1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Cortright at 3:00 p.m. on October 21, 2010. Roll was called and the following Senators were present: Chair Steve Cortright, Vice Chair Tomas Gomez-Arias, Past Chair Tom Poundstone, Keith Ogawa, Michael Barram, Laura Heid, Sam Lind, David Bird, William Lee, and Parliamentarian Joseph Zepeda. Absent was Joan Peterson.

Also present were: Sam Agronow, Vice President Michael Beseda, Interim Dean Jerry Brunetti, Dean Tom Carter, Karen Cowman, Associate Dean Larisa Genin, Staci Hamaguchi, Craig Johnson, Chris Jones, Dean Zhan Li, Athletic Director Mark Orr, Barbara McGraw, Deepak Sawhney, Associate Dean Chris Sindt, Ted Tsukahara, Sharon Walters, Interim Dean Roy Wensley, and Dean Steve Woolpert.

2. Minutes of the September 30, 2010 meeting were approved as submitted.

REPORTS

3. Chairperson’s Report – Chair Cortright introduced William Lee as the Senator from the School of Economics and Business Administration to replace Senator Phil Perry (retired) for the remainder of the 2010-2011 academic year. A written chair’s report was submitted (copy attached). Chair Cortright announced that Professor Jyoti Bachani of Graduate Business has agreed to serve on the Library Committee.

Chair Cortright reported that at the joint meeting of the Senate/CCIC/UEPC in August, it was decided that as a protocol, the chairs would consult with one another regarding amendments to Model 1, or other matters requiring attention by the Senate in regard to the issues coming forward from the Core Curriculum Implementation Committee (CCIC). A proposal will be coming to the Senate for the November 11th meeting proposing an amendment to Model 1. The proposed amendments should make implementation easier from the students’ perspective. He asked all Senators available to attend the executive meeting scheduled for November 2nd from 3-4 p.m. to meet with members of the CCIC. The calendar of events relative to the Core Curriculum revision implementation is contained in the Chair’s report.

4. Consent Agenda - The Consent Agenda contained two items of business forwarded to the Senate from the Undergraduate Educational Policies Committee (UEPC): 2+2 Pre-Nursing Curriculum Amendment and the addition of .25 credit capstone course requirement for Spanish and French majors. Both items were accepted on the consent agenda without objection.

5. Report to Board of Trustees – Past Chair Poundstone reported as the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees. A full written report was issued and is on file in the Office of the Academic Senate. As the faculty representative, he attended the Academic Affairs subcommittee meeting. He summarized his report to the Trustees on two issues: the faculty desire to restore the pension contributions and the Senate-proposed Preamble to the Speaker Policy. Past Chair Poundstone noted that the Board of Trustees was unaware of the proposed Preamble, as President Brother Ronald Gallagher had not forwarded the issue to the Board. Following is a brief summary of Past Chair Poundstone’s report:
Past Chair Poundstone reported that the Senate passed a resolution submitted from the Faculty Welfare Committee which calls for an immediate restoration of the pension contribution to the traditional 8.25% level and to provide a long term plan for a 10% contribution level, which is the nationwide average. Looking back there is no doubt significant cuts had to be made in 2008. The question before us is, based on our retrospective analysis of this past crisis, what should be preserved and what should be cut in the next crisis? He referred to analysis supplied by both the AAUP and Academe: Of the 1136 institutions of higher education reporting to Academe, 75 percent left their retirement contributions unchanged, 12 percent of the reporting colleges increased their contributions while 13 percent made cuts. The fact that 87 percent of the nation’s colleges and universities chose not to reduce pension contributions says something about how they value the importance of this benefit. The placement of Saint Mary’s College at the very bottom of the national rankings lead Joel Burley, last year’s chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee, to state: “We stand out as an outlier among the outliers.” His statement has reached near proverbial status among the faculty. In preparation for future budget crises, he encouraged all involved in the budget process to recognize the imprudence of cutting in this particular area, and he encouraged a study of the paths chosen by other colleges.

Campus Speaker Policy - Past Chair Poundstone addressed the Trustees about the Campus Speaker Policy, which was crafted in collaboration with the Trustees last year. As an academic community, faculty are deeply concerned about some interpretations of the new policy which have resulted in restricted publicity and restricted access to what are now being called “campus events.” Presumably, this new category of “campus events,” is calculated to avoid triggering the review mechanism in the speaker policy and avoid pressure to deny or rescind invitations. This is an interpretation of the policy which the drafters did not envision. The manner in which the Speaker Policy was interpreted and implemented last spring has chilling effect on the campus. The Senate felt obligated to make it clear to all that the very Senators who drafted and approved the initial speaker policy have a very different understanding of how vigorously the free and open exchange of ideas needs to be defended. The Senate chose not to tinker with the protocols but to state in a revised preamble how the policy should be read. In its study of the best practices at other Catholic colleges, Senators found that their protocols are often similar to ours, but in their preambles and press releases they turn to quotations from leading figures in Catholic education. Their preambles define the guiding spirit by which the regulations should be implemented. The Senate wanted to see Saint Mary’s College give a vigorous defense rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition for the free and open exchange of ideas on a Catholic college campus.

