

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 3/10/2011**  
**Minutes of Meeting of February 10, 2011**  
Oviatt Library Presentation Room

Faculty President Stepanek called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: Michael Bennett (excused), John Binkley (excused), Gabriela Chavira (excused), Hillary Hertzog, Greg Knotts, Timothy Karels, Conor Lansdale, Breny Mendoza (excused), Kristy Michaud (excused), Theresa Montano (excused), Ken Ng (excused), Dat-dao Nguyen (excused), Daniel Odom, Janet Oh (excused), Steven Oppenheimer, Merril Simon (excused), Sally Spencer (excused)

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for December 9, 2010](#) were approved as distributed.

**1. Announcements**

- a. The Valley Performing Arts Center had a very successful inaugural gala for their grand opening on January 29, 2011. The Spring season began on February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- b. On Friday, April 22, 2011, there will be a faculty-sponsored campus symposium on the future of higher education. Chancellor Charles Reed will be the keynote opening speaker. The organizing committee members are M. Hoggan (Chair), S. Chong, C. Spector, C. Shubin, M. Williams, C. Lansdale, M. Spagna and S. Stepanek.
- c. Faculty award nominations are due on February 21<sup>st</sup>; supporting materials are due on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers to serve on the selection committees needed; interested faculty should contact Stepanek or the Senate Office, X3263.
- d. Faculty Retreat sweatshirts are available for sale in the Senate Office for \$25.00.
- e. Next year's Freshman Common Reading book is, "*The Glass Castle: A Memoir*," by Jeannette Walls. Free complimentary copies of the book are available to faculty and staff who will use the book in the classroom or will discuss the book with students; contact Cheryl Spector at [cheryl.spector@csun.edu](mailto:cheryl.spector@csun.edu).

**2. Elect Replacement for Beth Phillips (Senator-at-Large) for Spring 2011**

Two faculty members were previously nominated to replace Beth Phillips as a Senator-at-Large. A secret ballot election was held and Yi "Tom" Cai (Family Consumer Sciences) was elected to complete Phillips' term that ends in Spring 2011.

### 3. **Faculty Elections: Nominations for Faculty Officers, Statewide Academic Senator and Senators-at-Large; recommendations for Standing Committee Representatives**

The following nominations were made by Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and/or the Senate:

**Vice President:** Shane Frehlich

**Secretary:** Cecile Bendavid, April Taylor

**Statewide Academic Senators:** Michael Hoggan, Ashley Skylar, Wayne Smith, Steven Stepanek

**Senators-at-Large:** Michael Barrett, Tracy Buenavista, Mary Curren, Herman DeBose, Shane Frehlich, Michael Hoggan, Sharon Klein, Jared Rappaport, Mary Schaffer, Mark Sergi, Carol Shubin, Cheryl Spector, April Taylor, Rishma Vedd

Recommendations for the Standing Committees were also made by the Senate. Faculty can make additional nominations by a petition signed by 15 members of the faculty due in the Senate Office by February 23. The election slate will be approved by SEC at its next meeting.

### 4. **Improving Communications with Student Athletes**

Tina Kiesler, Faculty Athletics Representative

Kiesler, a faculty member in the College of Business, is the Faculty Athletics representative for CSU, Northridge. Her role is to oversee NCAA compliance, student-athlete well being, and academic integrity. She serves as the liaison between the student athletes and faculty to discuss academic concerns.

Kiesler reported that our student athletes stay well connected in the community by serving as ambassadors. Student athletes are encouraged to schedule their courses with a goal of minimizing missed classes. Kiesler reminded the Senate about the policy titled, Missed Classes Due to Participation in University-Approved Activities, approved in 2005. Students are required to submit a missed class letter to their professor at the beginning of the semester; the letter requires the professor's signature. Students are encouraged to have a conversation with their professor preferably during the instructor's office hours.

During week eight, advisors contact faculty to request an academic progress report. Students not doing well are channeled into tutoring or other academic assistance. This is very important to keep the students on track with their academic responsibilities. Student athletes' GPAs have improved; in fact, 25% of the sixteen teams (including both indoor and outdoor athletic teams, excluding Men's Basketball) have earned a team GPA's of 3.0 and above; 75% of the teams have 2.7 or higher GPAs.

Lastly, Kiesler reported that Athletics has developed a new program called the Athletics Campus Community Liaison Program (CLLP). It is an attempt to build spirit on campus and get faculty and community members connected to the teams. One faculty advisor per team would support the coaches and student-athletes to create a relationship for students to receive mentoring and advisement. Faculty interested in getting involved should contact Kiesler.

Based on suggestions from one of the senators, Kiesler indicated that CCLP very well could be expanded to include staff as well.

## 5. **Collaboration Makes a Difference**

William Watkins, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Anne Glavin, Chief of Police Services

Mark Stevens, Director of University Counseling

Tim Trevan, Director of Student Housing

Vice President Watkins and other campus leaders were invited to talk about how a potential tragedy on this campus was averted because of outstanding collaboration across campus units. Immediate action was taken to address a very serious set of circumstances.

