

FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved 3/8/2012
Minutes of Meeting of December 1, 2011
Jack and Florence Ferman Presentation Room

Faculty President Stepanek called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were: Michael Bennett, Douglas Carranza, Gabriela Chavira (excused), Daniel Cutcher, Claudia Fajardo-Lira, Abel Franco, Nicholas Habib, Terri Lisagor (excused), Jennifer Matos (excused), Patricia Miller, Daniel Odom, Janet Oh (excused), Kathleen Rowlands (excused), Ashley Skylar (excused), Cheryl Spector (excused), Mary-Pat Stein (excused), April Taylor (excused), Steven Thachuk, Jeff Wiegley, Dianah Wynter

The Faculty Senate [Minutes for October 27, 2011](#) were approved as distributed.

1. Announcements

- a. The Faculty Retreat is on January 17-18, 2012. Senators were reminder to register by December 9, 2011. A link to register is on the Faculty Senate website. The Athletics Department donated men's basketball tickets to raffle as door prizes; some tickets for games being played before January 17 were made available for interested Senators.

2. Policy Items – Educational Policies Committee

Don Brownlee, Chair of EPC

First Reading - [Basic Skills Policy](#)

The intent of this policy revision is to enhance the rate at which students pass the needed general education courses by requiring students be continuously enrolled in their GE analytical reading and writing courses and GE mathematics courses until they have passed the courses. All four sections of GE Basic Skills coursework must be completed by students within their first 60 units.

First Reading – [Undergraduate Academic Internship Policy](#)

Brownlee explained that many of the changes to this policy are to bring us in compliance with risk management policies. It is also an attempt to make internships affordable to the Colleges by reducing contact hours. Simon, chair of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC), added that GSC is discussing changes to the Graduate Internship Policy.

These two policy revisions will come back to the Senate for a vote in Spring 2012.

3. Online and Hybrid Course Policy Update/Online Course Student Readiness Survey/Syllabus Generator

Sue Cullen, Universal Design Center

Steven Stepanek, Advisory Committee on Academic Technology

Stepanek, reporting for Skylar, stated that Ashley Skylar, chair of the Academic Technology Committee, could not attend today's meeting. Stepanek reported that starting in Spring 2013, the new online and hybrid course definitions will be available to designate courses in SOLAR. Until this time, faculty were encouraged to use the new definitions in their SOLAR course notes and on their course syllabus to define fully online, campus online, or hybrid online course formats. Suggested wording for inclusion on course syllabi was included in a handout. Stepanek also shared an online readiness survey available to students that can be used to self-assess their readiness to take online courses. The link to this two-part survey is available on various websites including: Moodle, Freshman Seminar, Information Technology, Technology Resources, and College of Education.

Sue Cullen from the Universal Design Center shared the online Syllabus Generator. It is simply an online form that, once completed and submitted, converts to an accessible online syllabus. The Syllabus Generator is at: <http://www.csun.edu/accessibility>. One-on-one consultation is available for faculty wishing to customize their online syllabus.

4. University President Search Committee Update

Stepanek reported that the committee members have been reading applications and have a meeting tomorrow to discuss the applicants and to narrow the pool. He said first round interviews will be scheduled during the beginning of December. At that time, the pool will again be narrowed and discussions will take place on the format of the next round of interviews scheduled for mid January. The CSU Board of Trustees will make their selection at the end of January.

5. Implementation of Mandatory Early Start: Discussion of "Open Letter" in Opposition to Mandatory Early Start (MES)

Link to Open Letter:

<http://www.csun.edu/senate/documents/mandatoryearlystart-openletter120111.pdf>

Presenter: Senator Sharon Klein

Klein began by giving some background on the Mandatory Early Start Program which is an Executive Order mandated by the Chancellor's Office that incoming freshmen who have not demonstrated proficiency in English and/or mathematics will be required to begin remediation prior to the term for which they have been admitted. She reported that the English Council of the CSU, the University Writing Council, and writing coordinators in many departments oppose MES and the quality of the program. Klein explained the reasons why these groups are in opposition. She asked the Senators to support the "open letter" opposing implementation of the Program.

