

Spring General Faculty Meeting  
Thursday, May 10, 2007

**1. Call to order** at 2:45 pm.

**2. Approval of agenda** – Move UEPC report to a new b). Agenda approved as amended.

**3. Approval of September 5, 2006 General Faculty Minutes** –approved.

**4. Reports and Announcements**

a. Leaves and Awards Committee (Stone)

Report on file in the AS Office.

b. University Educational Policies Committee (Carroll)

Report on file in the AS Office.

c. Committee on Committees (Filling)

Report on file in the AS Office.

d. Faculty Affairs Committee (Thompson)

Report on file in the AS Office.

e. Faculty Budget Advisory Committee (Lindsay)

Report on file in the AS Office.

f. Faculty Development Committee (Esterly)

Report on file in the AS Office.

g. Graduate Council (Nelligan)

Report on file in the AS Office.

h. Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Policy Committee (Senior)

Report on file in the AS Office.

i. Statewide Academic Senate (Hejka-Ekins)

Report on file in the AS Office.

j. University Retention, Promotion and Tenure Committee (Schulz)

Report on file in the AS Office.

**5. Remarks by President Shirvani**

President Shirvani expressed his delight in being here today. He stated his honor and privilege to serve this institution and our colleagues. It has been a very productive year and he stated he is grateful for all of the faculty's contributions and commitment, especially given the minimal resources we have. He realizes over the past few months there has been some unnecessary tension from faculty over some issues, and he had to intervene and resolve them. But, he has tried to calm the waters. Further, what he plans on doing over the summer is work with Speaker Johnson and SEC, as well as the Provost and new deans to set a new tone and set the course for next year so we will

have an extremely productive and collegial transparency to have a solid relationship based on our community values. He wants to make sure there are not errors or bureaucratic moves by the administration so he stated his commitment that we'll work over the summer to make things go smoothly next academic year.

In addition, one great accomplishment he stated this year is the CFA contract ratification. He stated he is sure that the Board of Trustees will approve it next week. He thanked CFA for the \$7 million set aside for equity adjustments each year. This has not been worked out yet on how we will do it, but rumors have it that CFA wants money for assistant professors only for the first year, then associates, and full. He stated we are trying to do our best and hoping that decisions will be left to individual campuses. It seems to him, he stated our assistant professors have indeed been taken care of way above other campuses, but associates and full have not, so we don't want any restrictions.

He stated he is here to serve and will make sure we will move ahead. He is thrilled to let faculty know that our campus is beginning to get the recognition it deserves and to get into the limelight among the CSU's. That is our number one priority. To make sure everyone knows what a great campus we have.

## **6. Remarks by Provost Covino**

Provost Covino stated this has been a year of orientation for him and he thanked colleagues for their patience and good will as he gets to know the institution. He stated he has learned a great deal more of the achievements and accomplishments that distinguish us in the CSU system. He thanked the acting deans that came from faculty and led the new colleges this year. It was tremendous challenge for them and they stepped up and met the challenge. Relative to the colleges in general, he stated we have been searching for 6 deans. We have hired 4 and are close to 5 and 6. He stated he wants all in place at the beginning of the academic year. He thanked all who participated in the searches and thanked generally all who have contributed to the continued strong tradition of excellence in teaching here. Students here are very happy and this is an institution well recognized for student success and faculty interaction with students. Faculty should feel proud of that reputation.

With each month of his stay here, he stated he is more and more impressed with the faculty's commitment to and achievement in scholarship, especially in the context of their strong dedication to teaching. Further he stated he wants to recognize and prize our dedication to institutional service and indeed we are very strong in that area. The College of Education is doing the new EdD, the College of Business is doing the EMBA, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences has a number of initiatives in digital humanities and distinguished programs and curricular initiatives, the College of Human and Health Sciences is celebrating Nursing reaccreditation for 10 years and that speaks to its strength and accomplishment of their program, complemented by strong work in Psychology and Social Work. The College of Natural Sciences has developed a core commitment to sustainability and will bring the issue to the forefront in their new programs. The College of Arts is developing a new center for applied creativity. These new colleges and continuing colleges moved through this year with energy and distinction. Each college has been working with a sense of mission and purpose. So he stated he is pleased to see this first year structure going so well. To repeat the emphasis the President placed on the great CFA contract achieved this year, it is a great way to end the year. It assures compensation and that helps us to look forward to a new year that will be rewarding and challenging. He thanked colleagues for their support given to him this year.

## **7. Remarks by Speaker Sarraille (from written remarks)**

The morning after I chaired this year's last meeting of the Academic Senate, I woke up feeling a wonderful sense of relief. I have been warned that this sensation will only be temporary so I'm trying to enjoy it while I can.

It has been an eventful year. Many of the major tasks the senate had to deal with have been mentioned in the reports you've heard.

