

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

Minutes of the ACADEMIC SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, April 6, 1993
UU 220, 3:00-5:00pm

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

- I. Minutes: none
- II. Communication(s) and Announcement(s): none
- III. Reports:
 - A. Academic Senate Chair: none
 - B. President's Office: none
 - C. Vice President for Academic Affairs: none
 - D. Statewide Senators: none
- IV. Consent Agenda: none

V. Business Items:

- A. **Home Economics Discontinuance Report:** The Chair suggested that the question of defunding Home Economics be separated from the discussion concerning discontinuance of the Home Economics program. A resolution was read by Gooden (see attached) recommending receipt of the report and Senate consensus on what criteria determines academic "quality". Gooden felt the report did not address this issue and, therefore, could not be considered at this time. Vilkitis asked if he was suggesting the process of reviewing Home Economics and Engineer Technology be redone adding this criteria. Gooden replied, this was an important issue we would want to use in evaluating all programs.

Vilkitis appreciated the concerns expressed but felt that to rewrite the requirements of the current process before making a decision regarding the Home Economics program was unfair to the people who have already undergone the current process. The Senate has an obligation at this time to recommend continuance or discontinuance of the program, and then to redraft the procedures and make an assessment on quality. Changing the procedure at this time would not be fair. Mueller agreed that enough information had been provided to determine if quality was present. He felt the information should be summed up and a reevaluation of the process done later. Russell indicated his disappointment that the accreditation report requested from the Home Economics Department was not provided. He was not content that enough information had been provided and felt it was legitimate to request additional information.

Andrews (seconded by Murphy) made the following motion: "The Academic Senate Executive Committee does not endorse the recommendations of the report, but we do encourage relocation of the FIDER program if faculty in that program and in the recipient department can reach agreement." If the motion is adopted, only the interior design component of the Home Economics program would be retained. Possibly the credentialing component might stay.

Vilkitis asked if the issue before the body was to reorganize or to discontinuance? He felt that a vote first had to be taken as to whether to discontinue or not, and then suggestions for reorganization could be made. The Senate needs to deal with the issue straight on: should this academic program stay or go? Murphy supported Andrews' motion explaining that a yes/no recommendation to continue or discontinue the program brings the whole discussion to an end. It would not leave room for options to be discussed. Andrews withdrew his motion and presented another motion (seconded by Brown). The new motion was to "discontinue the Home Economics program." This was offered to get the committee out of a debate that was going in circles.

Russell again stated that an evaluation would not be complete until the accreditation report was provided. Wilson replied, the accreditation report would be obtained and made available in the Senate office. Gooden spoke against the motion, stating the Executive Committee should not prejudice the issue by recommending discontinuance. Dana felt that the discussion to go before the Senate needed some form of framing: (1) discontinuance

of program, (2) continuance with funding, or (3) more information to judge the quality of the program.

Andrews withdrew his motion and moved the agenda. Vilkitis felt procedures still needed to be developed to guide the discussion when it came to the Senate floor. The procedure would be to first deal with the issue of continuing/discontinuing an academic program without connecting this decision to the budget. The focus should be on the recommendations of the report which require a decision to either continue or discontinue. Gooden replied that the procedure is not germane to the substance--quality is not addressed by the procedural due process. Until we can determine whether a program has quality, we have no business accepting or rejecting a program based only on statistical information.

Russell commented that to restrict the decision to only two options was to tie the hands of the Senate. Numerous options could be developed. Brown agreed with Russell and added that the attention of the Senate needed to be focused but providing only a yes/no alternative limited the Senate's ability to suggest various options. Murphy returned the committee's attention to the fact that the charge made to the Senate was to either accept or not accept the recommendations of the report. Kersten added that nothing could be done with the report; a resolution was needed to act on.

A suggestion was made to put a group together to answer what could be done with the untenable situation facing the Senate--the discontinuance procedures are out of date and do not provide the type information needed to make this kind of program decision; the report was derived from a favorable audience and therefore not objective; and the Senate is being asked to make a recommendation for a future which is yet unexplored. Instead of being pressured to make a decision at this time, a group could formulate constructive suggestions.

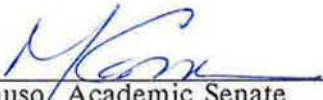
Mori proposed a motion (seconded by Kersten) "to receive the report and discuss its recommendations." M/S/P unanimously. Considerations could be made and attached to this resolution. Kersten explained the definition of "receiving" the report: The body recognizes the existence of the report, has seen and read the document, but no implication of approval or disapproval of the document is given. It is different from "accept" which means to receive and endorse a document and different from "reject" which is to receive and not accept a document. If one wants to make amendments on such a resolution, expressing reservations or whatever, it is a vehicle to do so without either praising or damning the document itself. Discussion of the document would be automatic when you debate a motion to receive. If this motion is approved, then recommendations can be discussed and attached to the resolution-to-receive.

- B. **Budget recommendations:** The Chair read the budget recommendations proposed by PACBRA (President's Advisory Committee on Budget and Resources Allocations) at its April 5 meeting. Some of the areas chosen for drastic reductions within Student Affairs were questioned; the attempt to name certain services for the purpose of causing alarm was considered offensive. The lack of priority for the Athletics program was discussed. Andrews felt the recommendations that came before the Senate at its last meeting lacked credibility because they did not include any reference to academic cuts. The committee was asked whether to recommend across-the-board percentage cuts or whether there should be a variable percentage of cuts for the library, colleges, and the rest of the university. Vilkitis expressed concern about across-the-board cuts for the colleges since some colleges were able to absorb more cuts than others. Koob explained that the Deans' Council had chosen to establish a faculty bank instead of having some colleges take larger cuts than others.

Final remarks regarding the proportional reductions recommended (5% cut to colleges, 10% cut to Athletics, and 12% cut to everything else) were as follows: (1) more cuts to Athletics, (2) the cuts named within Student Affairs should be questioned, and (3) the historic references made to various academic programs be considered in the colleges' planning of resource allocations.

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

Recorded by:


Margaret Camuso, Academic Senate

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 31, 1993

Copies: Warren Baker
Glenn Irvin
Robert Koob

To: ACADEMIC SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

From: Margaret Camuso
Academic Senate

Subject: Executive Committee Meeting of
April 6, 1993, 3-5pm, UU 220

R E M I N D E R

The Academic Senate Executive Committee will be meeting next Tuesday, April 6, to continue the discussion on (1) budget recommendations, and (2) the discontinuance report for Home Economics.

PLEASE BRING YOUR AGENDA AND HANDOUTS FROM THE MARCH 30TH MEETING.