

Minutes of the Academic Senate January 14, 2009

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brother Charles Hilken at 9:00 a.m. on January 14, 2009. Roll was taken and the following Senators were present: Chairperson Brother Charles Hilken, David Alvarez, David Bowen, Jerry Brunetti, Zach Flanagan, Marty Rokeach, Ed Tywoniak, and Parliamentarian Valerie Burke. Absent were Vice Chairperson Tom Poundstone, Past Chairperson Carla Bossard, and Gerry Capriulo.

Also present were: Vice President Michael Beseda, CTO Ed Biglin, Dean Tom Carter, Provost Beth Dobkin, Dean Brian Jersky, Dean Frank Murray, Jim Sauerberg, Associate Dean Chris Sindt, Elizabeth Smith, Dean Russ Tiberii, Ted Tsukahara, Leslie Welty, and Dean Steve Woolpert.

2. Minutes of the December 4, 2008 Academic Senate were approved unanimously by voice vote.

REPORTS

3. Chairperson's Report – Chair Brother Charles announced that the CCTF will hold various open meetings throughout January to discuss the learning goals and the assumptions. Chair Brother Charles encouraged the Senators to attend the meetings whenever possible.

4. Provost Updates – Provost Dobkin reported that the Technology Advisory Committee has met. They are addressing the recommendations made by the consultant, looking at outsourcing email for students, web calendaring systems, and developing a new password policy.

She reported that she has developed a new committee, the Provost's Facilities Planning Committee. The committee is designed to prioritize major renovations, coordinate activities between maintenance and renovations, as well as perform classroom, office and collaborative learning space audits and develop standards. Members of the committee will include Ed Biglin, Bill Sullivan, and Michael Viola.

Provost Dobkin also reported that she is in the process of creating a subcommittee of the dean's council, an academic affairs budget and planning committee. The membership will include academic deans, vice provost, Senate chair, and chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee. The purpose of the committee will be to determine strategically how to manage budget reductions and reallocations.

5. Graduate & Professional Studies Educational Policies Committee (GPSEPC) – Senator Brunetti reported, as liaison to the GPSEPC, that a proposal to discontinue the Graduate Liberal Studies program is currently being considered. The GPSEPC is using the newly approved Guidelines for Discontinuance of a Department or Program, however the guidelines do not include the criteria for making a judgment. The GPSEPC developed the following criteria for consideration: quality of the program, centrality to the mission, demand, effectiveness and efficiency of the program. The GPSEPC spent many hours meeting together, with individuals involved with the program (Provost Dobkin, Program Director Jeanne Foster, Laura Heid as the PRC member involved with the last review, and Dean Woolpert and Associate Dean Chris Sindt of SOLA) and an open faculty forum was held on February 12. The GLS program has

had a major effect on many students and faculty. The program had suspended admission for two years prior to the proposal to discontinue. The dean and the program director make that determination without faculty input. It is the opinion of the GPSEPC that the proposal was received too late in the process. Any positive ideas or considerations that may perhaps make a program viable do not take place. The GPSEPC may bring to the Senate a recommendation that the process be amended to allow faculty input at the point the suspension is proposed.

Senator Brunetti reported that there is a great difference between graduate and undergraduate programs and the way in which the costs are shared across programs and departments. The GPSEPC has found that there is insufficient consideration regarding budgetary issues when the PRC performs the program review. The GLS program is found to be a great program and central to the mission of the College, however, the reasons provided for the discontinuance are related to finances. A recommendation regarding the proposal to discontinue the GLS program will be coming forward from the GPSEPC to the Senate in February.

6. Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC) – Jim Sauerberg reported that the priority business item for the FWC work in the fall is employee benefits. The budget committee has completed its work for the 2009-10 budget and it has been forwarded to the Trustees for approval. Once the budget is accepted, the next task for FWC in the spring will be to set the salary scale for the next year. Deliberations continue regarding the salary policy, however, given the economic times, there is not much leverage on this issue.