I think the Senate did a good job this year handling these things, and more.

Reading the minutes of the General Faculty meeting of Sept 5, 2006, I was reminded that I said in the fall that the purpose of the Academic Senate is to ensure that the faculty voice is heard and heeded. I think we were heard and heeded this year, and the importance of that continuing is still very much on my mind.

The end of my term as Speaker is rapidly approaching. I am very grateful to the faculty for allowing me the honor to serve them. It was an honor.

I'm thankful too for what Provost Covino, President Shirvani, and other members of the administration did to facilitate our work.

Maybe this is a good time for me to ask the faculty here to consider running for Speaker sometime. There are ways in which it's probably more difficult and complicated to be the Speaker than you may even realize, but in other respects it's probably easier and simpler. When it's easier and simpler, that's mainly because of the extraordinary abilities and willingness to help of the people that you get to work with.

I want to thank those people. I'll name a few whom I worked with closely and continuously: Diana Bowman, Bret Carroll, Steve Filling, Lynn Johnson, David Lindsay, Jake Myers, Peter Nelligan, Paul O'Brien, Margaret Ramos, and Mark Thompson. These are wonderful people, enormously talented and devoted to the highest ideals of shared university governance. We worked together as a team, and we reached out to the senate and the general faculty to ask for help and advice. There are many, many people who made significant contributions, and who deserve our thanks. Our teamwork, our allegiance to our ideals and to each other was the source of our strength and success.

## 8. Passing of the Turkey Leg

Speaker Sarraille asked the body to consider this object (turkey drumstick) for a moment. For good or for ill, Stanislaus State is associated with a certain bird - the turkey. This metal drumstick can be used as a gavel, and it is a symbol of the office of the Speaker of the Faculty. It is the custom for the outgoing Speaker to present it to the Speaker Elect on this occasion and at this time. He stated his pleasure to pass it now to his honored colleague, Lynn Johnson.

Speaker Johnson accepted the turkey leg and presented him with the following resolution:

Whereas, Professor John J. Sarraille has steadfastly and admirably fulfilled his duties as Speaker of the Faculty, and

Whereas, Speaker Sarraille succeeded in uniting the Faculty in a strong defense of Faculty Governance, and

Whereas, Speaker Sarraille subsequently declared himself, and repeatedly referred to himself, as "the Emperor," and

Whereas, however, Emperor Sarraille, continued to attend many, many meetings of Faculty Governance committees and subcommittees to stay well informed on all issues, and

Whereas, the Speaker continued in a democratic vein, especially in shepherding "umpteen" revisions of the Strategic Plan to ensure that the voice of the Faculty was heard and in doing so earned the moniker: King of Footnotes, and

Whereas, John I, be he Emperor or King, brought to governance through his Volkswagen Bug and authentic beret *une sensation des années 60*, be it, therefore,

Resolved that the General Faculty express its heartfelt THANKS to Speaker Sarraille, and be it, further

Resolved that the Faculty wish Speaker Sarraille all the best in his future endeavors on behalf of the California State University, Stanislaus.

Vote on resolution passed unanimously.

## 9. Remarks and introduction of new faculty officers by Speaker Johnson

Speaker Johnson stated it is an honor to be chosen to represent the faculty, especially during this continuing period of transition, while the President, Provost, and faculty learn to work together effectively. It will be difficult to live up to the standard of faculty advocacy set by John this past year she stated.

She stated that we have a great team of strong, effective, and dedicated faculty members on next year's SEC:

Mark Thompson	Speaker-elect
Ken Schoenly	FBAC Chair
Renae Floyd	FAC chair
David Lindsay	Grad Council chair
Steven Filling	UEPC chair
John Sarraille	Clerk
Paul O'Brien	Statewide Academic Senator
April Hejka-Ekins	Statewide Academic Senator

And of course, the one indispensable person, Diana Bowman, the Executive Assistant to the Speaker. Diana is the reason she ran for the position now, she stated. Al Petrosky sent to her his top ten list of reasons to run for 2007-08 faculty speaker. Two items caught her attention. First, he mentioned groupies; second, he mentioned that Diana would be retiring in 2009. She stated she wanted to complete her turn as Speaker while Diana was here; she is an invaluable resource about the history of our policies and practices as well as a tireless worker and strong advocate of shared governance.

She stated she will keep her remarks today short and save substantive comments for the General Faculty meeting in September, but that she anticipates a productive year and looks forward to working with all of you.

She encouraged all to stop by the AS office or leave her a message if anyone wants to chat. She thanked all for trusting her with this position and to have a great summer.

Again, Johnson thanked Speaker Sarraille. She stated it is a great honor to be Speaker and looks forward to working together effectively.

10. Adjournment 3:55 pm.