1. Call to order
   2:02 pm

2. Approval of Agenda
   Approved as distributed.

3. Approval of Academic Senate Minutes of February 25, 2014 (distributed electronically)
   Approved as amended to reflect that Duggan was not in attendance.

4. Introductions
   The following guests were welcomed: Marge Jaasma, Brian Duggan, John Sarraillie, James Tuedio, Linda Nowak, Reza Kamali, Annie Hor, Oddmund Myhre, Dennis Shimek, Chuck Gonzalez, John Tillman, Annie Hor, Carl Whitman and Carl Whitman.

5. Announcements
   Strong: Reported positive statistics on six-year graduation rates the 2007 cohort up 2.5%. The 2007 cohort rate up 6% for under-represented minorities. The “under-represented gap” is now 2%. Rates up 7% and gap down 2%. He thanked the faculty for efforts in improving graduation rates and will continue to look for reasons that drive faster graduation.
   Filling: AAUP elections are ongoing and he encourages votes for candidates within the CSU.
   Regalado: The men’s basketball team won the CCAA for the first time and is moving on the NCAA tournament.
   Tuedio: A theatrical-musical event, Ain’t I a Woman, tonight.

O’Brien: UBAC forum is set for Friday from 12:30-2:00 in MSR130.
Nagel has an article in the AAUP publication Academe.
Salameh: Anniversary of Student Union is being celebrated.
ASI Board of Directors sponsors a Health and Safety information night 18 March.

6. Committee Reports/Questions
UEPC: (Schoenly) The committee revisited the Repeat Courses Policy in the context of the latest EO and compared our policy with other CSU’s, such as Sonoma and San Marcos, which are stricter. One concern is that students who repeat courses (for forgiveness) are bumping first timers. This has implications for departments that have grade minima in pre-requisite courses and suggests a key role for Advisors to review with students and track the problem. Lisa Bernardo will bring new data to UEPC so we can learn more about the magnitude of the problem.

Reviewed and offered input on the latest draft of the Student Fee Advisory Committee Guidelines and Procedures, provided by VP Espinosa. This revision was provoked by two recent EO’s and outlines the process by which this student committee reviews different fee requests (e.g., lab fees). Faculty suggestions were incorporated in a new draft which UEPC will review.

Reviewed and offered revisions to the Instructor Withdrawal Policy. Although such a policy exists for face-to-face classes, we don’t have one for online classes. Specifically, UEPC is responding to faculty requests to require a deadline for students to login after classes begin. The latest iteration of the policy will be discussed.

Brought back a request by SEC to learn why optional and maximum class size information is no longer included on the Course Proposal Procedures form. The current form only includes the SFR which is not part of the Course Classification (C/S#) section which specifies the faculty member’s mode of instruction for the course. UEPC has invited Dennis Shimek and John Sarraille to discuss this item.

FBAC (Lindsay) met 5 March and reviewed Academic Affairs Tactical Strategies document and will forward a Budget Priorities Resolution to the SEC.

Discussed the budgetary implication of new Kinesiology concentration in Health Promotion. The committee felt the costs were justified.

SWAS (Eudey) Stanislaus should be eligible for around $50K in RSCA funding from the Chancellor’s Office.

7. Information Item
a. Report on the State Department of Finance (DOF) (Giambelluca)
This is the first time that we had so many DOF representatives and Chancellor’s Office representative to discuss with campus staff, and some members were from very high levels of budget analysis and control. The challenge from the Chancellor’s Office and DOF was to help them understand what “was behind the numbers.” The main topics were financial aid; capital planning, design, and construction; and budget. We may be able to use bid savings from Science 1 for other projects on campus, mainly HVAC. The groups also now have a better understanding of the renovation of the Library Building and how budgeted dollars actually play out in areas
such a graduation initiatives. Overall, the discussion was very positive, compatible, and successful.

Points of discussion:
What is the status of the structural deficit? Are we underfunded? Giambelluca: A lot of time was spent on helping the visitors to see the situation of the campus.

Are we at the bottom of the list for renovation funding for the Library? Giambelluca: This is his priority issue, the campus has invested to prepare for the project. There has not been any capital flowing for buildings. A “conceptual go-ahead” may be possible this year.

b. UBAC Update: Whitman:
UBAC has been meeting for several weeks and meets regularly on Fridays. Presentations from VPs will begin on 21 March. There will be multiple forums including one on next-year’s recommendations on April 30 in MSR130.

Points of discussion:
Is there any discussion of academic program elimination? Whitman: No, the conversation will revolve around priorities presented by VPs.

8. Discussion Item
   a. Ethnic Studies Program Concerns Report from the FAC:
Sims reported that the issue came to the FAC initially as a concern from faculty. Over a month and a half they discussed the issues with various constituencies of faculty and administration. The conclusions and recommendations spring from the four main issues brought to the committee.

Points of discussion:
Arounsack thanked the FAC for their work.

What happens now to the curriculum of Ethnic Studies? Is there now a process to modify the curriculum? Sims: The FAC sees this as now the purview of the college curriculum committee. Miller-Antonio: Next year’s schedule is built on the curriculum in the catalog and changes are not being made. The Chancellor’s Task Force has brought issues to the forefront and helped shore up Ethnic Studies programs.

Are there plans for replacing the TT positions, and is there a timetable for replacement with specialists in certain fields or generalists? Tuedio: A search is open for a Director of the program, and approval has been given for a second position to be pursued in the fall. A third position is under consideration. The program is growing, and the college is working to support it. The emphasis is on candidates with PhDs in Ethnic Studies, and the intent is to cover the same specific areas as is current.
Are there concerns about hiring practices since other departments may be asked to help evaluate candidates? Sims: The FAC did not discuss the issue but did learn that the field is in flux with differing views of instruction and scholarship.

In the FAC report, what does the sentence beginning “While the criteria for determining them has been inconsistent” mean? Sims: The budget difficulties have made enrollment targets moving targets.

The Provost asserted that “All our programs are evaluated first and foremost on meeting the university’s mission, and secondarily on budgetary issues.”

9. Open Forum
Regalado: Student Athlete progress reports come at times when faculty may not yet have much information to go on. He requests a later request if there is interest in a true assessment; otherwise, faculty may not want to submit the reports. He requests that the Speaker follow up. Schoenly asked if this may be governed in some way by NCAA regulations. Strong will follow up with the Athletics Director.

10. Adjournment
2:55pm