Academic Senate  
May 13, 2008  

Present: Bender, Bice, Broadwater, Colnic, Covino, C. Davis, S. Davis, Eudey, Filling, Flores, Floyd, Garza, Gomula, Grobner, Hall, Hejka-Ekins, Helzer, Johnson, Kavasch, Keswick, Manrique, Morgan-Foster, Nagel, O’Brien, Peterson, Petratos, Poole, Ringstad, Sankey, Sarraille, Schoenly, Silverman, Sniezek, Stessman, Taniguchi, Thompson, Tuedio, Tynan, Werling,  

Proxy: Bailey (Lawson)  

Guests: Aly, Bengston, C. Brown, Demetrulias, Lindsay, McNeil, Novak, Regalado, Schulz, Stefanco, Stryker, Wendt, Young  

Recording Secretary: Diana Bowman  

6/AS/08/FAC—Amendment to Support Unit Review Policy, APPROVED  

15/AS/08/UEPC—Resolution in Support of Undergraduate Education, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED  

16/AS/08/UEPC—Resolution in Support of Graduate Education, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED  

Next Academic Senate Meeting:  
Tuesday, September 23, 2008  
2:30-4:30 pm., JSRFDC Reference Room  

Minutes submitted by:  

John Sarraille, Clerk  

1. Call to order at 2:35 pm.  

2. Approval of Agenda-approved  

3. Approval of Academic Senate Minutes of April 29, 2008 – Peterson made a comment regarding remarks that appear in the minutes, starting on page 5. Complying with a request from a faculty member, she read a section of the policy “Principles, Criteria and Procedures for Retention, Promotion and Tenure Review.” She stated that this makes it clear that faculty members may choose between elaborations in effect at time of hire and elaborations subsequently approved. It was MS Tynan/Hejka-Ekins to approve the minutes.  

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS  

a. Steve Stryker reported he is here representing the self study team. The current document is called the Capacity Report and it is in the process of being prepared for publication at the end of summer. There has been a team identified by WASC that will be here the first week in October. The list of team members was distributed and will be posted on the WASC site. They will spend the summer trying to communicate with the WASC team and Chair to find out what groups they want to meet with while here. At the Fall General Faculty meeting or before he will advise faculty which groups they want to visit. Inquiry circles are making the transition to start on the educational effectiveness review. Schoenly asked if they will have time to go through our teaching spaces to see what we have and Stryker replied probably some of them will. They operate on their own.  

b. Filling announced ballots for CFA chapter elections are going out and will be due back within a week.  

c. Helzer announced a presentation on Conservation Planning in the San Joaquin Valley, a public presentation by Patrick Huber, Geography Graduate Group, UC Davis on May 14, 2-3 pm in L-110G (GIS Lab). For further information, please contact Dr. Peggy Hauselt in Geography at phauselt@csustan.edu This event is sponsored by the Department of Geography and Anthropology, CHSS & the Social Science Council on Sustainable Futures
d. Tuedio announced the Honors Capstone Research Conference will take place tomorrow in the FDC, starting at 1pm and running until about 7pm.

e. Regalado announced there will be a screening of a film that will depict problems regarding teen life in the central valley. Filmmakers are students from Lodi High School. It will be held in the Student Center at 6:00 pm.

f. Kavasch reported a New Music Festival is being held consisting of two concerts featuring student compositions, one at 5 and one at 7:30 in Snider Recital Hall

g. Tynan announced there will be thesis presentations for the Social Work Department on May 20 in South Dining Hall and May 22 in MSR 130.

h. Scott Davis announced the Faculty Beer-B-Que is this Saturday, May 17 in Teague Park.

