CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

San Luis Obispo, California 93407 ACADEMIC SENATE 805.756.1258

MINUTES OF

The Academic Senate Tuesday, October 27, 2009 UU 220, 3:10 to 5:00 p.m.

- I. Minutes: The minutes of July 22, September 14, and October 6, 2009 were approved.
- II. Communications and Announcements: none.
- III. Reports:

Regular Reports:

- A. Academic Senate Chair: Fernflores attended a statewide meeting in Long Beach, in which some of the Senate chairs reported being asked to figure out how to teach all required curriculum without lecturers by spring or next fall, while approximately half have been asked to consider program elimination.
- B. President's Office: Howard-Greene reported that President Baker continues to discuss system fee policy and our college-based fees with Chancellor Reed.
- C. Provost: Koob announced that faculty and staff will receive a small increase in November and December paychecks due to the lack of insurance premium deductions. In addition, a recalculation of stimulus money has resulted in an additional \$1.3 million, which will go directly to instruction to increase the number of offerings we can provide our students during the next two terms. A list of 1200 super seniors has been developed and they will be going into contracts during winter and spring to facilitate their graduation by ensuring they can register for the classes they need to graduate. A more rigorous enforcement of academic disqualification policy will be in place.
- D. Vice President for Student Affairs: none.
- E. Statewide Senate: Senator Foroohar requested that policies for super seniors take into account the advantages of international programs and studying abroad. Senator LoCascio reported that another issues being discussed include math readiness and cancelling programs at Dominguez Hills.
- F. CFA Campus President: Saenz announced that CSU has notified CFA of their desire to begin bargaining earlier than in previous years.
- G. ASI Representative: Rugani reported that ASI is preparing a report on the strategic plan as well as developing an ad hoc committee to evaluate the membership and participation of ASI in California State Student Association. In addition, the Executive Cabinet has been looking at issues such as class availability, budget, and furlough and doing research to provide students with answers.

H. Committee Chair(s): Foroohar, chair of the Academic Senate Faculty Affairs Committee reported that the committee will be reviewing the policies on programs elimination and writing a resolution about program suspension. Before the close of the academic year, a task force will be established to write policy and procedures fro program merger/suspension.

Special Reports:

- A. Summer Session 2010, Skip Parks, Dean for Continuing Education. PowerPoint presentation is available at: http://www.calpoly.edu/~acadsen/minutes/09-10_minutes/summer_2010.ppt
- B. H1N1 influenza preparedness, Dave Ragsdale, Environmental Health & Safety Manager: H1N1 is well established in the US, but our campus is reporting a 40% decline in new incidents. Housing is assisting with isolating and helping students who are infected by delivering meals, coursework, etc. Cal Poly has received a formal request from the county health officer to encourage anyone with symptoms to stay home since that is the strategy to break the cycle. In Addition, Cal Poly will receive 30% of the first shipment of vaccines that arrive at the County Health Department. For further information, visit the campus website at flu.calpoly.edu.
- IV. Consent Agenda: none.
- V. Business Item(s):
 - A. Resolution on Furlough Vote and Implementation Plan: this resolution was tabled until 11.03.09.
 - B. Resolution on Furlough Implementation and Faculty Rights: this resolution was tabled until 11.03.09.
 - C. Resolution on the Cal Poly Statement on Commitment to Community: <u>this resolution was tabled until 11.03.09.</u>
 - D. Resolution on Addition to Academic Senate Bylaws of the Academic Senate to Include Process for First and Second Readings: this resolution was tabled until 11.03.09.

VI. Discussion Item(s):

Academic Freedom and Michael Pollan talk: Dan Howard-Greene stated that the Sustainable Agriculture Resource Consortium (SARC), as part of the planning for their annual fundraiser, decided to invite Michael Pollan, chaired professor of Journalism at UC Berkeley as the keynote speaker. As the invitation became known, it became the subject of controversy and members of CAFES started receiving notes of interest and distress that Cal Poly was inviting a controversial speaker. President Baker received a letter from David Wood, a leader from Harris Ranch expressing two fundamental concerns on September 23. The first issue was the invitation to Michael Pollan, the second concerned an agriculture issues class taught by Rob Rutherford (and others in CAFES) and comments about agricultural sustainability that Mr. Rutherford had allegedly shared with Mike Smith, an employee of Harris Ranch. Following the receipt of the Wood letter, University administrators and members of CAFES held a meeting to discuss how to proceed. It was then decided to stand by the invitation to Michael Pollan to deliver a talk but to add a follow-on panel with speakers of contrasting points of

view. When presented with this revised plan for the day's events, Mr. Pollan opted to forego the talk in favor of participating in the panel. Howard-Greene commented that as a matter of principle and policy, Cal Poly does not follow a "fairness doctrine" for individual events but does seek to achieve presentation of diverse views over time. In addition, faculty members have full rights to entertain any view in class as a fundamental aspect of academic freedom. Cal Poly does go to great lengths to solicit the views of alums and those in industry and considers their perspectives on the kinds of knowledge, competence, and qualities that need to be imparted to students but in the end, it is up to the faculty to determine what is taught. President Baker's reply to the letter from Mr. Wood attempted to capture and convey these points. In related comments, professor Rutherford reported to the Senate that there were errors in the way the Wood letter characterized both the agriculture issues class he and others teach and his comments to Mike Smith. Howard-Greene acknowledged that the several university and college officials assisting President Baker in the drafting of his reply to the Wood letter did not manage to check back with professor Rutherford to solicit his detailed comments on the Wood letter. Howard-Greene expressed regret for this oversight and for the presidential letter's implicit acceptance of the Wood letter's characterization of the agriculture issues class and Rutherford's comments regarding sustainability. Further discussion will continue at the next Academic Senate meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by

Gladys Gregory Academic Senate