Chair Hunt convened the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

1. The Chair’s Announcements:

Following is the response from Vice President Quan to the question raised by Senator Dumitrescu at the Senate meeting on November 30, 2010. The response is dated December 17th but was apparently lost in the mail and re-sent yesterday in response to a follow-up inquiry.

Question:
Over the Thanksgiving break, there was a major spam problem which caused huge delays in the delivery of emails with document attachments. Personally, I know of three emails that were never received (until I re-sent them last night) and they were all time sensitive. I discovered the problem only when I started wondering why I was not receiving the answers I was supposed to receive (for instance, I am working with a colleague in Europe on a paper we are going to present next week in Colombia). When I contacted them, yesterday, they knew about the problem, and said that “Emails are stored in the email queue and are being delivered as the email servers catch up”. So far, it did not happen, and we cannot gamble with scholarly deadlines. If the messages do not bounce back, we have no way to know they were not delivered properly. My question is: can ITS warn faculty when such a problem occurs, as soon as they discover it, instead of waiting for inquiries from affected people?

Response:
The delayed message delivery and undelivered message problem was not caused by the campus e-mail system. ITS has determined that the problem began when a campus employee replied to a phishing message. This gave the account and password to someone off campus, who in turn used that information to send a large amount of spam to off campus accounts via the campus mail system.

The standard practice of all Internet Service Providers (ISPs) (i.e. Microsoft, Yahoo, AOL, Google and Comcast), and some U.S. Government agencies (e.g., U.S. Army), is to stop accepting e-mail from the spamming site. The ISPs are not required to notify the spamming site that message blocking has been begun: they simply start rejecting any messages with a calstatela.edu address. ITS becomes aware of the message blocking only when informed by a campus constituent who reports a non-delivery notice. Once the campus is blocked, ITS must contact each individual ISP to affirm we have stopped the spammer. Then the campus must wait up to 48 hours for verification and resumption of service to that ISP. In the interim, no campus e-mails are accepted by that ISP.

ITS believes that he solution to this problem is prevention. Faculty can be a valuable resource in promoting the importance of protecting campus account information. ITS will never send campus constituents an e-mail requesting ID or password information or request this information over the phone. Contact regarding account information will always be in person at the ITS Help Desk. Most importantly, ITS would like to remind you to never respond to an e-mail that asks the recipient to click on a link to verify some personal information, even if the message and logo appear legitimate; this is a phishing message that is attempting to acquire the recipient’s personal or account information.

ITS provides a subscription alert service called ITS Alerts. Alerts and updates are distributed by e-mail or text message to campus subscribers about service outages,
planned system updates and information security warnings like spam and phishing. Faculty can subscribe at http://www.calstatela.edu/its/alerts/.

1.2 The Vice Chair’s Announcements:

Ying Xu (Library) has accepted the appointment by the Nominations Committee to serve as an alternate for Gar Culbert on the Fiscal Policy Committee for the Winter Quarter, 2011.

1.3 Senator Pomirchy announced: I would like to announce a correction to my announcement last week about the ASI Board of Directors vote: 2 students voted for semester conversion and 11 voted against it.

2. None.

3. It was m/s/p (Baaske) to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2011 (ASM 10-9).

4. It was m/s/p (Classen) to approve the agenda.

5. Statewide Senators Baaske and Land presented a report on the Statewide Senate meeting held in Long Beach on January 20-21, 2011.

6. It was m/s/ (Dewey) to approve the recommendation (10-8).

7. It was m/s/ (Huld) to approve the recommendation (10-9).

8. It was m/s/ (Huld) to approve the recommendation (10-10).

9. It was m/s/ (Baaske) to approve the recommendation (10-11).

10. It was m/s/ (Dewey) to approve the recommendation (10-12).

11. It was m/s/ (Baaske) to approve the recommendation (10-13).
12. It was m/s/ (Baaske) to approve the recommendation (10-14).

13. It was m/s/p (Classen) to adjourn at 2:41 p.m.