I. Minutes: Minutes for the Academic Senate meeting of October 8 2013 were approved as presented.

II. Communication(s) and Announcement(s):

III. Reports:

A. **Academic Senate Chair:** (Rein) An additional item will be added to the agenda—President Armstrong will be attending the Senate at 4:30. Please be brief in your comments so we can conclude business by 4:30.

The Chancellor’s Office has not yet rendered a decision on the matter of quarters/semesters at the four campuses that are currently on quarter systems (two of six quarter campuses are presently transitioning to semesters). With Jim LoCascio’s assistance, Cal Poly, through ASI and the Senate, will be writing a one-page document stating reasons why a quarter system is more beneficial for student outcomes. This document will come to the Senate for its approval.

The November 19 meeting will have several special reports from various campus constituents as well as a visiting representative from the Chancellor’s Office. A final Senate meeting on December 3 will probably be needed.

B. **President’s Office (4:30pm):** (Armstrong) I have been in communication with the Chancellor regarding quarters/semesters and nothing has changed since spring. I feel flexibility is important and quarters are a lot more flexible than semesters. It’s important to keep discussing this, then we can step back and be better informed about the decisions we have to make in the future. We will all be behind a common vision and can determine the action steps needed to get there. We’ll keep focused on what is essential for our faculty, students, and staff.

(Thomcroft) According to Article 31.14 of the Contract, after Equity II is paid out, which has happened, the presidents of the CSU campuses can institute Equity III (unofficial title), providing additional funds to deal with either salary compaction or inversion, but not limited to those. Are you considering instituting an Equity III? (Armstrong) I have not discussed Equity III. I haven’t been in those discussions. I believe our ability to reward our faculty and staff is very critical for the future and we need to be able to do this at Cal Poly in a way consistent with where we are going. I’ll be happy to look into Equity III and see what we can do. In the short run, it comes down to available funding.

(Hurley) In regards to the additional administrative hiring occurring to provide additional services to students, I’m wondering if we’re going in the direction of becoming a “helicopter” institution? When are the services we’re providing enough? (Armstrong) I’m not sure what administrators you’re referring to as providing services. But let me make a broad comment. I do know that in the case of student counseling and health, when I first arrived and we looked at the ratio of our counselors to students and the hours we were providing our students, we were way below “best practice.” So we have worked to increase that, adding additional people and hours through Student Success Fee monies. (Enz Finken) This is a very complex issue. There are regulations that require certain resources be provided, like disability resources, which were not required 10 or
20 years ago. In Financial Aid or the Registrar’s Office, we are very thinly staffed. So we may be adding staff, but in every area it would be for different reasons. (Armstrong) There is a clear indication that increasing activity in the Student Affairs area increases graduation rates.

(Jankowitz) Are there any plans to admit more of our local, qualified residents and are we still working with Cuesta College to facilitate transfer students? (Armstrong) We do give additional credit in our admissions process for individuals in a geographical area. One way to accommodate more local admissions is to grow but not to the point that we impact our ability to offer excellent student-focused, learn-by-doing education. We will be having a lot more discussions regarding our pattern of growth and what levels make sense. We will be re-evaluating our Master Plan but will continue to implement the plan we have now. In regards to transfer students, we cannot give preferential treatment to any junior college, but I believe we had a record number of transfers from Cuesta College this year.

(LoCascio) Who is liable if we open a pub on campus and someone leaves the pub and gets in trouble? (Armstrong) No one is immune from liability. Everyone is liable. This matter is still being discussed and needs a lot more discussion.

C. Provost: (Enz Finken) Academic Affairs is presently focusing on long-term budget planning. We would like to develop five-year plans that include enrollment targets, faculty hiring, staffing needs, and facilities usage. We need participation from faculty and department chairs as to how many students the department has, how many are graduating, how many students are needed, etc. We want to bring chairs together with deans for some training so everyone understands what data is available, how to read and understand it, and how to develop projections using the data. We hope to have preliminary numbers ready before the holidays in December.

D. Vice President for Student Affairs: (Preston Allen attended in place of Keith Humphrey) A meeting among Student Affairs staff was held. It was an inspirational meeting and a new synergy will be evident within Student Affairs.