i. Sankey reported during the conference, California Paleontology (Cal Paleo) last month (April) ~ 20 school children showed up expecting to see a dinosaur exhibit in Naraghi Hall of Science. The CSU Stanislaus geology students who interceded before they bombarded into the conference room: They found out that most of the kids came from Julien School in Turlock, where they received this misinformation. The following Monday, after Cal Paleo, three CSU Stanislaus students went back to Julien School and invited the class back to campus for a Jr Paleo Day. This was held last Saturday May 10th, and was a huge success. ~70 people arrived, both kids and parents. The students had set up a temporary museum in the conference room, with our dinosaur models, casts, and other fossils set out. They also had a paleo dig in one of the fields near Naraghi Hall, where the kids could dig for bones and identify their finds. They also were paraded through my office to see the dinosaur femur. And there a bbq lunch, games, and other activities. The students want to run this event next year, and hopefully it goes well.

j. Morgan-Foster announced the book for summer reading is ‘Into the wild.’ Those needing a copy may let her know.

k. Johnson read this announcement: "SEC received a letter from several members of the faculty expressing grave concerns about the significantly increased emphasis on research in retention, promotion, and tenure decisions, without consultation with and support of the faculty; and the use of criteria for evaluating scholarly activities that are not consistent with departmental elaborations. These faculty members felt that this is evidence of a continued disregard for faculty disciplinary expertise, a lack of respect for established governance processes, and further that this pattern of behavior flies in the face of shared governance and the primacy of faculty judgment on matters of general educational policy." The letter asked that SEC confer on this and take action.

Johnson also announced that the SEC had met the day before in a special session, and was in the course of drafting a letter to the President and Provost expressing its concern and dismay. The letter will be read at the General Faculty meeting on Thursday.

5. QUESTIONS ABOUT REPORTS

6. ACTION ITEM

a. 6/AS/08/FAC-Amendment to Support Unit Review Policy

R. Floyd reminded senators that this item was returning to the senate after having been referred back to the FAC for further consideration. The referral was made when the provost suggested that the policy provide for the possibility that the 'COC' of one of the colleges might nominate faculty for a committee, if the committee were charged with reviewing a support unit contained within the college. Accordingly, FAC inserted wording under the heading "Selection of review team and schedule for the review."

1. **Selection of review team and schedule for the review:** The review team is comprised of people mainly from outside the unit being reviewed as well as those involved in preparation of the self-study report to ensure continuity and appropriate interpretation of the data. When the unit has university-wide responsibility, all sectors are represented on the review team. The vice president’s or president’s responsibility includes soliciting nominations for team members from the faculty through the Committee on Committees and the unit administrator and selecting the members and chair of the review team.
When a review of a support unit contained within a specific college is planned, the dean’s responsibility includes soliciting nominations for review team members from the college faculty via college governance structures established to make faculty committee appointments.

There being no discussion, the question was called. The resolution, as amended, was approved by a voice vote. This will be sent to the president with the senate's request to take action.

7. **FIRST READING ITEMS**

   a. **15/AS/08/UEPC—Resolution in Support of Undergraduate Education**

   It was MS Filling/O’Brien

   **Resolved:** That the Academic Senate urges the Deans to maintain undergraduate programs of all sizes, with class enrollments appropriate to their subject matter and reflective of program size, be maintained; and be it further

   **Resolved:** Cancellation of classes in response to budget cuts should be based on programmatic needs, rather than arbitrarily determined enrollment requirements.

   **Rationale:** Both undergraduate and graduate programs serve a vital purpose in fulfilling our University mission. While acknowledging the current budget climate and the need for meeting enrollment targets, it is imperative that the University meet its obligation to the students and the community that depend on the University to prepare a well educated workforce.

   California State University, Stanislaus has a wide variety of undergraduate programs. Of those programs, some are relatively small, yet collectively our programs foster a scholarly academic culture that enables the University to fulfill its mission.

   The current budget climate has spurred various proposals at California State University, Stanislaus that threaten the delivery of quality education at the University. Multiple sections of classes with “low” enrollment have been cancelled, leaving our students without the courses they need and our programs scrambling to provide alternatives.

   The cancellation of a single course during a single semester can have a profound effect on the students within a program. Many of the small programs have a limited number of course offerings in an academic year. Cancellation of a single course because of “low enrollment” can delay students’ program completion by an entire year and increases costs to students by forcing them to pay for at least one additional semester.

