MEETINGS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
Tuesdays, April 17, 2007
UU220, 3:10 to 5:00pm

I. Minutes:
   3:10 Approval of minutes for the March 6 and March 13, 2007 Academic Senate meetings (pp. 2-5).

II. Communications and Announcement(s):
    President Baker's approval of AS-652-07 and AS-653-07 (pp. 6-7).

III. Reports:
     Regular reports [Please limit to 3 minutes or less]:
     3:15 A. Academic Senate Chair:
            B. President's Office:
            C. Provost:
            D. Statewide Senate:
            E. CFA Campus President:
            F. ASI Representative:

     Special reports [Please limit to 10 minutes or less]:
     3:45 Jim Maraviglia: Admissions

IV. Consent Agenda:

V. Business Item(s):
   4:05 A. Election of Academic Senate Chair and Vice Chair for 2007-08.
   4:15 B. Resolution on Consolidation of Academic Senate Fairness and Student Grievance Boards, Bohr/Saadat, chairs of Fairness and Student Grievance Boards, first reading (pp. 8-9).
   4:45 C. Resolution on Elimination of Academic Senate Faculty Dispute Review Committee: Rinzler, chair of Faculty Dispute Review Committee, first reading (p. 10).

VI. Discussion Item(s):

VII. Adjournment:
I. Minutes: The minutes of the February 13 meeting were approved as presented.

II. Communications and Announcements: Giberti reminded all senators to sign in and turn cell phones off at every meeting. The deadline to submit nominations for Academic Senate Chair and Vice Chair is March 23.

III. Regular Reports:
A. Academic Senate Chair: Giberti reported on the reform of the Academic Senate committees. Resolutions will be brought forward calling for the abolition of the Student Grievance Board and the transfer of its responsibilities to the Fairness Board, the abolition of the Faculty Dispute Review Committee, the abolition of the USCP Subcommittee and the transfer of its responsibilities to the Curriculum Committee, and the establishment of a task force to review the University's policy on diversity in the curriculum.

B. President's Office: none.

C. Provost's Office: Durgin thanked everyone who participated in the various Access to Excellence events that took place on February 27. Materials relating to Access to Excellence and transcripts of the meetings are available at http://www.academicprograms.calpoly.edu/specialinitiatives/accessexcellence/index.html.

D. Statewide Senate: none.

E. CFA Campus President: Saenz reported that the proposed strike authorization, if a settlement is not reached, is for a two-day rolling strike.

F. ASI Representative: Maki reported that over 300 members of the Greek community participated in cleaning up California Avenue, Foothill, around the train tracks, and other parts of San Luis Obispo. An electronic poll, held by ASI, indicated that 91% of students are in favor of using such a system for future elections. The CSU Board of Trustees will vote, at their next meeting, on whether or not to increase student fees by 10%.

G. Special Reports:
A. Frank Vuotto, Chair of the Task Force on Textbook Pricing: The charge of the task force was to look into the feasibility of developing a central publicly accessible website, which would provide information about textbook requirements, alternative formats, and pricing. The complete report, including task force recommendations, can be viewed at http://www.calpoly.edu/-acdsen/DocumentsTaskForceOnTextbookPricing.pdf

V. Consent Agenda: none.
VI. Business Item(s):
A. Curriculum proposal for Masters in Agricultural Education (Hannings, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, second reading): The proposed program used to be the Masters in Science with a specialization in Agricultural Education. M/S/P to approve resolution as presented.

B. Resolution on Focus the Nation (Greenwald, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, second reading): This resolution requests Senate endorsement for Cal Poly's participation in the Global Warming Solutions for America symposium to occur in 2008. M/S/P to approve resolution as presented.

C. Resolution Endorsing the ASCSU Resolution on the "Importance of Settling the Contract between the CSU and CFA" (Executive Committee, first reading): Giberti presented the resolution, which requests that the Cal Poly Academic Senate endorse ASCSU resolution AS-2782-07FA "Importance of Settling the Contract between the CSU and CFA." M/S/P to move resolution to a second reading. M/S/P to approve resolution as presented.

D. Resolution on Accessibility of Instructional Materials (Schaffner, Chair of the Instruction Committee, first reading): the resolution includes input received from the Academic Senate and summarizes Cal Poly's plan to comply with CSU Executive Order 926. This requires all systemwide policies regarding disability support and accommodations to be documented, evident, and in full compliance with federal and state laws. Due to lengthy discussion, this item will return as a first reading item at the March 13 meeting.

E. Resolution Against an Attack on Iran or Syria without Prior Congressional Authorization (Russell, Academic Senator, first reading): The resolution asks the Senate to declare its opposition to the Bush Doctrine and to any presidential order to execute a preemptive attack on Iran and Syria without a prior Act of Congress. Due to lack of time, this item will return as a first reading item at the March 13 meeting.

VII. Discussion Item(s): none.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Gladys Gregory,
Academic Senate
I. Minutes: none.

II. Communications and Announcements: none.

III. Regular Reports:
A. Academic Senate Chair: none.

B. President's Office: none.

C. Provost's Office: none.

D. Statewide Senate: none.

E. CFA Campus President: none.

F. ASI Representative: none.

V. Consent Agenda: none.

VI. Business Item(s):
D. Resolution on Accessibility of Instructional Materials (Schaffner, Chair of the Instruction Committee, first reading): the resolution includes input received from the Academic Senate and summarizes Cal Poly's plan to comply with CSU Executive Order 926. This requires all systemwide policies regarding disability support and accommodations to be documented, evident, and in full compliance with federal and state laws.

