

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

MINUTES OF THE
ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING
Tuesday, November 15, 2011
UU220, 3:10 to 5:00pm

- I. Minutes: the minutes of October 4 and October 25 were approved as presented.
- II. Communication(s) and Announcement(s): none.
- III. Reports:
 - A. Academic Senate Chair: none.
 - B. President's Office: none.
 - C. Provost: none.
 - D. Vice Provost for Student Affairs: none.
 - E. Statewide Senate: Foroohar reported that there is a high level of concern and frustration among statewide senators about top-down initiatives planned by the Chancellor's Office and the Board of Trustees with no meaningful consultation with the faculty. These initiatives include the Graduation Initiative, the Early Start Program, the SB 1440 (Star Act) community college transfer degree, and most recently the CSU on-line initiative. In response to the latest top-down action on the on-line initiative, the statewide senate unanimously approved a resolution "The Faculty Role and Campus Participation in the CSU On-line Initiative," which resolved that "the ASCSU strongly assert that the best on-line programs develop from faculty working in a quality assurance structure which adheres to department, college, and university curricular review procedures" Another resolution "Early Faculty Involvement in California State University (CSU) Initiatives," which was discussed as a first reading item and will return to the senate plenary for voting in January, states that "The pattern of announcing decisions and then asking for faculty help in implementing the initiatives is not what is meant by shared governance." LoCascio reported that the statewide Academic Affairs Committee is writing a white paper on best practices for the CSU and on-line programs, which will be available on January 2012.
 - F. CFA Campus President: Thorncroft reported that at last week's rally held on campus over 100 faculty members, staff and students participated.
 - G. ASI Representative: Tabrizi announced that the lease for Chase Bank in the University Union is for 5-years with a 5-year option to renew. The University Union Advisory Board will determine the fee structure for the new Rec Center.
 - H. Caucus Chairs: none.
- IV. Special Reports: none.
- V. Consent Agenda: approved as presented.

VI. Business Item(s):

- A. **Resolution on Consent Agenda Review Duration for Curricular Proposals (Curriculum Committee):** Schaffner, chair of the Curriculum Committee presented this resolution, which recommends shortening the Consent Agenda notice time provided to senators from three weeks to two weeks. M/S/P to approve the resolution
- B. **Resolution on Course Outcomes/Objectives (WASC/Academic Senate Integrated Student Learning Work Group):** Giberti presented this resolution, which requests that all course learning outcomes/objectives be aligned to the program learning objectives, be approved by program faculty, communicated to students, and “publish” on course syllabus. Resolution will return as a second reading item.

VII. Discussion Item(s): none.

VIII. Adjournment: 4:48 pm

Submitted by,



Gladys Gregory
Academic Senate

Resolution on Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives

WASC Working Group on Integration and Student Learning
November 15, 2011

A Strong WASC Recommendation

- Considerable effort needs to occur in the next few months to assure that:
 - There is alignment between university, program, and course learning objectives across the institution.
 - All learning objectives appear systematically in university documents.
- Keep in mind that:
 - This recommendation is based on WASC standards and best practices.
 - This recommendation does not dictate a particular solution.

Objectives Aligned at All Levels

- University Learning Objectives (ULOs) apply to all students at Cal Poly.
 - Program learning objectives (PLOs) align with the ULOs and apply to all students in a program.
 - Course learning outcomes (CLOs) align with PLOs and apply to all students in a course.
- The distinction between objectives and outcomes is not meaningful.
- All objectives/outcomes are defined by the faculty as expectations for students to know or be able to do.

We've Already Addressed the WASC Recommendation at the Program Level

- Fall 2010: The Academic Senate Chair asked programs to report PLOs aligned to ULOs.
- Spring 2011: The Academic Senate approved AS-732-11 Resolution on Posting Program Learning Objectives in Cal Poly Electronic Catalog.

How Shall We Respond at the Course Level?

- The Senate has already approved AS-644-06 Resolution on Course Syllabi (see Background Material).
- The working group had thought that the most appropriate response was to add CLOs to the syllabus policy.
- Spring 2011: the working group went on a listening tour of the college caucuses.

Two Sides: The Bureaucratic Response

- The course proposal has required outcomes since 2000.
- A number of courses were approved before 2000.
- Many course proposals are not archived.
- The Registrar and AS Curriculum Committee Chair are working on a solution based on e-workflow.

Two Sides: The Pedagogical Response

- From the standpoint of student learning, we should be able to agree that:
 - All courses have CLOs aligned to PLOs.
 - CLOs be approved by program faculty.
 - CLOs be communicated to students.
 - The course syllabus (should) be the location to publish CLOs to students.
- Having this discussion makes the Senate part of the self-study.