Three quotations were selected from leading Catholic educators: the first quotation is from Fr. Ted Hesburgh, the legendary president of Notre Dame who helped define what a Catholic college can be in the modern world. The second is from Bro. Ronald in his defense of why the invitation to Bill Ayers should stand. The third quotation (which is cited by the University of San Francisco) is from Cardinal Newman, whose The Idea of a University is a classic read in part by our Seminar students.

The faculty take great pride in the statement from Bro. Ronald, especially his rooting the response in SMC’s Great Books tradition. He writes, “As a College with a Great Books tradition, we have a responsibility to defend the rights of those with controversial viewpoints to speak. To live up to our great tradition, we must remain an academic community where the free and open discussion of ideas, even those with which we strongly disagree, is possible.” In short, faculty think it important to root this vigorous defense for an open discussion of ideas firmly in the three traditions of the college. Those who would argue in favor of censorship would be asked to encounter the traditions as presented in these three quotations. Occasionally the President will be pressured to deny or rescind a requested invitation. In almost all situations the President is called to defend academic freedom and explain the basic
educational mission of a Catholic college and the unique role of universities as a place for ideas to be exchanged while also making clear to all that invitations do not represent endorsements.

He encouraged the Board to approve the new preamble to the speaker policy, with all three of its quotes, as defining the guiding spirit for how the protocols of the policy should be implemented.

6. Undergraduate Educational Policies Committee (UEPC) – Chair Cortright reported as Senate liaison to the UEPC. A written report is included in the Chair’s report (attached). Matters coming from the Core Curriculum Implementation Committee (CCIC) will dominate the future UEPC agendas. The UEPC began discussion of the proposal from the Art/Art History Department for a reorganization of the major.

7. Admissions and Academic Regulations Committee (AARC) - Senator Bird reported as the Senate liaison to the AARC. The AARC met on October 20, 2010. Following are the current issues before the AARC:
- The creation of a subcommittee (Academic Advising Subgroup) to address issues related to the AARC’s new responsibility of academic advising;
- Assessment of the First Year Advising Cohort program: AARC is awaiting the results of a survey conducted last year;
- Graduation protocols: AARC will visit students’ “walking” at graduation while as many as three courses shy of completion of a degree; assessment of the Summer School program and its success with degree completion will be an important part of the discussion, which will focus on increasing 4- and 5-year graduation rates;
- Progress at increasing the depth of the freshmen applicant pool;
- Questions of attrition, retention and academic probation.

Senator Bird announced that AARC Chair Jennifer Heung will be on sabbatical in the spring. Anna Novakov will take over Jennifer’s chair duties and Maria Pagliarini will join the AARC for the spring semester.

Many expressed questions/concerns regarding the number of students participating in graduation without the appropriate number of credits.

8. Athletic Department Yearly Report – Chair Cortright introduced Mark Orr, Athletic Director. Also present were Professor Craig Johnson, faculty athletic representative, and Staci Hamaguchi, Assistant Director of Athletics for Student Services. Professor Johnson is the athletic liaison with faculty and reports directly to the President on matters pertaining to athletics. Staci Hamaguchi works with the student athletes regarding academic support, academic performance, course scheduling, and works closely with faculty advisors to ensure academic progress.

Last year SMC participated in the accreditation process with the NCAA. The assessment focused on three topics: academic integrity, commitment to governance and rules compliance, and the well being of student athletes. One of the recommendations of the self-study was that the Athletic Director report annually to the Academic Senate. The college was certified for the next ten years.

Mark Orr reported on the following: the NCAA student graduation success rate at SMC is 88%. Overall GPA of all student athletes is 3.1. Retention for student athletes from last year to this year is 94%. SMC has over 300 student athletes, 9 on academic probation. Athletic Department staff work closely with transfer student athletes to ensure they meet NCAA eligibility and degree requirements. The Athletic Department tries to minimize the number of class meetings student athletes miss owing to
travel for competition. The Athletic Department is working to enhance community service activities among the athletes. Each team has a community service requirement. He encouraged faculty to notify the department of community service opportunities.

Responding to a question regarding the athletic budget, Mark Orr acknowledged that the Athletic department budget stands at about $12 million (ranking 7th in the division), including athletic grants in aid. The department has experienced budget reductions: the athletic budget has been cut approximately $500,000; additional reductions amounting to $250,000 are planned over the next five years.

