

**Minutes of the General Meeting  
Of the Academic Senate**

**September 18, 2008**

1. Chairperson Brother Charles Hilken called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. on September 18, 2008. Roll was called and the following Senators were present: Chair Brother Charles Hilken, Vice Chair Tom Poundstone, Past Chair Carla Bossard, David Alvarez, Jerry Brunetti, Gerry Capriulo, Zach Flanagan, Marty Rokeach, Ed Tywoniak, and Parliamentarian Valerie Burke. Absent was David Bowen.

Also present were: Mazi Allen, Dean Roy Allen, Vice President Michael Beseda, CTO Ed Biglin, Joel Burley, Dean Tom Carter, Karen Cowman, Provost Bethami Dobkin, Andrea Eagleman, Tomas Gomez, Rosemary Graham, Charles Hamaker, Laura Heid, Dana Herrera, Dean Brian Jersky, Dean Dorothy Jones, Christa Kell, Elaina Rose Lovejoy, Adam Lucas, Andras Margitay-Becht, Mary McCall, Barbara McGraw, Dean Frank Murray, Marie Pagliarini, Jim Sauerberg, Deepak Sawhney, Jeff Sigman, Associate Dean Chris Sindt, Elizabeth Smith, Nushi Safinya, Bill Sullivan, Carole Swain, Vice Provost Frances Sweeney, James Temple, Dean Russell Tiberii, Associate Registrar Leslie Welty, Christine Willis, Dean Steve Woolpert, and Paul Zarnoth.

2. Minutes of the August 26, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted by voice vote.

**REPORTS**

3. Chairperson's Report - Chair Brother Charles made the following announcements:

- The Provost has responded to Senate Action S-07/08-17, Procedures for the Discontinuance of an Academic Department or Program not Mandated by General Financial Exigency. She has proposed a rewriting of a portion of the language. The document has been forwarded to the UEPC and the GPSEPC for feedback, since this document originated from the Educational Policies Board last year.
- He encouraged faculty to attend the October 1st meeting of the Core Curriculum Task Force (CCTF) during community time. The committee's Common Assumptions will be discussed.
- A Senate project for this year is to review the Senate Rules of Procedure due to the committee restructuring.
- Dean Tiberii will hold a faculty in-service on student disability services on October 8<sup>th</sup> during community time in Claeys lounge.
- The College Committee on Inclusive Excellence has recently generated the document, "Acts of Intolerance Protocol for Inclusion." The student portion has been adopted and is effective in the Student Disciplinary Handbook. The Senate will be considering this document for inclusion in the Faculty Handbook at the next Senate meeting.

4. Vice Chairperson's Report – Vice Chair Poundstone reported that the greatest task for the Senate this year will be assessing the CCTF proposal. Many open sessions will be arranged for discussion of the models coming forward. The CCTF will host sessions for feedback on each of the individual models. The Senate will host two open faculty forums for broad discussion on November 20, 2008 from 3-5 p.m. and also on December 3, 2008 during community time. It is anticipated that two additional open forums will be held in the spring.

5. Committee on Committees (CoC) – Vice Chair Poundstone reported that the CoC will assess the new committee structure, clarify voting status of Senate liaisons and designate intensive workload committees.

6. Provost Updates – Provost Dobkin explained that the draft from Committee on Inclusive Excellence is a suggested process for dealing with types of problems raised last spring. It is not intended to usurp the Faculty Handbook. She asked that the Senate consider the report as an agenda item.

Provost Dobkin reported that the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the Procedures for the Discontinuance of an Academic Department or Program not Mandated by General Financial Exigency are the only outstanding Senate actions.

Provost Dobkin said that over the coming year she will ask the Dean's Council to examine the method used for assigning resources. She would like to standardize the processes for allocating resources, preferring not to deal with ad hoc requests. She would like the process to be as open as possible.

Vice Chair Sweeney is working on the details for summer school for the summer of 2009. The objective is to help students graduate on time. The current plan is to charge the same tuition as open enrollment and offer a flat rate lecturer's salary. Still to be determined is how many sections to offer.

