

E. Drost, A. Marchevsky, P. Mendez, R. Vogel,

ABSENT

C. Blaszczyński, D. Hazra, C. Ney, V. Prabhu, B. Sanders, M. Talcott

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Chair Warter-Perez convened the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

1. 1.1 Chair's Announcement:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1.1 Let's take a moment wish our wonderful Academic Senate staff member, Rhonda, a HAPPY BIRTHDAY. She has made it a practice to take her birthday off to celebrate her special day, but today she is instead joining us for our last meeting of the winter quarter. HAPPY BIRTHDAY RHONDA.

1.1.2 The election results from the Ad Hoc Advisory Selection Committee for the Dean of Graduate Studies are as follows:
Krishna Foster, Chemistry and Biochemistry
Edith Porter, Biological Sciences
ADee Williams, Curriculum and Instruction
Ester Hernandez, Chicano Studies

1.1.3 Since the last meeting, President Covino has approved the following Senate recommendations all on March 2nd and all effective fall 2016:

- Proposed Policy Modification: Timing of Advisement, Faculty Handbook, Chapter IV. The new title of this policy is Timing of Undergraduate Advisement.
- Proposed Policy Modification: Introduction to Higher Education Courses, Faculty Handbook, Chapter IV.
- Proposed Policy Modification: Goals of Advisement at Cal State, Los Angeles, Faculty Handbook, Chapter IV. The new title of this policy is Implementation of Advisement at Cal State, Los Angeles.
- Proposed Policy Modification: Philosophy of Academic Advising, Faculty Handbook, Chapter IV. The new title of this policy is Academic Advisement.

You can find these policies on the Academic Senate webpage under "Approved Policies."

1.2 Senator Acevedo announced: I would like to take this time to welcome back Dean Bowman.

1.3 Senator E. Ramirez announced: On Thursday, February 18, 2016 the Associated Students, Incorporated (A.S.I.) Board of Directors passed (2) resolutions. The first, A Resolution in Support of a Conclusion to Cal State LA's A.S.I. Budget Dispute, speaks to the A.S.I. budget approval process and proposed negotiations between A.S.I. and the President's Office. The second, A Resolution in Support of an Increase in the University Auxiliary Services Funding Allocation to the Anna Bing Arnold Children's Center (ABACC), formalizes A.S.I.'s support for an increase of funding for the ABACC from the University Auxiliary Services. Please direct any questions to Ejmin Hakobian, President, Associated Students, Incorporated, California State University, Los Angeles.

2. Senator Riggio raised the following concerns: I have two concerns from the floor today. First, I am concerned about the new program for students titled "15 to Finish," a University program that encourages our students to take 5 classes on the semester system, to finish in 4 years time. While I understand the desire of many students to finish their degrees in a timely manner, I disagree with the recommendation to students to take 5 classes per term. While four years might be typical for attaining a degree at a small liberal arts college, it is not in any sense "normal" for students in public universities. A normal amount of time for an undergraduate degree appears to be 5 years. In addition, I consider five courses per semester to be too many courses for our students, most of whom also work, many of whom also

CONCERNS FROM THE FLOOR

support families and have children or elderly parents to care for. I think it is unreasonable to present to students the expectation that 5 courses per semester is a 'normal' student workload that they should be able to achieve. While this may vary depending on the individual student of course, as an experienced advisor in Psychology who has advised thousands of students, I have never advised student to take five courses in a single term, on either quarter or semester systems. In addition, students taking so many courses are obviously likely to post lower grades, which affects their ability to get into competitive graduate programs. The 15 to Finish program appears to have been developed on our campus without much input from faculty, or at least that I am aware of. I am concerned that it is being imposed on students as the expected full load. Although university staff are beginning to advise students to take five courses in the semester, and commonly four on the quarter system, I am continuing to advise students that 3 courses is a full load on the quarter system, and 4 courses per term is a full load on the semester system. I would like the Senate to consider the 15 to Finish program and its potential impact on the grades, progress, happiness, and fulfillment of Cal State LA students.

A second concern relates to memos sent to the Faculty from President Covino. On February 26 we received a memo that stated "we prize freedom of speech" concerning the visit to campus of Ben Shapiro. Three days earlier, on February 23, we received a memo that stated "Classroom time cannot and should not be used by faculty to discuss issues related to the strike," a statement and assertion that I am concerned about. First, I have a First Amendment right guaranteed by the United States' Constitution of Freedom of Speech. Just like Mr. Shapiro, a stranger and visitor to our campus, I and my colleagues, stakeholders in the University who are hired, retained, and promoted to teach, mentor, and inspire students, also have Freedom of Speech. Second, in addition to freedom of speech I have Academic Freedom, which is in part the belief that "*scholars should have freedom to teach or communicate ideas or facts (including those that are inconvenient to external political groups or to authorities) without being targeted for repression, job loss, or imprisonment*" (Wikipedia). My classroom is my bailiwick; I have the freedom to discuss anything I choose with my students, including current events, politics, and happenings on campus. There is no way for students to apply knowledge they learn in the classroom without emphasizing important happenings in everyday life, in our society today. Third, as a faculty member, it would be false and disingenuous of me to NOT discuss the upcoming strike with our students. Our students will clearly be affected by the strike. They need to know when and why it is happening. It is my duty as their teacher to inform of the strike and its purposes, the largest of which is maintaining the quality and accessibility of the CSU to the people of California. As CSU students, our students value this place and they understand its importance. For me to not inform the students of the strike, to somehow pretend it isn't happening or to refuse to discuss it with them, would be negligent, inauthentic, and would not contribute to the sense of trust and community here on campus that our students deserve and enjoy. Thank you

INTENT TO RAISE
 QUESTIONS

3. None.

APPROVAL OF THE
 MINUTES

4. 4.1 It was m/s/ (Bodinger-deUriarte) to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 23, 2016 (ASM 15-10).

4.2 Senator Hernandez suggested an editorial amendment to correct the misspelling of Provost.

4.3 The minutes were approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF THE
 AGENDA

5. It was m/s/p (Peterson) to approve the agenda.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT

6. Chair Warter-Perez presented her report.

PROVOST'S REPORT

7. Provost Mahoney presented her report.

8. 8.1 It was m/s/p (Hoffman) to move into a quasi-meeting of the whole.
- 8.2 It was m/s/p (Leon) to return to regular session.
9. 9.1 It was m/s/ (Leon) to approve the recommendation.
- 9.2 A five minute question and discussion period took place.
- 9.3 It was m/s/p (Peterson) to extend the five minute question and discussion period.
10. It was m/s/p (Peterson) to adjourn at 3:08 p.m.

QUASI MEETING OF THE WHOLE
- STRATEGIC PLANNING
WORKSHOP

PROPOSED POLICY MODIFICATION: HONORS AT GRADUATION
FACULTY HANDBOOK, CHAPTER IV (15-9) *First-Reading Item*

ADJOURNMENT