   The University Educational Policies Committee acknowledges the vital importance of both undergraduate and graduate programs in their contribution to the fulfillment of the University mission. The University Educational Policies Committee strongly supports the resolution relating to cancellation of classes sent forward by the Graduate Council. The University Educational Policies Committee requests that Colleges acknowledge that the relatively small size of some programs on campus uniquely puts the courses, programs, and ultimately the students at risk. The University Educational Policies Committee is requesting that programs of all sizes remain viable so that students’ normal degree completion progress may be maintained.

   Filling asked that 15/AS/08/UEPC and 16/AS/08/GC be discussed together. This was accepted.

   b. **16/AS/08/GC—Resolution in Support of Graduate Education**

   It was MS Tynan/Hejka-Ekins

   **Resolved:** That the Academic Senate urges the Deans to maintain graduate programs of all sizes, with class enrollments appropriate to their subject matter and reflective of program size, be maintained; and be it further

   **Resolved:** Cancellation of classes in response to budget cuts should be based on programmatic needs, rather than arbitrarily determined enrollment requirements.

   **Rationale:** Both undergraduate and graduate programs serve a vital purpose in fulfilling our University mission. While acknowledging the current budget climate and the need for meeting enrollment targets, it is imperative that the University meet its obligation to the students and the community that depend on the University to prepare a well educated workforce.
California State University, Stanislaus has 26 master’s degree programs. Of those 26 programs, 20 are relatively small with less than 30 students enrolled, yet collectively foster a scholarly academic culture that enables the University to fulfill its mission.

The current budget climate has spurred various proposals at California State University, Stanislaus that threaten the delivery of quality graduate education at the University. Discussions of closing graduate sections that are deemed “under enrolled” but were previously maintained with similar enrollment numbers, and discussions of placing moratoriums on small graduate programs, have taken place.

The cancellation of a single graduate course during a single semester can have a profound effect on the students within a graduate program. Many of the small graduate programs have a limited number of course offerings in an academic year. Cancellation of a single course because of “low enrollment” can delay students’ program completion by an entire year and increases costs to graduate students by forcing them to pay for at least one additional semester.

The Graduate Council acknowledges the vital importance of both undergraduate and graduate programs in their contribution to the fulfillment of the University mission. The Graduate Council strongly supports the resolution relating to cancellation of classes sent forward by the University Educational Policies Committee (UEPC). The Graduate Council requests that Colleges acknowledge that the relative small size of the majority of the graduate programs on campus uniquely puts the courses, programs, and ultimately the graduate students at risk. The Graduate Council is requesting that graduate programs of all sizes remain viable so that students’ normal degree completion progress may be maintained.

DISCUSSION of 15/AS/08/UEPC and 16/AS/08/UEPC:

Eudey indicated support of the essence of the resolutions but not the exact language of the 'resolved' clauses. The words “be maintained” in the first 'resolved' clause does not fit. Young stated that those words should have been deleted. It was accepted as a friendly amendment to delete them from both resolutions. Eudey suggested this wording be placed in the second 'resolved' clause: “cancellation of classes in response to budget cuts should be based on a consultative process between deans and department chairs.” This would express the fact that we want give-and-take conversation rather than a top-down decision.

Thompson observed that in order to amend the resolution, we need to move to a second reading.

It was MS Filling/O’Brien to move to a second reading on both resolutions. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Dean Novak spoke in favor of Eudey’s suggestion, agreeing on the need to have a consultative process with faculty, deans and department chairs.

Filling opined that the current language says the same thing, but he had no objection to Eudey’s suggestion.

It was MS Eudey/S. Davis to amend the second 'resolved' clause to read “Cancellation of classes in response to budget cuts should be based on a consultative process between deans, directors and department chairs.” This was accepted as a friendly amendment by the senators.

Filling offered another friendly amendment to delete “between” and add “involving.” This was accepted.

Tynan agreed with the friendly amendments. Colnic asked for clarification that the last part of the second 'resolved' clause, which reads: “rather than arbitrarily determined enrollment requirements” was not meant to be deleted. Tynan agreed, saying that when she accepted Eudey’s suggestion, she was not thinking that phrase would be dropped. Peterson agreed it should be retained.