The Institutional Research Director search is ongoing. Provost Dobkin has asked Vice President Michael Beseda to chair the search committee. Additional members are: Sue Hooks, Ted Tsukahara, Greta Stenersen, Dean Roy Allen and Julia Odom.

The BOS plan calls for an academic plan by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Provost Dobkin said several questions need to be answered before the academic plan is written, i.e., are we going to grow? Do we want to change what we mean by student selectivity?

6. Undergraduate Educational Policies Committee (UEPC) – Senator Tywoniak reported as the Senate liaison to the UEPC. The UEPC met on September 8. The following proposals were presented:

- Proposals from the Department Physics and Astronomy to Incorporate Physics 20 into Physics 10 and incorporate Physics 21 into Physics 11. A third proposal to change the prerequisite for Physics 10 is on hold until information could be gathered from Biology and Health Sciences, as well as the reaction from Math in the event that Biology and/or Health Sciences might indicate that they would drop Math 28 from their list of required courses.
- A proposal to revise the traditional undergraduate (TUG) evaluation form, submitted by the Committee on Teaching and Scholarship. The move to revise the evaluation form was initiated through conversations by Provost Sally Stamp, the Committee on Teaching and Scholarship, and Dean Frank Murray in order to eliminate redundancy, and eliminate questions of style, to focus more on questions of substance, and (following the WASC report) to consider adding questions related to issues of diversity. The UEPC suggested several amendments, which have been returned to the Committee on Teaching & Scholarship for acceptance.
- The sabbatical proposals were distributed to the members. The UEPC and the GPSEPC will meet jointly to consider the proposals on September 22.

7. Graduate and Professional Studies Educational Policies Committee (GPSEPC) – Senator Brunetti reported as the Senate Liaison to the GPSEPC. The committee is currently working on the creation of a graduate bulletin. The GPSEPC reviewed the senate action returned by the Provost and has forwarded its feedback to the Senate. The sabbatical proposals were distributed to the GPSEPC members. The joint UEPC/GPSEPC meeting will be held on September 22, 2008 to review the proposals.

8. Admissions and Academic Regulations Committee (AARC) – Vice Chair Poundstone reported as the Senate liaison to the AARC. He reported that Lynnyonne Cotton will serve as chair of the AARC this year. The AARC will continue to the task of creating the mission statement for Academic Advising and determining how the first year experience freshmen advising will be assessed. They are also looking at graduation participation policies and the athletic attendance policy.

9. Program Review Committee (PRC) – Senator Rokeach reported as Senate liaison to the Program Review Committee. Twelve departments are scheduled for review this year: Anthropology, Business Administration, Classical Languages, Communication, Economics, Health Sciences, Integral, Math and Computer Science, Psychology, Studies of Multilingual Students, Early Childhood Education & Montessori, and Single and Multiple Subject Credential Programs. Barbara McGraw raised the issue of the status of the proposal from PRC last year to extend the time between reviews for those departments completing their reviews on time and without issues. It was reported that the proposal had been tabled last year.

10. Admissions – Vice President Michael Beseda presented a detailed written report, which is on file in the office of the Academic Senate. He briefly outlined the contents of the report and noted that even though the actual number of applicants fell, there are a record number of entering freshmen this year. He noted that there is an extraordinary increase in the amount of financial aid. The entire range of students applying to SMC has a much higher level of need.

SMC used the Priority Application two years earlier, which increased the number of applications, but did not realize an increase in the number of students responding. The second year the number of Priority Applications were reduced, and SMC still did not see an increase in applicants. The Priority Application was not used this year.

SMC has experienced an encouraging growth in those admitted with honors at entrance, increases in students from southern California and out of state, and a 5% increase from last year in students of color. Females constitute 65% of the incoming freshmen class.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

11. Participation in US News and World Report – Chair Brother Charles explained that several faculty have expressed concern about SMC's choice to not participate in the US News and World Report reputational survey and to refuse to use the rankings in any promotional materials. SMC rankings have dropped and they questioned whether this decision is responsible for the lower ranking.

Vice President Beseda responded that the schools that have stepped away from participation have concerns that the USNWP does not capture the richness of their institution or what makes the difference in a college experience. Some see that it only measures resources, ranking colleges by the size of their endowment. He said this nonparticipation in the survey has not

affected our score this year. He added that SMC is invested in the Education Conservancy, which is developing a new evaluation tool.