Lien was a member of a task force put together by the Chancellor's Office to provide early recommendations on the MES Program. She provided further background on the intentions of the Program and said that campuses were asked to submit plans for their campuses. A question then came up dealing with where students should complete the requirement if they live a fair distance from the campus they are planning to attend. This resulted in campuses

being asked to offer a 1-unit summer course/experience for students planning to attend a distant CSU campus as well as another option for local admits. Many felt that a 1-unit experience would not be worthwhile or beneficial.

AS President Flavin raised concerns about the affordability for students and the lack of preparedness given many of these students attended a California high school. Hellenbrand said that he realizes that there are many issues and it is complicated but we must remember that this is an Executive Order from the Chancellor's Office and the Board of Trustees. The ASCSU has continued to participate in the effort.

And finally, Shubin raised concerns about the large numbers of students needing remediation in math, the cost to students, and the clarity of options. She shared some of the logistical, time and space issues and said there could be legal issues as well. Klein concluded that there is more conversation to be had and groups are at work on how to demonstrate opposition but still maintain the good intentions of the Program.

6. Senate Reports

a. **Statewide Academic Senate CSU Report – Sandra Chong**

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/sasreport120111.pdf>

Chong brought attention to a first reading resolution dealing with early faculty involvement in CSU initiatives. It expresses concerns about recent curricular initiatives that have moved forward without appropriate faculty involvement. Feedback can be e-mailed to Statewide Academic Senators Chong, Frehlich or Stepanek. Chong announced that a GE conference entitled "Engaging from the Start" is planned for next February 13-14 at CSULA.

A Senator asked a question about "Smarter Balance" K-12 standards. Chong said she will provide more details as more information is available.

b. **CFA Report – Nate Thomas**

Link to written report: <http://www.csun.edu/senate/reports/cfareport102711.pdf>

CFA President Nate Thomas said there was a strike on November 17th at CSU, Dominguez Hills and it was quite successful. Thomas reported that local and statewide elected officials were in attendance. The following day, November 18th, the CFA bargaining team met with the Chancellor's representatives in Sacramento. Unfortunately, there was an impasse and we must move to the next stage in the statutory process which is mediation. He encouraged the Senators to complete the "Enough is Enough" E-Commit Card.

c. **Provost's Report – Harry Hellenbrand**

There was no report given.

7. **President's Report** – Jolene Koester

President Koester reported on the following topics:

- a. **WASC Educational Effectiveness Review Report** - The WASC Peer Review Team's comments on Cal State Northridge's educational effectiveness were very laudatory and complimentary in the description of the University's commitment to use of student learning outcomes, graduation rates improvement, and overall educational effectiveness. President Koester read some of the commendations from the report and said they will be posted on the campus WASC website. She congratulated Michael Neubauer and Beth Say (WASC co-chairs) and thanked the many faculty members who served on the committees for their work in the WASC accreditation process.
- b. **Occupy Tents** - President Koester encouraged the Senators to take time to talk with the students in the Occupy tents. She has received many questions about why the students have been allowed to camp on the lawn. She feels that faculty conversations with these students are important to help them developmentally and educationally, and it is our responsibility to engage with students on issues that concern them.
- c. **Budget** - President Koester reported there are no new budget developments except that the Board of Trustees approved a budget request for 2012-13 asking for additional dollars from the State of California. This budget request includes a 9% tuition fee increase if the State does not provide adequate dollars. She reported that there was a great deal of debate by the BOT about whether this was the right decision and strategy.
- d. **Faculty Senate Observation** - President Koester said that over the past 11 years she has watched the Faculty Senate go through an enormous and positive transformation. She said that the Senate went from rejecting almost every policy change and resolution coming from the Standing Committees to becoming a much more democratic body. This has been accomplished through use of first and second readings, and the result is a better and more functional faculty governance structure. She said that the interaction between faculty, administration, students, and the various governance groups at Cal State Northridge works very well. President Koester urged us to receive the new president with trust rather than paranoia. We should recognize that we have a governance process that works well and that the administration respects how well the process works. She believes that a new president will recognize, celebrate, and cherish our shared governance process on this campus.

Stepanek presented President Koester with a gift and flowers on the occasion of her retirement. The Senators were invited to stay for a short reception to say goodbye to President Koester.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Heidi Wolfbauer, Recording Secretary

April Taylor, Secretary of the Faculty

Shane Frehlich, Substitute for the Secretary