Young asked if a director is the same as program coordinator? If not, she would like to include program coordinators. The relevant wording would then be: “deans, directors, coordinators and department chairs.” Tynan suggested: “dean and appropriate program head.” Hejka-Ekins suggested: “program coordinators.” C. Davis suggested: “deans and appropriate program faculty.” This was accepted.

Nagel stated the language seems to suggest it is a sense of the senate resolution because it says the Academic Senate urges the deans. Johnson agreed.

S. Davis pointed out that most faculty are gone in the summer, which could impede consultation. What can be done about that? Filling indicated it might not be a bad thing if there were no changes during the summer. The AAUP says that curricula and instruction is the primary responsibility of faculty. Thompson said he was trying to figure out what scenarios
might occur. In the summer, many chairs are here so there could be communication with them, and there is e-mail. S. Davis answered that some of the 'appropriate faculty' might be hard to contact. Covino asked, when instruction is beginning, what would be the usual procedure? Do we need to have something different now? Tynan advised that what prompted the resolution is, as stated in the third paragraph of the rationale: "Discussions of closing graduate sections that are deemed 'under enrolled' but were previously maintained with similar enrollment numbers and discussions of placing moratoriums on small graduate programs, have taken place.” Young agreed, saying the Graduate Council wants to make sure that courses are protected. There are low-enrollment courses that are very important to offer. If a course is cancelled, and it is offered only every two years, it puts students at a disadvantage.

Tuedio stated that chairs were startled at the stipulation of a minimum class size. In the last budget crunch, departments had latitude to balance low enrollments in some courses with higher enrollment in others. We served students needs and met targets. There should be department-based enrollment management. Consultation is central.

Covino explained that as he anticipated budget cuts and perceived a need to cut back to align spending with the projected level of funding, he considered the effects of reductions on students. He asked deans what they thought the course limits should be. He said he told the deans he wanted progress toward degrees to be protected. It came out of the discussion that undergraduate courses should run about 12-15 students and graduate courses 8-10, and that faculty assignments should be as equitable as possible. He said it was his expectation that the deans would engage in a consultative process within the colleges. We often have to choose between a small-enrollment course and one with higher student demand. A consultative process makes sense.

Thompson said he liked the way the consultative process is described in the resolution. He did not feel that the process by which summer session offerings were decided was consultative. O’Brien said he felt both resolutions were important. He added that the Governor's May revise of the budget was to be announced on the following day. We don’t want to teach tiny classes, but sometimes it is necessary. We owe it to our graduate students. He stated that his dean has called a meeting with his department, and she wants to engage the faculty.

Covino questioned the rationale of 15/AS/08/UEPC, paragraph three, second sentence: “Multiple sections of classes with ‘low’ enrollment have been cancelled.” It is too early to say classes have been cancelled. Tuedio replied classes have been cancelled for low enrollment over the years, but it has intensified since January.

The resolutions now read:

15/AS/08/UEPC-Be it Resolved: That the Academic Senate urges the Deans to maintain undergraduate programs of all sizes, with class enrollments appropriate to their subject matter and reflective of program size, and be it further

Resolved: That cancellation of classes in response to budget cuts should be based on a consultative process involving deans and appropriate program faculty, rather than arbitrarily determined enrollment requirements.

16/AS/08/GC- Be it Resolved: That the Academic Senate urges the Deans to maintain graduate programs of all sizes, with class enrollments appropriate to their subject matter and reflective of program size, and be it further

Resolved: That cancellation of classes in response to budget cuts should be based on a consultative process involving deans and appropriate program faculty, rather than arbitrarily determined enrollment requirements.

There being no further discussion, the question was called. A voice vote to approve both resolutions, as amended, was taken. It passed unanimously. The resolutions will be sent to the deans.

8. OPEN FORUM

Johnson stated that she enjoyed being Speaker this year and encourages faculty to play a role in faculty governance. It has been a great experience for her - an opportunity to get to know people and find out what is going on.

9. ADJOURNMENT at 3:35 pm