E. Statewide Senate: (LoCascio) A meeting is scheduled in Long Beach next week. We will try to reverse Title 5 to its 2001 version when Engineering was exempt from the 180-unit cap and allowed 198 units for its programs. We’re also talking about Cal State Online and master’s degrees in the CSU.

F. CFA Campus President: (Thorncroft) Sunshine proposals have been submitted signaling the unofficial beginning of bargaining for the year. CFA would like to start negotiating non-budget-based items immediately but it appears CSU would like to wait until Governor Brown’s proposal is available.

G. ASI: (Colombini) ASI is looking at a greenovation fund of about $1500, which could be used for sustainability efforts on campus. We’ve almost completed a proposal to have a tee shirt exchange on February 14 2014. If you bring in a tee shirt from another university, we’ll exchange that tee shirt for a Cal Poly tee shirt. The UU Plaza and UU Union are now playing music from KCPR during the middle of the day. ASI received 1300 responses to its Let Your Voice Be Heard survey in its first day.

IV. Special Reports:

Report on budget: Stan Nosek, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance, Victor Brancart, Director for Budget and Analytic Business Services, and Sam Frame, chair of the Budget and Long Range Planning Committee, spoke on aspects of the campus budget and the efforts of Budget and Analytic Business Services to provide “transparency” in the budget process. Timelines for state and campus budgets, enrollment targets, mandatory costs, and the loss of system-wide funding since 2007 were
reviewed. In 2007, the CSU was receiving almost $3 billion. In 2012, it was receiving about $2 billion. [See Campus Conversations: Cal Poly’s Budget Today and Moving Forward at http://academicsenate.wcms.calpoly.edu/content/2013-2014-meeting-calendar] When a budget is prepared, some guessestimating is required because amounts expected are never certain. Some discretionary funds have to be held back in case enrollment projections for the coming year aren’t fully funded. With one-time monies (left over monies from the previous year) we determine what the highest priorities are, such as critical classes, and allocate funds to critical needs as prioritized.

(Frame) An online collaboration with faculty is presently underway to get input relating to budget transparency. Interested faculty should contact Sam Frame directly. (Enz Finken) We want to gather sets of data across all the colleges—how are funds used in each college, how colleges determine their priorities, etc.—that will provide a framework for each college budget as well as metrics between colleges. This will be presented to the deans at a joint meeting. We are looking for best practices and creative ideas to help develop a long-term model for budget allocations across campus. The underlying goal of these exercises is to find a model that fits the needs of every college.

V. Consent Agenda: none.

VI. Business Item(s):

A. Resolution on Dissolving the Academic Senate Curriculum Graduate Subcommittee:
Schaffner, chair of the Curriculum Committee, second reading: (Schaffner) In 2011 the Curriculum Graduate Subcommittee was proposed to add more rigor to the review of graduate programs. However, having this subcommittee in place during last year’s review slowed down the process and created much chaos. The Curriculum Committee now has direct participation from Graduate Programs through its Director of Graduate Programs who sits on the Curriculum Committee. Eliminating the subcommittee will streamline the review process. M/S/P to approve the resolution.

B. Resolution on Proposal for the Establishment of the Kenneth N. Edwards Western Coatings Technology Center: Ray Fernando, Chemistry & BC Department, second reading: (Fernando) The polymers area (the science of coatings) has basically been functioning as a center for 13 years. The name of the center has already been approved by the CSU even before its formal establishment on campus. Formalizing this area as a center enhances its relationship to industry in several ways: a larger portion of the industry will come to Cal Poly for research and coatings testing, more faculty and students will be engaged in joint research, more internships will be made available, increased funding from industry. M/S/P to approve the resolution.

C. Resolution on Increasing the Number of Annual Distinguished Scholarship Awards from Two to Three: Brett Bodemer, chair of the Distinguished Scholarship Awards Committee, first reading: (Bodemer) We have been hiring more faculty doing quality research as well as increasing research opportunities. Increasing the number of awards to three is a way of recognizing the number of faculty doing excellent research. (Enz Finken) The amount of the award may be increased as well. The resolution will be agendized for the next Academic Senate meeting as a second reading item.

VII. Discussion Item(s): none.

VIII. Adjournment: 5:02pm

Submitted by,

Margaret Camuso, Academic Senate