

Faculty Senate Meeting Summary Notes
11am, Manderino Room 408
2/7/19

Present: Justin Baronner, Jayna Bonfini, Elizabeth Larson, Ayanna Lyles, Mario Majcen, Robert Mehalik, Keat Murray, Louise Nicholson, Samantha Procaccini, Aleksandra Prokic, Carrie Elkin, Paul Sible, Ryan Sittler, Mathilda Spencer, JP Staszal, Laura Giachetti, & Robin Weaver

Call to Order

1. Review/Approval of 12/6/18 Summary Notes

Old Business

2. **Faculty Senate Mission Statement Proposal & Subcommittee*** - (Members: Loring Prest, Bob Mehalik, & Robin Weaver) update- held initial meeting last week. Plan to bring a proposed mission statement to senate next month, will vote by April.
3. **Faculty Senate Administrative Evaluation Subcommittee*** - (Members: Loring Prest, Ryan Sittler, Mario Majcen, Jennifer Ramsey, & Robin Weaver) update: Assignment for this committee is to tweak (if needed) the existing administration evaluation surveys. Then, determine how best to close the loop on this assessment practice, where should the results of the evaluations go? Bring recommendations to the next senate meeting. Need someone on the committee to chair the committee. R. Weaver will send a zoom request to members to schedule the first meeting. Previously Justin Hackett & past senate chair distributed evaluations to person being evaluated but the evaluation results were only sent to the person being evaluated.
4. **Shared Governance Evaluation (Middle States, Standard VII)** –update: Bob Mehalik is on this committee, working closely with Len Colleli outside of the senate.
5. **Faculty Senate Proposed Schedule Change Subcommittee** - (Members: John Paul, JP Staszal, Jayna Bonfini, Ryan Sittler, Mario Majcen, Louise Nicholson)- Met with Hugo, once. Desire is to compete with Ivy League schools. Concepts seems to work better in places where there are smaller classes. Mixed results regarding student success were presented. The proposal seems to be losing priority with the university. The main concern with faculty is that the purpose to this proposed change is unclear. The committee had developed bullet points of questions regarding how to improve without changing the schedule, no response received, no new meetings scheduled.

New Business

5. **Shared Governance Issue: Should prayer be included in commencement?**

Discussion: Discussion: 2007 marked the beginning of questioning the appropriateness of holding prayer during commencement when a faculty member sent an email to the administration. In 2012, a student expressed dissatisfaction with prayer at graduation by contacting the Freedom from Religion Foundation, who contacted Cal U and challenged the practice. The administration referred the matter to PASSHE, who responded that it was their legal perspective that prayer at graduation was not illegal. In December 2018, the issue was raised again when another faculty member contacted Faculty Senate about their concern with prayers during commencement.

The crux of the discussion was not whether the practice was legal. For the sake of argument, this can be stipulated, per the PASSHE position. The central issue is whether introducing religion--especially when it is uniformly from one tradition--is consistent with CalU's stated values and Strategic Plan goals that advocate diversity and inclusion. Including religion seems contrary to the fact that CalU is a secular, state-owned institution, and not a religious school. During the discussion, Sheleta Camarda-Webb and John Burnett, who were guests at the meeting, were invited to comment on the topic. They both acknowledged that the concerns regarding this topic are reasonable. Faculty Senate will revisit this issue next month and determine if Senate should present a resolution on this issue to the administration. A senate member will also explore this topic with APSCUF to determine if union concerns exist.

6. **Guest speaker – Sheleta Camarda-Webb (Director of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education). Note: Sheleta will be addressing her role as the Director of Multicultural Affairs and upcoming campus events. John Burnett (Office of Social Equity)**

- Sheleta explained she is in charge of scheduling activities that promote inclusion.
- Black History month occurring now, holds many events:
 - 2/25/19 African American Drum and Dance Group from Pgh, will include 20-25 8th graders who will perform with the group
 - African inspired menu for event
 - Dream legacy- volunteer opportunities for service for a month. There will be winning teams, prizes such as pizza and other gifts
 - Jenny Carter Day- first African American graduate from CalU
- Presentation scheduled:
- Joe Webb, guest speaker, addressed challenges associated with growing up in the foster system but then turned life around
- LGBTQA History
- Women's History

- What's the T- National Narrative Discussion
 - Sept immigration
 - October transgender
 - November Veterans
 - December Human Rights
 - January Intersectionality
 - February Black History
 - March Women Leaders
- Fifth Annual Lavender Card- Event celebrate achievements of LGBTQA students and allies, who graduates in 2018.
- October 30, 2018, Campus-wide moment of silence at 11am to honor memory of those who lost their lives at the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting
- Sheleta collaborates to plan events
- She advises many student groups which are culture or diversity related

John Burnett- Addressed title IX changes, regardless of changes Department of Education may make, CalU will continue to support victims of sexual assault.

- New anti-Hazing Law, university will pass a policy related to this law. Will be required to submit 5-year reports.
- Conversational relationship Policy- prohibits relationships between faculty and student or other supervisory related situations
- Calu will host the Diversity Summit 11/7-8/2019

Someone asked about the amount of violence or criminal incidents on campus, information can be found in the clearing report, released every October

7. Next meetings (Spring 2019): March 7th, April 4th, & May 2nd

Announcements:

- Strike a Spark event will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. Chancellor Dan Greenstein will provide keynote address at 11am for the event. Other detail TBA.
- Elections for Senate Executive Board to be held in May, call for nominations at March meeting.

Adjournment 12:03