Trevan talked about how Student Housing becomes aware of student concerns through resident advisors, community directors, facility/administrative staff, faculty, students and campus police. Information is cross referenced through a series of meetings within Student Housing and between Counseling Services and Police Services. A welfare check may be requested by an individual, sometimes by a parent, who is concerned about a student's well-being. Intervention may include a conversation, a referral for counseling, or sometime require an immediate action by the Health Center, Counseling Services or Police Services.

When a student is referred, Stevens explained that Counseling Services must consider the safety of the student as well as the safety of the community. This may include contacting parents, hospitals, and the campus police. Intended victims must be informed of a threat so a safety plan can be established. Stevens emphasized that having a feedback loop is very important. In this current culture, counselors are inclined to err on the side of protecting the safety of the student and the community first.

Glavin detailed how Police Services evaluates a mental health situation. She said that safety plans are prepared to make sure threatened individuals feel safe. The proper implementation of an intervention at the right time does make a big difference on the outcome. She encouraged the Senators to take advantage of the available resources on this campus when dealing with student concerns and threats.

## 6. **President's Report – Jolene Koester**

President Koester reported on the following:

- a. **Budget** – Governor Brown's budget proposal for 2011-12 includes a \$500 million reduction to the CSU. This is a best-case scenario. If the proposed tax extensions do not pass in June, there is projected to be an additional \$500 million reduction.

Chancellor Reed has asked the campus presidents to engage in conversation about how the budget reductions will be handled; planning for a system wide budget cut of approximately \$300 million (which is the Governor's proposed \$500 million cut net of tuition fee increases and converting one-time money for enrollment from Federal stimulus funds to permanent base budget from the state). The usual share for Cal State Northridge is seven percent, which means a probable \$21 million cut to Cal State Northridge, plus additional reductions for mandatory cost increases.

Cal State Northridge went into the 2010-11 fiscal year with a plan to manage a budget reduction of \$22 million, which included a five percent budget cut for each division. However, we did not need to implement that plan in 2010-11 because the CSU received additional funds from the state in the budget bill passed at the end of September. With these additional funds, we increased our campus reserves, committed to new faculty searches, and used one-time money for one-time expenditures.

Because of this prior planning, we have a basic plan already in place to handle our share of the \$500 million cut. Our campus is further working on plans to deal with larger budget cuts in the event there are no tax extensions. During their visits to each of the colleges, President Koester and Provost Hellenbrand are providing more detailed reports on the Governor's budget recommendations.

- b. **Faculty Hiring** – More than 100 new tenure-track faculty searches are currently underway. Compared with other CSU campuses, we are well below the mean in terms of the ratio of full-time tenured and tenure track faculty members to students. We have hired very few new faculty members for the past two years and hired very minimally in the years before that. We have had a significant number of retirements and have not hired at the same pace. So, even though the hiring of this large number of faculty is associated with some risk, it is risk the President and Provost are willing to take.
- c. **Valley Performing Arts Center Inaugural Gala** – About 1,500 people attended the Valley Performing Arts Center's Inaugural Gala event on January 29, 2011. This was a first-class event, paying close attention to all the details from the style of the invitations to the selection of performances. The event was exceptional and we received an enormous amount of positive publicity. One purpose of putting on this event was to break through the consciousness of Los Angeles area community leaders and elected officials who more typically focus their attention on USC and UCLA. Ticket sales for the inaugural season are quite robust; two shows for the spring season have already sold out with a third almost sold out. President Koester encouraged the Senators to attend shows this spring.

## 7. Senate Reports

- a. **Provost's Report** – Jerry Luedders, Assistant Provost of Academic Affairs  
Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/provostsreport021011.pdf>

Luedders mentioned that we expect to be at or above our FTES target this Spring. We anticipate having a higher target next year but since we will be hiring more faculty it should not affect the student-faculty ratio. He thanked faculty, chairs and advisers for doing a remarkable job in assisting students these past few years in the midst of our budget problems. The Provost is reviewing the College budget plans; a draft of Academic Affairs budget plan will be moving through the normal governance process soon.

b. **CFA Report** – Cecile Bendavid, CFA Officer

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport021011.pdf>

Bendavid reported that we are now in bargaining negotiations with the CSU. CFA members are holding informal discussions in the Colleagues Room (Sierra Center) and they are visiting departments. CFA will host an Arizona Educators Day on Tuesday, March 29, 2011. April 13, 2011 will be the next statewide day of action to promote and protect quality education in the CSU.

c. **Statewide Academic Senate Report** – Steven Stepanek

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/sasreport021011.pdf>

Stepanek brought attention to the new resolutions (bottom of page 1 of the report). He also mentioned that a few amendments to the ASCSU Bylaws with regard to the structure for electing officers are being considered.

Faculty President Stepanek is one of four individuals being considered for a two-year term as Faculty Trustee. At least two names will be selected by the ASCSU to send to the Governor for final selection.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Submitted by:

Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary

Sandra Chong, Secretary of the Faculty