The following friendly amendments were made:

WHEREAS, Cal Poly has a commitment to ensure all students have access to instructional materials (printed textbooks and coursepacks) in a timely manner; and

RESOLVED: For as many courses as possible, departments will establish standing textbook selections with El Corral Bookstore so that textbooks will not need to be reordered each quarter; and be it further

RESOLVED: Departments will establish processes to monitor and remind faculty who do not have their instructional material selections placed at
least six weeks prior to the start of the academic quarter (e.g. use of faculty or staff instructional material coordinators); and be it further

M/S/P to suspend rules and move resolution to a second reading.

Second reading

M/S/F to replace 6 weeks with 8 weeks wherever it appears in the resolution.

M/SIF to approve the following amendment:

RESOLVED: Any changes to standing textbook selections will be made at least six eight weeks prior to the start of the academic quarter; and be it further

M/S/P to adopt the resolution as amended.

E. Resolution Against an Attack on Iran or Syria without Prior Congressional Authorization (Russell, Academic Senator, first reading): The resolution asks the Senate to declare its opposition to the Bush Doctrine and to any presidential order to execute a preemptive attack on Iran and Syria without a prior Act of Congress. M/SIP to sustain the Chair's decision that a motion to adopt the resolution would be improper, since the resolution deals with issues that are beyond the powers and responsibilities of the Academic Senate as defined in the Constitution of the Faculty.

M/S/F to suspend the rules and consider the resolution.

VII. Discussion Hem(s): none.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Gladys Gregory,
Academic Senate
To: Bruno Giberti  
   Chair, Academic Senate

From: Warren J. Baker  
   President

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-652-07  
Resolution Endorsing the Academic Senate CSU Resolution on the  
"Importance of Settling the Contract Between the CSU and CFA"

This memo acknowledges receipt of the above-entitled resolution.
State of California
Memorandum

To: Bruno Giberti
   Chair, Academic Senate

From: Warren J. Baker
   President

Date: March 26, 2007

Copies: W. Durgin

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution AS-653-07
         Resolution on Focus the Nation

This memo acknowledges receipt of the above-entitled resolution.
WHEREAS, The Student Grievance Board was established in 1998 to hear "student grievances concerning faculty that do not involve grade appeals and are not covered by existing policies" (AS-500-98/ETF); and

WHEREAS, The Student Grievance Board has never heard a case; and

WHEREAS, The service culture of the University is best served by a committee structure that is compact and robust;

WHEREAS, The Fairness Board has well-defined procedures for handling grade disputes that can be easily modified to deal with disputes currently under the purview of the Student Grievance Board; and

WHEREAS, No significant amount of additional work will accrue to members of the Fairness Board if the responsibilities of the Student Grievance Board are delegated to the Fairness Board; and

WHEREAS, There is no mention of the Student Grievance Board on any of the website students would likely consult when seeking dispute resolution (e.g., Dean of Students, OSSR, Academic Programs); therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Student Grievance Board be abolished; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Fairness Board assume the responsibilities of the Student Grievance Board effective immediately; and be it further

RESOLVED: That all references to the Student Grievance Board be removed from the Academic Senate bylaws; and be it further

RESOLVED: That other University documents, including websites, shall be revised immediately to reflect this change; and be it further
RESOLVED: That the bylaws description of the Fairness Board be revised as follows:

a. Membership
The Fairness Board shall consist of one tenure or tenure track faculty member from each college and one tenure or tenure track member from student Affairs, all appointed by the Chair of the Academic senate for two year terms include two student members selected by the ASI with no less than junior standing and three consecutive quarters of attendance at Cal Poly preceding appointment. The Board shall also include as an ex officio member the Vice President of Student Affairs or designee.

b. The procedures to be followed and the problems to be considered shall be approved by the Academic Senate and published as a document entitled "Fairness Board Description and Procedures." Changes in the document shall be made by the senate upon recommendation of the Fairness Board. The Board shall report to the Provost and Academic Senate Chair;

and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Fairness Board shall develop new procedures consistent with this change and with Title V, Article 2, Section 41301; EO 320, 969 and 970; CAM 684; and all other relevant policies; and be it further

RESOLVED: That these new procedures encourage the informal resolution of a student grievance concerning an instructor within the instructor's department with the possible later involvement of the Dean of Students; and be it further

RESOLVED: That these new procedures provide that, if informal resolution is not possible, that such a grievance may be presented to a hearing of the Fairness Board; and be it further

RESOLVED: That these new procedures allow for a student to bring to the hearing an advisor who is not an advocate, legal or otherwise; and be it further

RESOLVED: That these new procedures emphasize impartiality, confidentiality, and due process defined as the student's right to be notified and be heard.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Date: April 3, 2007
WHEREAS, The Faculty Dispute Review Committee was established in 1999 as the Faculty Ethics Committee; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the committee, for all disputes that fall within its jurisdiction, to conduct an investigation of the dispute and to make recommendations to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs; and

WHEREAS, The service culture of the University is best served by a committee structure that is compact and robust; and

WHEREAS, The committee has only reviewed one case since being established; and

WHEREAS, The resolution of faculty disputes would be better served by seeking the services of a trained mediator; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Faculty Dispute Review Committee be abolished and that all references to it be deleted from the Academic Senate bylaws; and be it further

RESOLVED: That other University documents including websites shall be immediately revised to reflect this change.