

**General Faculty Meeting
May 14, 2009**

1. Call to order at 2:35 pm.

2. Approval of agenda-Approved.

3. Approval of September 3, 2008 General Faculty Minutes-Approved.

4. Reports and Announcements

- a. Committee on Committee (Jasek-Rysdahl)**
Report on file in the Academic Senate.
- b. Faculty Affairs Committee (Hejka-Ekins)**
Report on file in the Academic Senate.
- c. Faculty Budget Advisory Committee (Tan)**
Report on file in the Academic Senate.
- d. Faculty Development Committee (Deaner)**
Report on file in the Academic Senate.
- e. Graduate Council (Young)**
Report on file in the Academic Senate.
- f. Leaves and Awards Committee (Campbell)**
Report on file in the Academic Senate.
- g. Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Policy Committee (Thompson read the report)**
Report on file in the Academic Senate.
- h. University Educational Policies Committee (Petrosky)**
Report on file in the Academic Senate.
- i. University Retention, Promotion and Tenure Committee (Watson)**
Report on file in the Academic Senate.
- j. Statewide Academic Senate (O'Brien/Filling)**
Report on file in the Academic Senate.

5. Remarks by President Shirvani

President Shirvani stated he was honored to be here. This is an important governance ceremony, with the transferring of responsibility to another group. It is also a sad time, but it is not the time to talk about the budget, economic crises or the state. He stated his role is to be sure we know what a great job we have been doing. It is true that faculty has done a wonderful job of educating our students. This campus continues to receive more and more recognition. We have no problem with enrollment. Are a smaller/midsize campus with no enrollment problems, we're almost an impacted

campus. We are the only one among our category to be done admitting students by Feb 1 and we still have the students that we want. This is not only because the students have no other place to go but because we are a very interesting and desired school. He wanted us to know that. Students are more and more desiring to come here and our students are spread among the 6-7 counties. So far we have 20% from outside of our area. We are one of the top three in terms of graduation and retention, and the quality of instruction. We are one of two in the Princeton review, and were recognized by the Southern Regional Educational Board and ASCU. We have been selected as one of a few schools with best practices. Lots of great things are happening. It is time for recognition and valuing your contributions to this community and the entire CSU system.

There is time for recognition and valuing your contribution to this community and to the entire CSU system. Unfortunately the budget situation and economy are very bad and the state is in worse shape than the US and we have to face that. Many committee chairs have elaborated that we have to work together to collaboratively deal with issues and hang in to support each other. President Shirvani stated he is looking forward to the upcoming year. Things are pretty bad, the deficit is catastrophic statewide. We will know after the elections and the May revise from the governor, so in the next few weeks things will fall into place and we'll know how bad it will be. We can't plan anything until we get the picture. All of these cuts and adjustments are underway. President Shirvani is looking forward to working with faculty and with the good people in the administration, the deans with their good leadership. He is looking forward to the newly-elected senate leadership and along with staff and students will hold hands and move safely through this stormy weather and come through this better and stronger and true to our values and the level of recognition we deserve.

President Shirvani acknowledged Speaker Thompson as a great partner. He noted that he worked little with SEC, but met regularly with Thompson. Although many times there was disagreement, Mark has been extremely nice, although very, very assertive about it. Shirvani noted that they have been able to negotiate, agree to disagree, and work together, so he will miss him. He stated they each had influence on each others clothing. He thanked all for their work and is looking forward to commencement. He will keep everyone informed over the summer regarding what is going on.

Thompson stated he appreciated being able to contact President Shirvani and get a quick response. That has been very important. He is sure that will continue between Filling and Shirvani.

6. Remarks by Provost Covino

Provost Covino wanted to begin with a point by point rebuttal of Tan's report. This is a time for appreciation and celebration and there is much to appreciate and those who deserve the appreciation are here before him. Some of the achievements this year are a successful WASC visit and it is a pretty big deal. We are highly regarded and they are impressed with what we do, and our achievements. He thanked faculty for that and for what is sure to be a successful final visit in the spring. And he thanked faculty for their response to the WASC recommendations. There were very collegial discussions. . They put us into lively discussion and exchange that was substantive and collegial and he's been pleased to be involved in these. This year we earned distinction from the Carnegie Foundation in service learning and community engagement. He thanked faculty for heightening visibility of our commitment to the community in the region and the university's role in that relationship. This is not an ivory tower, but an interactive university with much to give to the community. He appreciates the heart you put into it. And that is evidenced in the numbers. Retention and graduation rate keeps rising when for certain reasons one might expect it to be going down. We teach a diverse population. We admit students that are pleading to be admitted and we teach them well. The measures of how our students are doing indicate we are not just moving them