Past Chair Poundstone said that the academic community occasionally needs to consider the possibilities of spending the $12 million in other areas of the college. It is important to raise that type of question. Mark Orr acknowledged that dialogue is important and that he welcomes any dialog on the subject. Athletics generated $4 million in revenue last year, the second largest in the WCC conference. Among SMC peers, we rank number seven in athletic expenditures and number two in athletic revenue.

9. Enrollment Report – Chair Cortright introduced Vice President Michael Beseda. Vice President Beseda reported that SMC is well into recruiting the class for midyear and next fall. Three factors drove the success for this fall’s enrollment: 1) a new, strategically focused recruitment campaign; 2) challenges for the public sector; and 3) success SMC enjoyed through athletics and the arts. Over the past two years, SMC took a strategic direction to change the profile of the entering class.

Closely tracking current visitors to the visitor center and the admissions staff shows substantial growth in the number of students showing interest in SMC. It is unknown what will happen in the public sector. Last year, the California State University system did not accept any mid-year students, but they have announced that they will accept students midyear this year. The State Assembly approved a bill to guarantee admission in fall of 2011 to community college students completing a transfer oriented AA degree.

On the side of freshmen enrollments, several factors may help shape classes in the immediate future: SMC’s largest challenge is its worn, aging infrastructure; budget models project a 4-1/2% tuition increase, but the Trustees are concerned that 4-1/2% is too high; retention rates may improve going forward, since SMC has experienced a change in the character of the entering class with the increase in honors students, who typically have a higher rate of retention.

Past Chair Poundstone asked: how is the discount rate this year?. Vice President Beseda answered that the national conversation has moved to average net tuition revenue, because colleges have different tuition rates. Over the last two years we have substantially reconfigured the aid packages being offered to students. Our discount rate dropped by 6% to 36.6% in the entering class. There is an opportunity to bring that number down farther.

Vice President Beseda explained that in the past SMC had a special admission process for high potential students, discounting the traditional academic factors to look at other factors in determining admission. This year the program has been changed, all students must be admitted through the regular admission process. Once admitted, students can apply for the High Potential Program. Senator Heid expressed concern about the reduced number of high potential student enrollment; it is contrary to the mission of the College and the Lasallian tradition. Vice President Beseda responded that the SMC student population has changed dramatically: high potential students are no longer the only group coming from underserved populations.
Vice Chair Gomez-Arias asked whether SMC has changed the size and structure of the financial aid packages, and whether it has been successful. Vice President Beseda answered that one strategic change that has been implemented was to introduce the Gael Scholars Award. It is targeted to a strong academic group: offering a $10,000 merit-based scholarship to families regardless of need can bring down the discount rate. It appears SMC has experienced some success.

Senator Ogawa asked what percentage of the honors at entrance students are coming from the underserved. Vice President Beseda explained that SMC honors and merit programs are distributed across socio-economic populations: they mirror the population as a whole. Nevertheless, there are not as many students of color in the honors programs as we would like.

Senator Lee requested that Associate Dean Chris Sindt be invited to report to the Senate on the expectations, trends, and forecasts of the nontraditional programs.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Cathe Michalosky
Announcements

Senate Membership

I am pleased to announce that Bill Lee, Professor of Economics and Chair of that department, has agreed to appointment to the Academic Senate’s SEBA seat, formally filled by Phil Perry. Professor Lee will serve through the balance of the present academic year, commencing with the General Meeting of 21 October. I wish publicly to extend my personal thanks, with those of the Senate and faculty at large, for Professor Lee’s willingness to serve at some real personal inconvenience.

Committee Memberships

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Jyoti Bachani to the seat reserved on the Library Committee for a ranked member of the graduate faculty. Professor Bachani will serve a two-year term, commencing immediately and terminating with the close AY 2011 – 12. Again, I wish to add personal thanks to those of the Senate and faculty at large for Professor Bachani’s generosity.

Remarks on the Agenda for 21 October, 2009

Reports

C. Past Academic Senate Chair, Tom Poundstone, will report on the October 14 – 15 meeting of the Board of Trustees, which produced the welcome responses to Br. Ronald’s recommendations for amendments to the 2010 – 11 operating budget that were reported in the Campus Bulletin for 18 October: restoration of the 8.25% contribution to TIAA-CREF; a 10% increase in the College’s contribution to health benefits; one-time salary relief for members of the staff. Faculty-Board relations are a key to the College’s negotiation of on-going volatility in the academic world, as in the economy at large. Senator Poundstone will take questions ad libidum from the Senate and the floor.

