CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, California 93407
ACADEMIC SENATE

MINUTES OF THE
ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
Tuesday, May 29 2012
UU220, 3:10 to 5:00pm

I. Minutes: none.


III. Special Reports: Faculty Trustee Bernadette Cheyne reported that when the position of faculty trustee on the CSU Board of Trustees (BOT) came up, after being vacant for two years, she submitted her name and received the appointment. The role of a faculty trustee on the board is important in that faculty has not been served by having an absence in that position for two years. The BOT is an exceptionally committed and caring group of people who have the best interest of the CSU at heart, but they do not have the experience of the campus life to understand what it means to spend day in and day out in the classroom with students and other faculty. An important aspect of this appointment is the ability to communicate the unique features of the campuses and what needs to be considered when the BOT looks at initiatives because they affect each campus differently. One of the messages received very clearly from this campus and other campuses is that when the BOT is looking at initiatives, it needs to consider the impact on individual campuses and it needs to bring in representatives of campuses very early in the process so when decisions are made their input is incorporated into the decision. When certain initiatives that have come down over the last couple of years have done so without input, we have all struggled to implement because information was not gathered earlier in the process. Another important part of being a faculty trustee is to gather as much information as possible, not just from campus visits, but also from any source that is available. The BOT members work under the Bagley-Keane and the Brown Act, which demands that any policy-making meetings must be public meetings. It cannot get together in small groups and chat. It cannot have email dialogues because they are not public and by law, they must be public. This influences how the BOT does its business. Approximately 10 days before a meeting, the agenda is prepared and the experts, who have done all the footwork and have put together a presentation, present the board with a recommendation of what it ought to do. Budget is a huge issue and everyone is aware of the some of the possibilities that the BOT is looking at in terms of strategies it might employ to deal with the budget situation. Most recently we received the news that the chancellor has decided to retire and we are in the search for a new chancellor, which is going to be an interesting opportunity for the system. This is not a criticism of Chancellor Reed but a recognition that with a new chancellor will come a new way of doing business and in that lays certain possibilities in terms of the future of the CSU.
III. Consent Agenda: BIO 123 – Biology of Sex and ES/WGS 351 – Global Engineering: Gender, Race, Class, Nation, was approved. A resolution commending Rachel Fernflores for her loyal and dedicated service as Chair of the Academic Senate was presented by Steve Rein and approved by consensus.

IV. Business Item(s):
A. Resolution on e-Learning Policy (Online Education Task Force): Fernflores presented this resolution, which requests that the Academic Senate adopt the attached policy on eLearning. M/S/P to approve the resolution.

B. Resolution on Proposed New Degree Program: Bachelor of Art in Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies (Curriculum Committee): Gillette presented this resolution, which requests that the Academic Senate approve the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies degree program. M/S/P to approve the resolution.

C. Resolution on Retention, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT Task Force): Fernflores presented this resolution, which requests that the Provost charge all departments and colleges to review and approve RPT guidelines in a discipline-specific manner including the Teacher-Scholar Model. M/S/P to approve the resolution.

V. Regular Reports:
A. Academic Senate Chair: Fernflores thanked everyone for their support and for allowing her the opportunity to serve as chair of the Academic Senate.

B. President’s Office: Kinsley mentioned that it has been a pleasure to work with the Academic Senate.

C. Provost: Enz Finken thanked everyone for their work on the many committees.

D. Vice Provost for Student Affairs: none.

E. Statewide Senate: LoCascio reported that the last unfinished business for his statewide committee is the transfer model for engineering students.

F. CFA Campus President: none.

G. ASI Representative: Tabrizi reported that students are requesting that the Student Success Fee Committee allocate funds to increase class ability.

VII. Discussion Item(s): none.

VIII. Adjournment: 5:00 pm

Submitted by:

Gladys Gregory
Academic Senate