through, but they leave with value added. In several areas our students out perform as seniors. They leave here with acquired established expectations. Also this year and several years more hopefully there is exciting planning in the colleges added by the leadership of 6 great deans with faculty support. We have a new degree program in Ethnic Studies. We have a new online program in Nursing starting in October. We have ongoing CJ program offering new preparation for law enforcement and we have interdisciplinary green tech program that several colleges are participating in. Those are great achievements and are only a few of many. You should finish the year proud of what you have done here. We know it will be a challenging year ahead but know it will be met with goodwill. Have a great summer.

7. Remarks by Speaker Thompson

Speaker Thompson brought forward a resolution recognizing the contributions of Diana Bowman. Past Speakers Russ, Renning, Johnson, Filling, Sarraille, Petrosky, and Pandell all seconded the motion. A standing ovation accompanied the unanimous support for the resolution. The resolution read:

Commendation for Executive Assistant to the Speaker Bowman

Whereas, Executive Assistant to the Speaker Diana Bowman defined the position through consistently dedicated, accurate, professional, and tireless work over the last **30** years, and

Whereas, Executive Assistant Bowman is the long-term memory and central resource for faculty governance, having created and maintained voluminous writings of minutes, notes, policies, procedures, directives, and opinions, and

Whereas, Assistant Bowman has an astounding knack for finding on short notice and almost instantaneously that particular, necessary piece of paper from twenty years ago, and

Whereas, Ms. Bowman has nurtured many, many new committee chairs and staff colleagues, and

Whereas, Diana, after all these years, seems still to genuinely like the Faculty, and, finally,

Whereas, Diana has advised, corrected, trained, and endured 30 Speakers during her tenure; be it, therefore,

Resolved: That the Faculty of California State University, Stanislaus offer its most sincere thanks to Executive Assistant to the Speaker Bowman for her faithful service, and be it, further,

Resolved: That the Faculty wish Executive Assistant Bowman all the best in a long and well-deserved retirement, and be it, finally,

Resolved: That the Faculty bestow upon Diana, the titles:

Friend & Caretaker of the Faculty

Remarks by Speaker Thompson:

Let me begin by thanking the Committee on Committees for seeing fit to appoint me to Assessment of Student Learning; old Speakers never die, they just go serve on a subcommittee. Beyond that, I sincerely thank the Senate Executive Committee, the committees of the General Faculty, the

standing committees and subcommittees of the Academic Senate, the committees of the several colleges, and the committees of the departments and programs. I am proud to have served twice now as an elected faculty member designated as your Speaker. Sometimes we have experiences that can only be expressed in clichés, and, much more than my first stint as Speaker, this year's has humbled me. Humbled by the amount of work colleagues devote to hash over past problems and future plans. Humbled by trying to hold onto and give proper credence to the many complex perspectives on each of the many complex issues that surfaced and resurfaced. Mostly humbled by the challenge in trying to chart the best path on issues that are vitally important to you, my colleagues.

I started the year with a focus on three issues: student enrollment management, budget transparency, and RPT. I provided a mid-year report on those topics and now want to give you my final report.

Student enrollment management: I was struck at the Academic Senate meeting that VPBF Green attended to discuss our structural deficit. To my understanding, we were poised to grow ourselves out of the deficit when the economy collapsed and growth was suddenly curtailed. What struck me, though, was that fateful year we had planned to grow 8%. That's a huge one-year jump. How was that number arrived at? We know that times will eventually improve and the opportunities for greater growth will occur. Faculty rightfully have a voice in the composition of the student body and, within the parameters set by Headquarters, a say in the rate of student growth vis-à-vis rates of growth in staff, MPPs, and faculty. I met with Provost Covino and AVPSEM Pugh, and it was a fruitful meeting where we reviewed a student enrollment management plan developed under President Hughes. A written plan that once updated could be circulated broadly to groups in the same way our Strategic Plan is. This consultation would provide a record of plans, process, and changes to enrollment management over time. I believe we found a mechanism already there to facilitate consultation; however, the updating has not yet occurred. I hope that the new SEC will keep trying to ensure that we have a written, distributed plan to guide the accelerated growth that we know will begin again.