Senator Capriulo said that parents use the USNWP as a tool when researching colleges. Perhaps SMC could rethink its decision. It becomes self-defeating if we continue to drop in the rankings. Is there a perception in the world outside that matters, even if we think that perception is not real?

Rosemary Graham asked if the faculty participated in the original decision. Faculty understand the flaws of the system, but why have we dropped in rankings? If this is a source for parents as a place to begin their search for colleges, the rankings will affect their choices.

Vice President Beseda said he is also concerned about SMC's ranking. He reminded folks that it is useful to decide which of the markers we want to consider. Building our reputation through marketing will ultimately help with our rankings. Our peer evaluation has dropped and he is more concerned with that. People in the higher education community know that SMC received a Notice of Concern by WASC, which is information that they would use in filling out the peer surveys.

Senator Brunetti said the decision to withdraw from the survey should have required faculty input. Withdrawing from the survey and joining the Education Conservancy may not directly affect the rankings in the USNWP, but faculty are extremely interested in the rankings and faculty should be part of the decision.

Senator Tywoniak asked if we have determined why we have dropped in the rankings and what can be done to turn it around. Vice President Beseda said USNWP gives some general notion about how they determine their rankings, but they are not transparent about how it is achieved. The peer assessment score is what concerns him.

Provost Dobkin said marketing has a great deal to do with the reputation and rankings an institution receives. She knows what it is like to chase rankings and higher SAT scores, it could change the whole mission of an institution. She is not sure yet as to the best way to go about having the most inclusive conversation during the fall. If one looks at the student profile and graduation rate, we do very well with our student population.

Jim Sauerberg noted that Gonzaga's retention of freshmen has increased while SMC's has not moved. Santa Clara, Portland, Gonzaga, and LMU all have a much higher percentage of full time faculty. SMC's alumni giving rate has fallen from 21% to 14% over the last ten years. SAT scores have risen for the above schools, while SMC's have stayed steady. Gonzaga has reported an increase in the graduation rate. If we consider these issues important, that may change who we are. Perhaps the Trustees have already decided which issues are important. Have we lost ground on the issues we deem important? He suggested we take an active approach to address particular issues.

Vice Chair Poundstone said many faculty were very frustrated by the announcement last year of the President's decision to withdraw from participation in the USNWP survey rather than participating in the discussion. Faculty may have very well agreed with the decision, but what was lacking was the nature of ownership which faculty are calling for in the model of shared governance.

Provost Dobkin said she would eagerly take advice from the Senate about going forward with the conversation.

12. New Faculty Introductions – Brother Charles asked the Deans to introduce their new faculty.

Dean Steve Woolpert introduced the following new faculty in the School of Liberal Arts:

Dana Lawton – Performing Arts  
Mazi Allen – Philosophy  
Andrea Eagleman – Kinesiology  
Jennifer Locke – Art  
Jia Wu – Performing Arts  
Helga Lenart-Cheng – Modern Languages

Roy Allen introduced the following new faculty in the School of Economics and Business Administration:

Tina Zhang – GB, Finance  
Jyoti Bachani – GB, Business Statistics  
Saroja Subrahmanyam – GB, Marketing  
Berna Polat – GB,  
Andras Margitay-Becht – Economics

Dean Brian Jersky introduced the following new faculty in the School of Science:

Debjani Bhaduri – Chemistry  
Vidya Chandrasekaran – Biology  
Ramon Cruz – Physics  
Keith Garrison – Biology  
Eric Paul Katz – Biology  
Martin Leach – Math  
Rena Levitt – Math  
Carole McKindley-Alvarez – Psychology  
Jeffrey Mock – Math  
Hossam Mohamed-Aly – Math  
Christina Morales – Biology  
Christine N.S. Willis – Psychology

Dean Tom Carter introduced the following new Librarian:

Sarah Vital.

Dean Nancy Sorensen introduced the following new faculty in the School of Education:

Sawako Suzuki – Educational Leadership

12. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. and all were invited to the new faculty reception immediately following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathe Michalosky  
Faculty Governance Coordinator