

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

MINUTES OF
The Academic Senate
Tuesday, October 30, 2001
UU220, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Preparatory: the meeting was opened at 3:10 p.m.

- I. Minutes: The minutes for the Academic Senate meeting of October 2, 2001 were approved without change.
- II. Communication(s) and Announcement(s): **Resolution of Commendation presented to Frank Lebens:** Frank Lebens, Vice President of Administration and Finance, received a commendation from the Academic Senate for his many years of service at Cal Poly. Lebens mentioned that he deeply appreciates the recognition.
- III. Reports:
 - A. Academic Senate Chair: (Menon) Further discussions and clarifications on the issue of 180-units requirements are expected to follow. Menon will be attending a CSU Academic Senate meeting of the Chairs on Thursday in which he will be meeting with Chancellor Reed and Vice Chancellor Spence. The Foundation Oversight Committee has been formed with Harvey Greenwald from Mathematics as the committee chair. Menon read excerpts from an article published in The Tribute about the works of Cal Poly's physics professor Kenneth Hoffman. Hoffman uses magnetic clues found in ancient layers of rock to determine the age of prehistoric stone tools found in the remote Nihewan Basin of northern China. Hoffman has written several articles that appear in scientific journal and has co-written an article that appears in the September issue of the science journal Nature.
 - B. President's Office: (Baker) reported on the budget and other matters affecting Cal Poly and the CSU including budget and calendar.

BUDGET:

President Warren Baker commented that the budget published on the web (ie, from Chancellor Reed's email) is essentially a best-case, business-as-usual budget. It does not reflect the as yet undetermined impact of the projected decline in State revenues. The CSU has proposed to the state an increase in budget from \$3.4B to \$3.7B, consistent with the assumptions of the previously agreed-upon CSU partnership with the Governor. (While the state budget office has in general asked state agencies to prepare budgets for 3%, 5%, 10% and 15% reductions for next year, it was not yet clear what cuts the CSU might be asked to consider.) But the problem is that the 25% of state tax revenues (which are \$85B) are from capital gains taxes that have been hard hit, as have other revenue sources. This could result in a reduction in revenues of \$8-12B for the State.

The CSU funding request includes a 4% increase in enrollment - but, he said, 2 1/2% of that is currently enrolled. That is, this year the CSU system is over-enrolled (relative to what it is budgeted for) by that amount. So the CSU budget request asks in part that the CSU be compensated for that. So IF the budget request were to be approved, it would require only another 1 1/2% actual increase in enrollment.

Baker said that if we are asked to reduce the budget by as much as 4 or 5%, we could probably do so without a reduction in number of classes taught (which means without a reduction in faculty). But a scenario of larger budget reductions would threaten our ability to sustain enrollments (hence courses and ultimately faculty) unless there were sufficient fee increases to supplement the budget. But he spoke very strongly to the point that we are currently over-enrolled - and we as a

campus are asking to receive funding for that WHILE reducing enrollment for next year. The goal is to accommodate somewhat fewer students and to bring enrollments in line with our budget - ie, to achieve full funding for any students above 16,200 FTE (our present base funding enrollment).

He said he is very concerned about what has happened to the campus over the last decade. In 1990, the student/faculty ratio was 16+. Now it is about 19. Under the old mode-and-level funding, we were very good at getting the funding needed to run high-cost programs. Under the funding shifts that have occurred, we have lost a lot - even while student enrollment has increased AND average number of units taken per student has increased. He said that is to the faculty's credit that we have accomplished that. He said that he is certain that a study that is being put together will show that the Cal Poly faculty has the highest work-load in the system. But he spoke very strongly to the point that the faculty cannot continue to absorb those increases. We must obtain funding appropriate to the mission of the university.

Finally, on the budget, he said that we SHOULD find out in January by how much we will need to adjust the budget - but his fear is that we will not have a clear fix on the budget till the May re-write of the budget - or even into summer, and that makes it very late for planning. But even though we will need to be "prudent" in setting a budget, we cannot ASSUME that we should not hire the faculty to meet the demand for our programs. He said we have convinced the governor that we HAVE to hire faculty. We cannot meet demand without that.

But he did say next year may not be a happy time. We are very likely going to have to reduce the budget. It is very hard to do that without impacting the classroom. Access is likely to be affected if there is more than a 5% reduction and that would affect the teaching mission. But he also said that we may well be able to absorb less than a 5% reduction without affecting our offerings by adjusting in other ways. And there is no hiring freeze at this time.

CALENDAR:

Regarding the calendar decision: Since he has announced that there would not be a calendar change, he was asked if the chancellor found the reasons offered for staying with quarters sufficiently compelling. "He sure did!" he announced emphatically. He praised heavily the work done by the entire campus in putting together the arguments. He said the 180+ page report to the chancellor was compelling. It even showed that some of the high demand for Cal Poly is DUE to the quarter system and that the reasons given by the departments were very similar to other institutions' reasons for that choice of calendar based on programs. He indicated that the calendar decision process is now concluded.

- C. Provost Office: (Zingg) the 180-unit minimum graduation requirement also came out of Cornerstone document and focuses on curriculum redundancy. Cal poly has been asked to look at ways to reduce the required number of units but this is not a directive or executive order but the request carries an expectation. If other campuses are granting degrees in fewer units than Cal Poly, we will have to justify our requirements in concrete ways. Some of the implications of moving to a 180-unit degree include enrollment, the 2005-2007 catalog, and program review schedule. Baker reiterated that enrollment would go down next year since Cal Poly's goal is to achieve full funding for any student above our base-funding enrollment of 16,205 FTEs. A preliminary study on workload will certainly underscore something that has been consistent at Cal Poly that as faculty reports their weekly workload they are reporting a weekly workload of between 53-56 hours, which remarkably has stayed the same since last study 20 years ago.
- D. Statewide Senators: (Hood) Tomorrow at 10am, the Statewide Senators will meet with the Chancellor to discuss the budget. Attended a meeting of the workload committee to study the document that compares a survey that was done last Spring with one done 10 years ago and demonstrates in many different aspects that faculty, throughout the entire system, are working harder.
- E. CFA Campus President: (Fetzer) A Teach-In took place last Thursday with the overall theme of quality of education and it brought out a large number of student, staff and faculty. The bargaining

issues are both local and system-wide in terms of systemic, recruitment and retention of new faculty, class size issues, etc. No progress in terms of mediation has been made but the number one issue brought to the CSU is workload and we would really benefit if we can get anything constructive coming from the CSU. Those of you concerned with workload issues should communicate your particular concerns individually to the Chancellor since this is not a CFA issue but rather a system-wide quality of education issue.

- F. ASI Representative: (Kipe) Have added Andrew Hunt as the second ASI representative and he will be coordinating with various committees and attending meetings.
- G. Other:

IV. Consent Agenda:

V. Business Items:

- A. **Approval of new MS in Agribusiness:** first reading. Aherns, professor of Agribusiness, presented a proposal for a MS program in Agribusiness. M/S/P to move to a second reading.
- B. **Approval of new MS in Polymers and Coatings:** first reading. Dr. Jones, professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, mentioned that this is a unique program in that is very closely affiliated with a very important industrial segment of California. The polymers and coating industrial segment encompasses business from the semiconductor industry to people who make paint. M/S/P to move to a second reading.
- C. **Resolution on Name Change for Extended Studies:** first reading. Parks, Director of Extended Studies. This resolution requests a name change to better reflect the programs currently being offered. M/S/P to move to a second reading.

VI. Discussion Item (s):

VII. Adjournment: meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Submitted by



Gladys Gregory
Academic Senate