

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

Minutes of the  
ACADEMIC SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, October 31, 1989  
UU 220, 3:00-5:00pm

Preparatory: The meeting was called to order at 3:14pm.

I. Minutes:

The minutes from the October 10, 1989 Executive Committee were approved without change.

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

The chair announced that the following plaques would be permanently housed in the Library on the second floor landing at the top of the stairwell: (1) "Distinguished Teaching Award" recipients, (2) "Outstanding Staff Employee Award" recipients, and (3) Academic Senate Chairs Emeriti.

III. Reports:

A. President's Office

B. Vice President for Academic Affairs' Office

C. Statewide Senators:

J Weatherby reported on the statewide senators' concern for the lack of "proper consultation" in developing the CSU Growth Plan, 1990-2005. A resolution was passed by the Academic Senate CSU (AS-1893-89/AA) requesting the Board of Trustees not to forward the Growth Plan "...until proper consultation has taken place on the campuses with students and faculty and where appropriate with other [sic] concerned constituencies."

D. Chuck Hagen, chair of the Academic Senate Long-Range Planning Committee, reported that this committee has a broad mandate. It is responsible for making recommendations that involve future actions, policies, and goals as they affect the university.

In 1987, the Chancellor's Office requested the campuses to investigate increasing enrollment. The committee's response to that request is given in Business Item V.B, Resolution on Enrollment Growth, (pp. 8-23).

Currently, at the request of the Academic Senate Chair, the committee is assessing The California State University Growth Plan, 1990-2005. In addition, the committee will be investigating the planning process as it exists on campus. It will investigate coordinating the activities of various campus planning groups and developing a means of involving the entire campus community in that process.

- E. Safwat Moustafa, chair of the Academic Senate Research Committee, reported that this committee is continually addressing research effectiveness and policies issues, as well as providing direction to the university campus in this area. The committee is composed of eight voting and four ex officio members.

Annual activities include reviewing (1) State Faculty Support Grants (and overseeing the process that leads to faculty grant awards), (2) the Student Research Competition which includes evaluating student proposals and selecting candidates that will represent Cal Poly, and (3) CARE grants for university faculty.

- F. Ray Terry, chair of the Academic Senate Instruction Committee, reported that the committee continues to assess instructor effectiveness and evaluate the assessment process. The results of the committee's review came before the Senate Executive committee in the form of resolutions.

The four resolutions approved last year were: (1) Human Service Corps, AS-307-89/IC, (2) Foreign Language Requirement, AS-319-89/IC, (3) Accreditation Guidelines, AS-321-89/IC, and (4) Academic Calendars, AS-320-89/IC.

Other issues the committee addressed included:

1. English as a Second Language-the committee recommended that this issue be addressed and administered by the Writing Skills Program in consultation with the Instruction Committee.
2. Plus/Minus Grading-evaluate whether plus/minus grading should remain optional. The committee recommended that it should.
3. Fall Conference Week-make recommendations as to whether important activities taking place during Fall Conference Week should be carried out during the latter part of the week.

The committee is presently studying the Draft Report of the CSU on Student Outcomes Assessment and the International Baccalaureate Program.

In addition, the committee has been requested to reconsider:

1. Academic Calendars-making the final exam period a full five-day period and excluding Saturday as an exam day;
2. Whether there are too many credit/no credit courses; and

3. The fairness of the plus/minus grading system.

IV. Consent Agenda:

V. Business Item(s)

- A. Resolution on Grade Frequency Distribution Reports: motion to table M/S/P (Kersten/Moustafa).

Wally Mark, Director of Institutional Studies, informed the Executive Committee that Grade Frequency Reports (department, school, university) are available through his office. Two copies are distributed to each school dean. These reports were not available Fall 1988 and Winter 1989.

T Kersten noted that in the last Resolved clause the wording, "...that each department leader provide this information to his/her faculty on a yearly basis" will not be satisfied by supplying grade frequency reports to the deans.

- B. Resolution on Enrollment Growth: M/S/P (P Murphy/Gooden) to place this resolution on the November 14, 1989 Academic Senate agenda as a Business Item. Bill Rife, Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Programs, informed the Executive Committee that President Baker stated at the October 30, 1989 President's Council meeting that enrollment at Cal Poly for Fall 1990 will be 15,000 FTE through an agreement with the Chancellor's Office. The number of FTE students on campus this year was close to 15,000. An increase of about 900 from last year. He questioned the reason(s) for this increase and its relationship to the decline in the average unit-load per student.

Wally Mark identified two areas that contributed to the change: (1) the "show rate" for new students was 200-300 over projections, and (2) the continuing student rate was about 800 students over the anticipated projection. The average unit load per student has stabilized at 13.38 units for the first time in more than a decade. A decline in units taken by students may cause an increase in enrollment in an attempt to meet the enrollment target.

Chuck Hagen added to the discussion by stating that 20,000 FTE was a ceiling figure, not an enrollment target. The figures used in the master plan represent a range. They have not been endorsed by Cal Poly. An impact assessment study would be conducted on the 20,000 FTE master plan ceiling figure before being adopted. An assessment of the effects of growth at various points within this range would then allow more

flexibility for implementation. The target for Cal Poly is 17,400 FTE for the 2005-2006 academic year.

C. Vacancies:

- The chair nominated James Howland (English) as the Academic Senate representative for part-time faculty. There was no opposition to this nomination.
- The School of Liberal Arts caucus met and endorsed Fred O'Toole (Philosophy) to the Fairness Board and Gaye Benson (Political Science) to the Senate vacancy replacing James Simmons. There were no objections to these nominations.
- The School of Architecture and Environmental Design caucus met and endorsed Michael Botwin (Architectural Engineering) to the Instruction Committee and Donna Duerk (Architecture) to the Status of Women Committee. There were no objections to these nominations.
- S Moustafa nominated Michael Wollman (EL/EE Engineering) to replace Lynne Gamble on the Union Executive Committee. There was no objection to this motion.

VI. Discussion Item(s)

Multiple Criteria Admissions (MCA) Process: Wally Mark addressed the modifications to the MCA process. He stated that the process has undergone some streamlining and simplification as a result of the elimination of the CYBER system and the expanded opportunities available with the new OASIS system. The old system "...had approximately 35 different admission schemes..." The new system "...has one set of selection criteria for freshmen and one for transfers." A copy of MCA II, General Overview, Multiple Criteria Admission Program for 1990-1991 was handed out at the meeting and is attached to these minutes for information.

An outline of the process identifying the general principles was presented to the Deans' Council and the Instructional Department Heads Council (IDHC) in June 1989. The Deans' Council reviewed the MCA criteria twice. In fall of 1989, the document went to the IDHC for review. Departments and schools have had an opportunity to provide input. The Academic Senate was not involved in the review process.

S Moustafa questioned whether the Student Affairs Committee or the school councils were consulted. W Mark stated that the school councils and Student Affairs Committee were not consulted. The school deans, IDHC, and Hazel Scott (Vice President for Student Affairs) were consulted.

J Borland asked whether the Academic Senate was considering any alternatives for providing input into the MCA process. The Chair said the Senate is in the process of establishing a liaison which would permit Academic Senate involvement. J Borland stated that the fundamental question of whether the establishment of admission criteria is a faculty issue had not been addressed. The Chair informed the group that this issue has not been totally resolved. S Moustafa requested that the Chair take an active role in the process.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:51pm.