I. Minutes: The minutes of the January 18, 1994 Academic Senate meeting were approved without change.

II. Communication(s) and Announcement(s):

III. Reports:
   A. Academic Senate Chair:
   B. President’s Office:
   C. Vice President for Academic Affairs:
   D. Statewide Senators:
   E. CFA Campus President:
   F. ASI representatives:

IV. Consent Agenda:

V. Business Items:
   A. Curriculum proposals, first reading: The curriculum proposal for Agricultural Engineering was presented as a first reading item. A resolution regarding this proposal was also distributed and entered as a first reading item.

   B. Resolution on Calendar, second reading: Three changes were made to the resolution:

   In the second Whereas clause, change “A primary President Baker has stated that one reason for making a change in the academic calendar...”

   In the first Resolved clause, change “That any calendar change proposal be made only after the Task Force on Curriculum and Calendar and the Student Throughput Committee completes its work and submits their reports and recommendations to the Academic Senate.”

   M/S/F to delete the last Resolved clause.

   M/S/P to approve the resolution with the changes noted above.

VI. Discussion:
   Calendaring systems: President Baker was in attendance to discuss the campus inquiry into various calendaring systems. Baker stated that earlier discussions regarding different calendaring systems dates back to 1982 when recommendations from the Academic Senate came forth for an early semester program with a summer session. At that time there were funding constraints that kept that recommendation from being implemented. Those constraints no longer exist since we are no longer funded by formula. The issue of revising the curriculum has come up at the same time, although revising the curriculum is not tied to a calendar change. In the past, mode-and-level formulas have overstructured course requirements and created difficulties for timely student graduation.

   President Baker’s feelings regarding the advantages of an early semester system include: (1) being synchronized with other institutions, (2) less start-up costs/time, (3) issues of pedagogy still need to be debated, (4) the additional 5 minutes/class and an additional week of instruction could be significant; (5) it helps meet the greater demand for higher education in the state, and (6) the campus’ physical facilities will remain the same for the next ten years but admission access needs
to increase. Year round operations allow us to offer greater access. In building an academic year with a flexible summer-semester, the summer could be divided into two half-esters of seven weeks each—allowing students more opportunity to take prerequisites and making it easier for faculty to teach a portion of summer and still have time for professional development. This makes it easier for faculty to teach summers and allows students to come for part of the summer while still allowing time for them to work and do coops. He stated his greatest concern is the lack of time faculty have to engage in professional development and improvement of classes.

Kersten felt there was a lack of clarity on the part of faculty as to what was really driving the question of calendaring. Is it scarcer fiscal resources? servicing a larger number of students? getting a calendar that maximizes input? Baker replied that no one thing is driving the inquiry: efficiencies are a factor and access is another factor. R Cummings, chair of the Student Throughput Committee reported that addressing curriculum issues (class availability, scheduling, issues for seniors, etc.) was a way of addressing throughput issues, but the calendar, per se, was not. Kersten asked if one of the objectives of moving to a new calendar was to improve throughput and allow more access, does this imply that all terms would have approximately equal enrollment? Baker replied this couldn't be done for obvious reasons.

President Baker stated there was no urgency at this time to decide the calendaring issue and encouraged as much discussion take place as possible.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Recorded by:

Margaret Camuso
Academic Senate