, Dean, Director of Program, and Chair of EPB is required. The EPB Chair signs off on the academic quality of the program. The fast track process is applied to graduate and adult

programs. Because this particular proposal involves an undergraduate degree, he offered the proposal for review by members of the Senate and the EPB.

A few expressed concern about the fast track approval process for an undergraduate program. Dean Frank Murray explained that this program will be comprised of adult learners, and graduate and adult programs are eligible for fast track approval.

Senator Luquet said she would like to know the definition of Fast Track; is it on the basis of graduate status, adult students, etc.?

Past Chair Tsukahara said he respects the authority of the EPB Chair to pass judgment on the academic quality of the program. He said he only requests clarity of the process for the future.

The proposal and the Fast Track Guidelines will be forwarded to the Senators for review. Steve Miller asked that he receive any feedback by Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Commendation for Brother José Cervantes, FSC, Ph.D. – Chair Bossard introduced the following Resolution of Commendation. A MOTION was made by Senator Perry and SECONDED by Senator Tywoniak to accept the following Resolution.

Resolution of Commendation Awarded to
Brother José H. Cervantes, FSC, Ph.D

Whereas Brother José Cervantes, FSC has given 50 years of service to a teaching career that spans grammar school through graduate education,

Whereas Brother José, is recognized internationally as a distinguished leader in higher education,

Whereas Brother José, supported the establishment of the Association of Lasallian Universities (IALU) and is the founder and first president of two universities in his native land.

And **whereas** Brother José has touched the hearts and minds of thousands through his teaching and writings on religious life, sociology and education;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the Faculty of Saint Mary's College of California, do hereby honor Brother José with this Resolution of Commendation and offer him our gratitude and prayers for his continuing work as a loyal son of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

Senator Luquet read aloud the short bio on Brother José. The Senate amended the above to add “of Mexico” to the end of the sentence “...two universities in his native land” in the third “whereas. The amended motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

8. Parking Resolution - A MOTION was made by Senator Tywoniak and SECONDED by Senator Lamont to approve the following Resolution.

Senate Motion regarding the potential levying of parking fees on Faculty and Staff of St. Mary's College

Preamble:

The Saint Mary's College campus community has for some time recognized the continuing development of parking concerns on campus. We are aware that various committees and working groups have in the past and currently continue to work on assessing the problem and planning for future solutions. The senate applauds the pro-active work of our administration and these past and present groups.

We are aware of the fact that one potential solution to the "parking Problem" being considered and supported by some administrators is to institute parking fees for parking space users. We recognize the validity of such an approach as one of several potential strategies that might be employed to help solve "the problem". However, such a charge levied on faculty and staff would be, in truth, equivalent to a "payroll tax".

The faculty and staff of Saint Mary's happily, diligently and with great expertise and devotion provide various services to the user community we serve, our cherished students. To charge these service providers to come to work, no matter how large or small the fee, is something that should be strongly opposed in principle. Our campus community already struggles with inadequate salary compensation, especially given how expensive it is to live in this part of the state and nation. To reduce salaries via fees would represent an unjustifiable burden. The cost-of-living factor already forces faculty and staff to commute great distances from "more affordable" communities. There is no reasonable alternative to parking on campus for most individuals, especially since the campus is not located in a big city or easily accessible through public transportation. This situation is particularly problematic for junior faculty with responsibilities for young families. Also, to use satellite parking and thereby add to what for most is an already too long commute seems unjustified, particularly given the finding of a recent outside consultant hired by the campus, that currently, parking opportunities on campus are adequate to meet demand.

Formal Motion

Whereas in principle it is wrong to charge the providers of services a fee (tantamount to a "payroll tax") to provide their service, and

whereas the recently completed parking assessment the campus performed using an outside consultant indicates adequate parking opportunities on campus at the present time, and

whereas most faculty and staff live a considerable distance away from the campus due to the high housing costs in the area immediately surrounding the campus, and

whereas the commute time for most faculty and staff is already too long and stressful and that lengthening the commute time would negatively affect teaching, committee work and availability for service work, and

whereas Moraga is a small town community with no realistic off-campus parking possibilities nor viable mass transit that would serve the larger percentage of our faculty and staff, **be it resolved that**

the Academic Senate strongly recommends that no fee of any kind or amount, now or in the future, be levied on the faculty and staff of Saint Mary's College for parking on either the main or Rheem campuses. In the strongest possible terms we believe the imposition of such a fee regardless of its magnitude, is fundamentally wrong in principle and should not be supported. We further recommend that the campus look to donors and user groups and not service providers to support the development of additional parking opportunities.

Claude Malary is a member of the Campus Facilities Planning Committee as the Faculty Welfare Committee representative. He said the committee has discussed options for parking, and the subject of paid parking is being discussed. At this time no decision has been made. A consultant has been hired and he reported that paying to park is the norm at comparative universities. It was also reported by the consultant that parking is not currently a problem. Parking exists, even though it may not be conveniently located. However, any future plans to add or renovate facilities will also require additional parking. There is also a cost involved in maintaining parking lots.

Several Senators and faculty expressed concern with the notion of paid parking for faculty and staff. It was noted that it would require a considerable parking fee in order to offset any costs to add or maintain parking.

Dean Woolpert is also a member of the Facilities Planning Committee. Parking is not free, it is being paid for by the general revenue budget, essentially by the tuition of students. He suggested that the Senate may wish to defer any resolution until an action has been decided by the Facilities Planning Committee. Others felt that it was important for the faculty to vote on the resolution in principle and forward their concerns to the committee prior to the imposition of a parking fee.

Senator Luquet compared the parking fee to assessing a fee to pay for the campus gardening. Carla Bossard responded that she understands the prematurity of the motion, yet on principle she agreed with Senator Luquet, this is more like charging faculty to pay for the gardening rather than for a service fee to the college for providing the parking. There are no options for parking, anyone driving to SMC must park on campus.

Past Chair Tsukahara said he is slightly uncomfortable because he does not have much information other than a verbal report at the last Senate meeting by Molly Metherd, the faculty representative to the Facilities Planning Committee. He can understand the concern about the College imposing a cost on the faculty to carry out their responsibilities. However, there are a series of issues facing the faculty that require immediate attention and energy. He is concerned that the faculty Senate has not taken the opportunity to begin the discussion as to how to creatively respond to the threat posed to the College by WASC. He would be more comfortable paying attention to the issue of the college's existence.

Past Chair Tsukahara made a motion to table the discussion, seconded by Senator Rokeach, pending receipt of specific information regarding the parking issue. Gerry Capriulo argued against the motion to table; this is a vote on principle; specific information regarding a parking fee is not required to vote on principle. Senator Flanagan agreed with Gerry Capriulo, he would not change his mind about agreeing with the principle by knowing the details of a particular plan. The motion to table failed by majority hand vote, with one abstention.

Past Chair Tsukahara said he could support a statement of principle, but is the resolution a statement of principle and only that? Is the resolution as prepared clear enough? Is the faculty prepared to creatively address the fiscal issues facing the college?

The question was called and seconded, approved by hand vote. The motion to approve the resolution passed by a hand vote of 7-2-1.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathe Michalosky
Faculty Governance Coordinator