D. In my character as Senate liaison to the UEPC, I would report that apart from the Consent items noted on the Agenda, UEPC’s 11 October meeting produced the following actions of note to the Senate and Faculty at large:

- an ad hoc subcommittee of the UEPC is at work preparing up-dated guidance to the preparation of sabbatical proposals;
- on advice of the UEPC, the Chair approved an experimental course in Dance Anatomy and Kinesiology, to be offered under the auspices of the Department of Performing Arts;
- conditionally upon receipt of satisfactory answers to questions concerning review by the Dean, possible pre-requisites, and its place in the overall Department curriculum, UEPC advised the Chair to approve “Principles of Strength Training and Conditioning” as an experimental course in the Department of Kinesiology;
- UEPC deferred to the 1 November meeting action on proposed reorganization of the Art History major in the Department of Art and Arts History.
I would refer the Senators and the faculty at large to the final section of the present Chair’s Report, Prospective on Up-coming Agenda, where the calendar agreed—among the Chairs of CCIC, UEPC and the Senate—for action on the revised core undergraduate curriculum is detailed.

F. The yearly Report from the Athletic Department, postponed from the 30 September General Meeting, will be delivered by Athletic Director, Mark Orr, who will also take questions ad libidum from the Senate and the floor.

G. Vice Provost Michael Beseda will report on enrollments, viz.: on the record enrollments for Fall, 2010 which delivered much-needed budget relief, and on enrollment policy for the out-going years. It need hardly be said that enrollments are a key to stable College budgeting. See:


for a summary of the data with which the Vice Provost will be dealing. Again, questions ad libidum from the Senate and the floor will be entertained.

Prospective on Up-coming Agenda

CCIC is rapidly approaching the delivery of a set of crucial reports-cum-recommendations to the UEPC, which is in its turn preparing to send the resulting business to the Academic Senate, with dispatch. Lest, then, we be lulled by the “tranquility” of an October Agenda devoid of New and Old Business, I want to alert the Senate and the faculty at large to the wave of business impending as the CCIC moves (1) to propose the shape—the membership and the charge—of a permanent Core Curriculum Committee and (2) to propose the concrete learning outcomes that will motivate curricular decision-making by that new Committee, and as, in turn, the UEPC advances final language on these matters to the Senate.

Please note the following calendar, which has been agreed among the Senate Executive Committee, and the Chairs of the UEPC and CCIC. It details the timing and the sequencing of core curriculum business, from the adoption of proposed language in the CCIC, through proposals finalized by the UEPC, and finally to the initiation of a long process of final approval of the proposals—or their return for revision, to the UEPC—through votes in the Senate.

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### Table of Conferences

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<th>Rationales for Written &amp; Oral Communication; Artistic Understanding; Scientific Understanding; Common Good to UEPC.</th>
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<td>By Thurs., Nov. 18: CCC proposal to UEPC</td>
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<td>Mon., Nov. 1: review Outcomes &amp; Rationales--Critical Thinking; Shared Inquiry; Social, Historical &amp; Cultural Understanding</td>
<td>By Mon., Jan. 24: Final language, Pathways to Knowledge, Engaging the World, Habits of Mind, Goals, Outcomes, Rationales, with Comprehensive recommendation on Core plan, to Senate</td>
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<td>Mon., Nov. 22: report Charge &amp; Composition, Core Curriculum Committee to Senate</td>
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<td>Thurs., Feb. 10: Senate action on Learning Goals &amp; Outcomes begins &amp; continues as necessary through the March &amp; April Agenda.</td>
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**Senators and Faculty at Large:** Please note the Special General Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 12 (evening) and Wednesday, January 13 (noon hour). Senators, please plan for attendance as for a matter of senatorial duty. Please note also the November 22 meeting of the **UEPC** (Galileo 113, 8
3:30 – 5:30pm): this meeting will be devoted to a single agendum: a report and recommendation to the Senate on the composition and charge of the permanent Core Curriculum Committee; it is most desirable that as many Senators as possible attend the discussion. So, too, with the UEPC meetings of November 1, 10, and 22, devoted primarily to Learning Outcomes language under the Model 1 Goals. Reminders will be forthcoming from the Chair.

Senators, Committee Chairs, and Faculty at Large: Please note that the Senate Agenda for February (General Meeting the 10th), March (General Meetings the 3rd and 24th) and—possibly—April (General Meeting the 14th) will be dominated by Core Curriculum business of the highest importance. As the faculty is principally responsible for curricula, so the Senate must attend to Core implementation ahead of most occasional business. Kindly consider how action items arising in the ordinary course of governance may be timed for referral to the Executive Committee by November 2 (for the November 11th General Meeting), or January 4 (for the January 12th General Meeting).

Respectfully submitted,

S. A. Cortright, Chair
Academic Senate