Budget transparency: Obviously, this topic has stayed on the front burner all year. And I believe there has been progress in providing better information to a wider slice of the community than we've ever had before. However, I have also to say that I've been in many, many meetings this year where budget and budget cuts were the topics, and it's no secret that, still, we do not have information that users consider trustworthy. We have a new VPBF arriving, the fourth we will have worked with in short period of time. There has been improvement, but, again, the lack of information and lack of trust in information we are only beginning to address. The Faculty Budget Advisory Committee has developed a template to request the same sorts of information each year; providing that information should be a priority. Such incremental changes and a continuing spotlight on the availability and quality of budget information must continue to be a focus of faculty governance.

University Retention, Promotion, and Tenure:

I have said since this time last year that any productive initiative concerning retention, promotion, and tenure, must come to the faculty from the faculty. The work done by two general faculty committees—the Faculty Affairs Committee and the University Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee—has led the campus to the point of a thoughtful review of how we frame our expectations under which we review and evaluate our colleagues. Whether I followed the correct path, this process, as I promised last fall, has been faculty led, and I'm sure it will continue to be faculty led into the coming academic year. Our practice, our documents, and the process we have recently engaged in all attest that we place tremendous value on decentralized authority in RPT that recognizes the primacy of the department in evaluations.

That is my report to you. There were of course a mind-numbing number of other issues that we have dealt with this year. I'm sure the faculty leaders and your Senators appreciate the trust you have placed in us. Finally, I can assure you that I am truly proud to have been your Speaker, and I salute the faculty.

8. Passing of the Turkey Leg

Thompson presented the turkey leg to Filling.

9. Remarks and introduction of new faculty officers by Speaker Filling

Speaker Filling stated in 1997 he was walking by the Library back and forth and Diana came out and asked if he was looking for the Academic Senate Office. She invited me in and the rest is history. He has watched many speakers do it right. Speaker Thompson is the original recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Governance Award and he deserves it. He has been a role model for many people on campus. He hopes he can do it as well as him. In pursuit of trying to do it right, Filling moves 2/AS/09/SEC. Seconded by Johnson.

Whereas, Professor Mark Thompson has steadfastly and admirably fulfilled his duties as Speaker of the Faculty, and

Whereas, the Speaker has a special gift for the use of analogy to reveal the truth residing beneath an issue, much as a research scientist uses a microscope to reveal a parasite invading its host, and

Whereas, Speaker Thompson held true to the Academic Senate's call for shared governance, promoting early and meaningful inclusion, substantial iterative conversation, and clear explanations of reasons when faculty recommendations are not followed, and

Whereas, Speaker Thompson maintained a consistent commitment to ensuring faculty responsibility for the venue and process for discussions of policies related to Retention, Promotion and Tenure, and

Whereas, Speaker Thompson directed particular attention to ensuring grassroots, faculty-driven processes, and is a watchman in this university in trumpeting the important role faculty play to maintain the quality of instruction on this campus, and

Whereas, Professor Thompson was the first recipient of the Faculty Governance Award in recognition of his stellar work in faculty governance, and has each year since 1996 served faculty, students, and the entire university community as a member of the Senate Executive Committee, be it, therefore,

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

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

How do we fill the void when he walks out of office Filling asked? Convince him to walk back in. So he talked to his colleagues and since he has moved to the mountains, mountains won't come to

Mohammad so to entice Thompson to come down the mountain; he found something that he can use as he comes down the hill. An ipod and a fine array of music prepared by Dr. Petrosky.

Speaker Filling introduced the 2009/2010 Senate Executive Committee:

Steve Filling, Speaker
Kelvin Jasek-Rysdahl, Speaker-Elect
Betsy Eudey, Clerk
Ken Schoenly, Chair of FAC
Ian Littlewood, Chair of UEPC
John Garcia, Chair of FBAC
Randy Brown, Chair of GC
Paul O'Brien, SWAS
Steve Filling, SWAS

In closing, Filling stated the primary thing to worry about is to retain focus on our priorities, amid the terminator, the Spanish Inquisition, WASC, VSA, CLA, etc. Focus on the face of changing social values – we educate the general population as to the value of what we do, but they seem to have lost sight of that. The best thing we can do is stay involved. There is a joint letter from him and the president asking you to stay in contact over the summer, make sure your department and dean can get a hold of you. We need your input to make it work, talk to each other, staff, faculty, students, and think differently. We need to think how to do things differently.

Enjoy the summer.

10. Adjournment
4:20pm