ACADEMIC SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes
Tuesday, October 6, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Videoconference

Members:   A. Hegde, M. Danforth, J. Millar, M. Martinez, M. Rees, R. Gearhart, C. Lam,
           B. Street, D. Boschini, V. Harper
Absent:    M. Martinez

1. CALL TO ORDER
    A. Hegde called the meeting to order.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFORMATION AND WELLNESS CHECK
   • Budget Forum - October 19, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon Zoom videoconference. The
     link will be distributed upon finalization of the agenda.
   • Faculty Trustee nominations – CSUB and CSU Humboldt will participate in the
     committee reviewing the nominees. The committee meets in January. Two years
     ago, a Faculty Support Petition was distributed to the General Faculty as additional
     documentation to submit to the selection committee. The call for Faculty Trustee
     nominations to be sent today.
   • There are many opportunities to refer students to some extracurricular activities
     sponsored by Student Affairs, and different faculty and student groups: Hispanic
     Heritage Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Drag Bingo, etc. The Be
     Brown & Be Proud: The Politics of Ethnic Terminology in the Latinx Community
     presentation will be held virtually, October 9, and the Organization of Women
     Leaders (OWLs) has a speaking event, The 19th Amendment, on October 7.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   M. Rees moved to approve the September 29, 2020 Minutes. C. Lam seconded.
   Approved.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
   D. Boschini moved to approve the Agenda. B. Street seconded. Approved.

5. CONTINUED ITEMS
   a. AS Log (handout)
i. AAC (R. Gearhart) Referral 2019-2020 #18 Interdisciplinary Bachelor Degree in Science in Public Health Proposal - nothing new to report. The committee will begin discussing the Ethnic Studies (ES) requirement. The Ethnic Studies (ES) Unit Task Force will be making recommendations to the AAC. The final campus feedback to the CO is due November 2.

ii. AS&SS (C. Lam) 2019-2020 #12 Graduate Student Grievance and Appeals Policy – Reporting Chain – The committee will be reviewing the Graduate Councils response and their suggested change in the Handbook language and the process.


iv. BPC (B. Street) Referral 2020-2021 #01 Masters of Science in Computer Science – The committee is working with AAC on a joint resolution.

b. Provost Update – V. Harper will be meeting with Deans regarding the Spring 2021 Instructional Plan. They in turn will be reaching out to department chairs to develop it. The EC will see a draft before its final submittal to the CO, due November 6.

c. Searches

i. AVP AA and Dean of Academic Programs – B. Frakes and C. Prado have been appointed as Administrator and Staff representative, respectively. Fulfillment of the faculty positions is underway. No consultant involvement.

ii. NSME Search Committee Dean – A. Sixtos, and L. A. Bishop have been appointed. The elected faculty representatives are M. Rush, K. Szick, J. Bergkamp, and M. Danforth. Dean Rodriguez has been appointed to the Administrator position. Search Consultant cost is approximately $80K.

iii. Library Dean – The Search closes at end of October.

iv. Antelope Valley Dean – The faculty representatives to the committee are pending school elections. The committee will meet in Spring 2021.

v. AVP Faculty Affairs – The search committee is formed and will meet in the Spring. The deadline is January.

vi. K. Krishnan retires at the end of November. An outstanding Interim AVP of Instructional Research from the CO will be in place for 12 months.

vii. AA Pandemic Budget Advisory Task Force (PBTF) – The first meeting went well. The target reduction of the 2021-2022 budget is $1million. V. Harper expressed his gratitude for, and confidence in B. Hartsell and J. Sun to co-chair the task force.

viii. Provost Pandemic Research Group – V. Harper will provide resources to encourage faculty to study the impact of the pandemic on student
learning, wellness, and health. It will be composed of a research core which will be an interdisciplinary core group across schools and include Student Affairs. The goal is to have a group of publications, grants, presentations and creative activities associated with this. It’s particularly important because of our underrepresented student body that we position ourselves as resource to the country as to the impact of the pandemic and distance learning on our student body. The level of support TBD. Communication forthcoming. The Research Group will send out calls for research areas and decide how funds are allocated. J. Millar is so proud to learn how many CSUB faculty members have already begun the research.

