

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

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, February 1, 2011**  
**UU220, 3:10 to 5:00pm**

I. Regular Reports:

- A. Academic Senate Chair: Fernflores reported on the Academic Senate activities for the 2010-2011 academic year including the creation of several task forces tied to WASC accreditation. Some of the task forces include teacher-scholar model, integration and student learning, learn by doing and strategic plan. In addition, the GE task force will be conducting a truncated internal program review, and the assessment task force will look into the various levels of university assessment projects. The Academic Senate is also expecting resolutions addressing budget transparency, shared governance and collegiality, dropping classes, and cheating and plagiarism, to name a few.
- B. President's Office: Armstrong made the following remarks: "I am in a mode of consulting, listening and learning, as we move forwards that is what I want to do my first day and all the way through my presidency. I am honored to meet everyone today and to serve as president. You have a great reputation for teaching excellence; your commitment to student success is outstanding. I know that you carry a high teaching load and know your resiliency as you have dealt with budget reductions over the past years, travel adjustments, pay freezes, lack of raises, furloughs, and admired you for maintaining a positive attitude, continuing to increase graduation rates, and continuing to move our students forward. Despite what you have been through, we all know that we are facing additional budget challenges. The CSU system has a budget now that is the same as it was 12 years ago with two big differences; the first is that there is no adjustment for inflation and the second is an additional 70,000 students. Transparency, communication, shared governance, and working together in a collaborative mode is what we are going to need to move forward. I am excited with the quality of faculty, administrative team, deans, and chairs and know we can move forward and meet these challenges. For shared governance, the goal is to have good governance and the key is three fold: (1) Basic agreement that indeed is shared, we all share the responsibility that our students succeed. Student success and learning is paramount. (2) Communication has to be open and that means dialogue, it cannot be one way, it has to be open, constructive, respectful and honest. (3) Transparency in decision-making; I can promise you two things. One, before making decisions I will consult as appropriate, I will listen, reflect and move ahead. As you know, the worse decision in many cases is not making a decision but we have to be thoughtful and we will listen. We will not always agree, but that is where open dialogue comes in. Transparency, I want to keep you as informed as possible. The reality is that you, as senators, sometimes know things before I do, but I do know that there are things that we are going to learn and we need to move those along to you as soon as we can. If there is ever a time when it needs to go in a different way, let Rachel Fernflores, Senate Chair know, let us know so we can move ahead. I do have an area where we need immediate counsel and that is strategic planning. You are already embracing that and I really respect the fact that you are doing that and Provost Koob and I are anxious to hear more and more from you as we move down the pathway. A lot of work has been done, but there is always work to do. Giving us dialogue and feedback will help us tremendously. One of my roles, with the deans, is to pick up the pace in development. People will give when they see a compelling

vision and people will give when they see what a difference our students are making, and many of those individuals are former students. I made some comments this morning at the press conference that I want to reiterate to you and that is the importance of learn by doing, our hallmark, and getting back to budget, which is expensive. Cal Poly is an excellent university in California, in any system, but it is expensive because of the “hands-on” approach. In the realm of comprehensive polytechnic, we want to move forward and continue the great work that you have been doing. Academic freedom is the core for our work. I have been involved with great people in the past and had great success in developing fundraising, which is a marathon, not a sprint, rooted in a vision of the work of faculty, staff, and student. That is what makes it successful and you have that. You have some good fundraising going on but we can all agree that we can take it to another level. A key step is to hire a vice president for advancement, that search is underway, and very soon you will be able to interact with candidates.”

- C. Provost: Koob reported that Governor Brown has put forward a very aggressive budget proposal in which he is asking for tax increases equal to the number of dollars to be cut. Whether or not the money will be raised is an open question as well as whether it will get on the ballot. The source of the information I provide to you today is the proposed budget that is the only information we have. The CSU has not given us our enrollment target, nor has allocated our share of the budget reduction. We have taken several steps over the past couple of years to minimize this, including last summer when we began a self-support summer session, which we are going to continue. That shifted money out of the summer session into the academic year and provided support for faculty positions during the summer resulting in a higher number of positions available in the campus for our faculty to serve our students. Second, when the state of California reduced the number of in-state students it was willing to support, we replaced some of those students with out-of-state students. Continuing to do that has generated an alternate source of income that allows us to retain more faculty and staff, subsidizes to some degree the academic programs, and certainly the financial aid of our in-state students. Last year we were able to achieve 10% out-of-state student enrollment for our incoming class and this year we are targeting that number again. Third, we have behaved prudently and frugally with respect to what I called the relief year. During the current budget, we held back some of the stimulus money that came to the campus, in addition, we budgeted for mid-year reductions that are not going to occur and that will diminish the amount of cuts we will have to make in subsequent years. We are thinking two years out, save some money this year to offset whatever cuts come up, do not believe that will have to go to layoffs. We expect to have some time to make decisions by using money that will carry over from this year to next year. The full impact of the budget reductions will not occur until the second year out. I do not want to diminish the fact that it is real, that is going to be difficulty, but at this point we do not know the final numbers. All I can assure you of is that the university is being prudent and looking at the resources, at the choices we have, the rules under which we must play the game, and trying to make sure, we do not do anything sudden. Sudden change is really difficult for the university and we are working hard to make our moves smooth. I have asked deans to submit a two-year plan on how we will get to the currently scheduled bottom line and how we would do that between now and then. I have asked my staff to do the same thing and to think more globally about how we employee groups of people and find the best way to get most of each group. Truly believe that we have opportunities to get more done, not work any harder, and improve the quality of our product because we are a creative group of people. I want to be cautiously optimistic, I am not suggesting that you should be complacent, these cuts are real and they are going to have an impact but they are not a disaster. As your dean calls on you, work with them and help them find the best way to get through these difficult times.

II. Business Item(s):

- A. **Resolution on a Working Definition of Learn by Doing: (Learn by Doing (LBD) Task Force):** Trice, presented this resolution which requests that the Academic Senate adopt the attached definition of Learn by Doing. The resolution will return as a second reading item.
- B. **Resolution on Defining and Adopting the Teacher-Scholar Model: (Teacher-Scholar Model (TSM) Task Force):** Fernflores presented this resolution, which request that Cal Poly adopt the definition of Teacher-Scholar Model as presented. The resolution will return as a second reading item.

III. Adjournment: 5:00 pm

Submitted by

Gladys Gregory  
Academic Senate