The FWC will work with the Provost regarding an annual reporting procedure for faculty. The Provost is looking for a general accounting of faculty time and commitment.

7. Undergraduate Educational Policies Committee (UEPC) – Senator Tywoniak reported that the UEPC last met on November 24, 2008 and discussed the Core Curriculum models with members of the Core Curriculum Task Force. A proposal for a new course, Economics 176 - Multinational Enterprises, was approved by a vote of 10-0. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9th.

8. College Promotional Designs – Vice President Michael Beseda and Elizabeth Smith made a presentation regarding a proposed new SMC logo and a position statement. The Building on Strengths Strategic Plan called on the college to develop an institutional marketing plan. The committee has been thinking about ways to promote and articulate the strengths of SMC. This is an ongoing effort, but a key component is how we express our identity. A design firm was hired and, in collaboration with campus feedback, recommendations were developed. Aspirations from the project were to clearly define SMC, represent academic strengths locally and nationally, to show we are globally aware and engaged and diverse. A slide presentation demonstrated plans for the logo and marketing strategies. Vice President Beseda said one of the key strengths of SMC brand distinction is “great books.”

Vice President Beseda added that the following positioning statement does not replace the Mission Statement. The Mission Statement is the source document.

The Positioning Statement, Clarifying Core Values

The Saint Mary’s College of California experience inspires learning that lasts.

The College's rigorous education engages intellect and spirit while awakening the desire to transform society. We are all learners here-together, working to understand and shape the world.

Our community is centered on a set of beliefs:

- We believe that conversations, focused on essential questions and classic texts, foster advanced critical thinking and ignite a lifelong passion for learning.
- We believe we transform ourselves and society through excellent teaching, scholarship and service.
- And, we believe that the essential human dialogue between faith and reason nurtures each person along a spiritual journey.

A copy of the presentation, "Expression of Identity Recommendations" is available in the office of the Academic Senate or through the office of the Vice Provost of Enrollment/Vice President for College Communications.

He encouraged faculty to review the information on the web site and submit feedback to him.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Committee on Committees (CoC) Handbook Revisions – Jim Sauerberg introduced the proposed revisions to the Faculty Handbook on behalf of Tom Poundstone, Chair of the CoC. A motion was made by Senator Flanagin and **SECONDED** by Senator Bowen to accept the revisions.

Jim Sauerberg explained that the purpose of the proposed revisions to Faculty Handbook section 1.6.1.2.6, Faculty Governance Coordinator (FGC) is to update and clarify the role of the Faculty Governance Coordinator position, as the position has evolved over time. CoC members serve two-year terms; one-half of the committee is replaced each year, including the CoC chair. The Faculty Governance Coordinator has been added as a member of the CoC, providing continuity and the institutional history of the committee structure. This change affects FH section 1.7.4.3, The Committee on Committees (membership portion) as well as FH section 1.6.1.2.6, Faculty Governance Coordinator.

Revisions proposed to FH section 1.6.1.1, Faculty Elections update the Faculty Handbook to current procedures and the role of the Faculty Governance Coordinator in the faculty election process.

Additional changes were proposed in order to clarify the Senate liaisons positions as follows (FH sections 1.7.4.2, 1.7.4.5, 1.7.4.6, 1.7.4.7, and 1.7.4.8):

- Specify terms as one year, renewable terms.
- Specify the voting rights of the Senate liaisons on each committee.
- Specify how and when the chairs of FWC, PRC, and AARC are selected.

Chair Brother Charles said this is continued work to fully implement the changes made to the faculty governance structure. Senator Brunetti raised the following concerns that will be forwarded to the CoC for consideration:

- The FWC does not have a designated graduate faculty representative.

- Should the Senate liaisons be restricted to tenured Senators?

The motion to accept the Faculty Handbook revisions was approved unanimously by voice vote.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathe Michalosky
Faculty Governance Coordinator