d. Financial and strategic planning transparency and faculty participation – The Pandemic Budget Advisory Task Force (PBTF) met. M. Rees, D. Boschini, and B. Street attended. $1 million will need to be cut from the budget and it’s going to hurt. There are many things to consider. Budgets from the last two years have been submitted for the task force’s review. B. Street said the group is thinking about identifying principles and values for guidance. They agree that everything is on the table. Thought $1M is a lot, it may not be sufficient given the economic forecast. This year CSUB had the cushion of reserves. The campus needs to be aware that it’s likely that more funds will be cut. D. Boschini said that there was a lot of different viewpoints at different levels. At the campus level, there will be a variety of people and those looking at this for the first time. The data will be helpful. It’s important for the people involved to share their rationale behind their point of view. For example, the Nursing Department has 35 part-timers. They are doing the Nursing Department a favor by teaching at a fraction of the cost of what their profession provides for their time. Nursing would rather use 3 full-time faculty members and 15 part-timers. The department would probably save money on benefits. Yet they would like to consider reducing the number of part-timers. There will be differences in the right thing to do. This is why it’s important to keep everything on the table to see that what is right for one part of campus may not be the right thing for another part of campus. People tend to advocate for their own area, but the task force is not supposed to do that. R. Gearhart agreed that $1 million cut is the best-case scenario. Things are a lot worse than they appear. People who have lost their jobs permanently don’t show up in the unemployment numbers. A. Hegde predicted that 2021 will probably be the worst year in 20 years. B. Street said that the guiding principles of the GI 2025 relates to the graduation rate and it still holds true to fulfill those
commitments. A. Hegde said that the PBTF meets every Friday. The EC will be updated regularly.

e. Ethnic Studies Unit Implementation Taskforce – Some campuses don’t have ES courses yet. Refer to the FAQs website. The Chair of the ASCSU, R. Collins, is willing to attend any Ethnic Studies Unit Implementation Task Force meeting. R. Gearhart received a series of emails from AACs from other campuses. The GE structures in the CSU are so different and it’s difficult to help each other. Many people are overworked, distressed, and displeased with the process. CSUB can move courses into Area F and meet learning objectives. Some department have GE Modifications (GEMs). Example: Nursing. The Provost’s Office will update the list of GEMs. The rest is up to GECCo to approve the other courses. A. Hegde will ask T. Salisbury to participate as the ES faculty member on the task force.

f. 50th Anniversary – A. Hegde has a meeting with the President later this month when he will offer a debrief from the faculty point of view. There were many Kern Economic Community members and students featured. Not enough faculty members were acknowledged. He spoke to retired faculty who were disappointed about that. J. Millar was glad to hear keynote speaker R. Branson speak to climate change, the need to take care of each other, and that he and K. McCarthy can disagree yet still have a dialogue. It did feel like a birthday party. R. Gearhart said the campus raised $124,000 from 527 individuals. $50,000 of that was from the President. It would be interesting to see the breakdown of faculty, alumni, community supporters, etc. to see how effective the outreach was to different groups. D. Boschini said that she enjoyed Sir R. Branson and there were parts of the event that were really lovely. Her impression was that staff came across as celebrating people who support the campus financially and that the people who do the daily work were missing. It was University Advancement (UA)-centric. UA’s world is with donors. A. Hegde suggested that faculty take ownership of increasing visibility of faculty’s contribution. He shared that we still have a few former Senate Chairs on campus. We can start highlighting the immediately past Chair. We can take a few minutes acknowledging people who were here before and those who have served a long time. Example: 50 years of the Senate. Then go through the faculty who have contributed over time. He was invited to the planning of the 50th Anniversary after much had already been done. Maybe it was in response to the feedback given. D. Boschini said that there is a gap in the faculty communication. Faculty has the power to celebrate. Perhaps faculty is waiting for others to do the job. Reaching out to the Senate Chair perspective is the right way to go. She said that A. Hegde is doing a good job. B. Street agreed with starting the share of Senate
Chairs. Further, it’s an opportunity and a sign of good will to show our support of UA. A. Hegde said we could acknowledge faculty by having the last page of the agenda feature someone who has served on the Senate: D. Boschini, BJ Moore, J. Stark and J. Kegley, J. Deegan, V. Kohli. Then feature people who have helped built the university. Some of the founders of the Economics Department are still here. J. Millar suggested featuring the Wang Award recipients. M. Rees suggested posting a list of past Academic Senate Chairs on the Senate website.

6. NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS
   a. Post-Tenure Review Requirements – It concerns standards and expectations. FAC can take this up later and perhaps over email.
   b. FYS Instructors and GECCo structure - This pertains to faculty not associated with any department and how they are reviewed. Many instructors teaching the First Year Student (FYS) course are staff members. Consider changes to the manual. It needs to be part of the GECCo and overall governance discussion. Carry-over to the next meeting.
   c. Academic Petitions Manual (APM) Proposal – GECCo proposed a change. It seems to be an AAC issue. M. Danforth requested a slightly longer conversation about GECCo before referring to the sub-committee. Look at oversight and how GECCo reports to the Senate. Changing the APM needs to be part of the longer conversation. A. Gebauer’s document of proposed changes will be available at the next meeting.
   d. Unapproved Software – B. Hartsell sent a notice that some faculty are using non-Zoom videoconference and other software not approved. M. Danforth said it’s an unrealistic expectation that people would limit to approved software because there are a lot of free software available. It is an ITS procurement process issue. Faculty requiring students to buy things that are not part of the adopted course materials submitted bookstore is being conflated with the software issue. It would be referred to AS&SS if it’s about software. A. Hegde said table the topic for now.
   e. Expanded Winter Session (handout) M. Novak wants Extended Education and Global Outreach (EEGO) courses to start at the end of the Fall exam schedule. Part of the rationale is that it allows more time for reading in Humanities courses. A survey of 20 campus showed that 10 have the extended winter session. R. Gearhart said it’s going to be a pandemic Christmas. This will be the height of the flu season. Students will need a break. M. Danforth said it’s a BPC issue to change the calendar. There is a concern that faculty will be supervising classes and not on faculty time. That is creating faculty workload creep. C. Lam
is in favor of an expanded Winter Session as most students and faculty are willing to do it. B. Street said it would not be in effect until Winter December 2021. A. Hegde said we have priorities and deadlines, like ES and other programs to be approved. M. Rees said that it doesn’t hurt to send it out and get other voices. If it’s for 2021 we need to start on it now. A. Hegde referred it to AAC. If AAC doesn’t feel it’s worthwhile then BPC won’t have to get involved. B. Street is happy for it to come to BPC whereby R. Gearhart AAC will take the lead. J. Millar asked if this something to entertain since it’s a workload issue and we need to find a $1 million to cut. A. Hegde said it may be discussed at the PBTF. How much money is EEGO making? Decisions are faculty driven. The curriculum is our purview and role to decide. It will be based on what is good for the students. The issue was referred to AAC and BPC.

R. Gearhart and D. Boschini extend the meeting by 10 minutes.

f. Course Repetition – R. Gearhart said that more data needed before we can consider repeats three or four times. It’s a money grab to get a few more semesters out of students before they fail out. M. Danforth said that the data submitted was from the Academic Petitions Committee. It neglects that departments and faculty advisors may have rejected repetitions before the request even gets to Academic Petitions Committee. The Computer and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department has a Department Petition Process. There is a form on their website that if a student wants to repeat a course for the fourth time, the student must have the Department approval before it’s sent to the Academic Petitions Committee. The department approval rate is less than 25%. Thus, Academic Petitions Committee is only seeing the ones that ECE and CS faculty have supported after a number of attempts. She is concerned about adding a policy on this. Already, after 1.5 years of not making progress on their degree, and if we can take it off and waste their repeat units on one class, what is it really doing to help students? How does this meet the students where they are? They may need to be directed to a more practical pathway. A. Hegde said that potentially they are racking up student loan debt without making any progress. The issue was referred to AS&SS and AAC.

g. Elections and Appointments (deferred)
   i. School Elections Committees
   ii. Committee proliferation

h. Handbook 306.2.2.e - Make item a. on next EC Agenda.
7. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR SENATE MEETING OCTOBER 15, 2020** (Time Certain 11:00 a.m.)
   - Announcements
   - President Zelezny (Time Certain 10:10)
   - Consent Agenda
   - Reports
   - New Business
   - RES Masters in Computer Sciences
   - Old Business
   - Open Forum and Wellness Check

8. **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**
   Next week extra EC meeting. Would it serve will of committee instead of Senate meeting have a second sub-committee meeting? J. Millar supports changing Senate Oct 15 to another standing committee meeting. C. Lam said that if the committee passes the catalog language change before the deadline, we are fine. A. Hegde said that the AAC is waiting on information from the Grad Council.
   No extra EC meeting next meeting, as of this time.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**
   A. Hegde adjourned the meeting at 11:45.