I. Preparatory: The meeting was called to order at 3:12 pm.

II. Communication(s) and Announcement(s)--none

III. Business Item(s)

The Chair asked that debate on the grade change resolution be set aside or tabled so that the entire meeting could address the calendar change issue. Seeing no objection, the Chair moved on to the Calendar Resolution.

Resolution on Calendar. The floor was opened for the continued discussion of the Calendar resolution as a first reading item. Points which had not been raised or completely covered during the November 15 and November 22 meeting included the following:

To change to semesters those courses which are required of all freshman students (such as English 114) will have to be handled either by increasing the number of courses offered by 50% or increasing each class size by 50% in order to avoid hampering student throughput.

Vice President Koob stated that he remains unconvinced that there's any pedagogical difference between the quarter system and the semester system. However, he noted that the administration is convinced that the curriculum at Cal Poly needs to have a systematic review. The process or event used to trigger that review is not of great concern to him. He strongly stated that some mechanism would be developed to insure a campuswide review of curriculum which makes it consistent with the demands of society and present university resources.

Erica Brown, A.S.I. President observed that students would tire after learning items for more than ten weeks; their attention span moves on and they just won't have the same enthusiasm as they do when they first move into a class. Time and stress management skills needed when students move into their careers are better fostered under the quarter system.

Yvonne Archibeque asked the Senate to consider the question, "What are the University's priorities?" There are so many items of priority to students (e.g. lighting on campus, requiring students to purchase computers or pay a computer fee) that cannot be addressed due to lack of funds. Why are funds available during the current budget crisis for a calendar change but not for these other items? Additionally, students fear that changes in the lab opportunities will be detrimental to their ability to gain employment after graduation.

MSPU to move the Calendar resolution to second reading status.

A request was made for more details from the administration about why curriculum revision is needed.

It was noted that the Calendar resolution calls for a vote of the entire faculty only if the calendar change is approved by the Senate. Some felt very strongly that every faculty member should have a chance to vote on the issue. Others felt as strongly that a great deal of information about the subject had been presented in the Senate and that it is the responsibility of the senators to base their vote on their understanding of the issue. If the faculty at large is unhappy with the representatives, they have the opportunity to express that through electing other representatives. There was considerable debate on this issue.
ultimately resulting in several amendments to the Calendar resolution calling for a faculty vote regardless of the Senate’s vote. These motions were not seconded. The question was raised whether or not the administration’s view that there is a need for broad-based curriculum revision is an indictment of sorts in that it assumes that these reviews are not already happening on a regular basis.

Various students and a Cal Poly alumna from the College of Agriculture were recognized. One noted that many Cal Poly students are very dedicated to getting more out of school than “just the books, the theories, even more than just the learn by doing.”

The comment was made that many faculty are not very concerned about whether Cal Poly is on the quarter or the semester system. They just want a decision made.

It was moved and seconded that the vote be by secret ballot. It was moved and seconded that there be a roll call vote. The Chair ruled that in the face of these alternatives it was his responsibility to decide which alternative would be voted on first based on the amount of time each would take. He further ruled that since the roll call would require less time, it would be voted on first. If it passed, the Senate would not vote on taking a secret ballot. This ruling was challenged but the Senate voted to uphold the Chair’s ruling.

A roll call vote was administered resulting in failure of the Calendar resolution by a vote of 29 against and 18 in favor. The voting was as follows:
Amspacher-nay; Bermann-nay; Berrio-aye; Bertozzi-nay; Bowker-aye; Brown (Andrea)-aye; Brown (Johanna)-nay; Brown (Ron)-nay; Burgunder-nay; Cook-nay; Dana-nay; Day-aye; DeLey-aye; Dubbink-aye; Farrell-nay; Fetzer-aye; Forgeng-nay; Fryer-nay; Geringer-aye; Gooden-nay; Greenwald-aye; Hale-nay; Hampsey-aye; Hampson-aye; Hannings-aye; Jones-nay; Kersten-nay; Kolkailah-aye; Lewis-nay; Lo-nay; LoCasico-nay; Lord-nay; Lutrin-aye; Martinez-aye; McDonald-nay; McNiel-nay; Mott-aye; Nulman-aye; Randazzo-nay; Rogers (no response); Ruehr-nay; Scriven-nay; Spiller-aye; Stanton-abstain; Turnquist-nay; Walker-aye; Weatherby-nay; Weatherford-nay; Wheatley-aye.

Moved and seconded that the Academic Senate go on record as moving the issue of semesters to quarters to a full faculty debate and referendum at a reasonable time in the winter quarter.

MSPU that the motion be tabled until a time set by the Executive Committee.

MSPU to adjourn.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Recorded by
Sam Lutrin, Secretary
Academic Senate