



## ACADEMIC SENATE, STUDENT POLICY COMMITTEE

April 21, 2020; 9:25 am -10:40 a.m., Zoom

### MINUTES

**Present:** I. Amaya, J. Chaudhuri, A. Chavez, M. Clarke, A. Ellis, W. Kwan, L. Loot, G. Menezes, J. O'Neil, C. Restrepo, E. Saeki, A. Villegas, X. Zhang, C. Zurita-Lopez

**Excused:** N. Wada-McKee

1. Call to Order

M. Clarke, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:26 am.

2. Announcements

L. Loot announced, ASI will be holding their elections on May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> and will take place online. To encourage students to vote, ASI will be entering students into a raffle for gift cards once they cast their vote.

A. Chavez announced the Office of Graduate Studies has allowed for students to request an extension to complete their thesis/project report during the summer term, without having to pay to enroll in UNIV 9000. The extension request form can be found [here](#).

3. Intent to Raise Questions

None.

4. Approval of the Minutes – March 3, 2020 (SPCM 19-10)

M/S/P approval of the minutes Ellis/Loot.

5. Approval of the Agenda

M/S/P approval of the agenda as amended Zurita-Lopez/Zhang.

6. Liaison Reports

6.1. Executive Committee Liaison Report

A. Ellis gave his report and indicated that they were busy updating policies that are affecting students since transitioning course online due to the current health situation.

6.2. Grad 2025 Liaison Report

The committee was working on grading, withdrawals, and various other topics of concern to students during this COVID-19 pandemic. The list of items that were decided on can be found on the Healthwatch page.

6.3. Academic Advisement Subcommittee Liaison Report

No report.

6.4. Associated Students, Inc. Report

L. Loot reported on the concerns from students from the Graduate Students Town hall held last week. Graduate students were very concerned about how the comprehensive exams will be administered. Request for advocacy regarding Math Comp Exam modality. Request extension for take home Comp Exam for 4 students in bilingual multicultural urban settings (MA in Education program)

Inquiry regarding graduate student access to Physics, Chem and Biology labs and the ability to maintain lab machinery as an essential employee. Ability to retain lab keys over the summer. If the campus will go online, how will programs that require students to do lab works be administered?

Students find it hard to apply for the emergency grant and they are being asked several documents and they are eventually being denied. What is the total number of applications that the Office of the Dean of Students has received so far for the emergency grant and how many have been approved? Why are students asked to max out their student loans if there is an emergency grant that can help them get through this time? Will DACA students be able to apply for the grant?

Another issue was about OSD students' access to services. Someone brought up that the Center for Academic Success was asking student workers to create a video to talk about the accessibility of the services. Why not ask students who do not work there to talk about access to their services?

Tuition and some student fees refund. Most students are saying that we paid to be on campus since classes were moved online, some of the fees that students cannot avail anymore should be either fully or partially refunded.

The new grading system. Most students are still confused regarding the new grading system. There are those advocating for universal grading of just passing all students. Some are concerned about how this will affect their application for Ph.D. programs. There is a petition going around proposing the As-Bs grades since mental health is more of a priority right now. Students expressed that it is hard to pass given the circumstances right now. Below is the link to the petition.

A Resolution in Support of Students Impacted by COVID-19 at California State University LA

There was also a question about student assistants who will not be renewed after the end of May because of the situation. What will also happen to essential workers that oversee the laboratories on campus?

Students also suggested to acknowledge faculty members who have been exceptionally supportive to students specifically in response to COVID-19.

The parking refunds were all sent out, however, the students who were forced to move out of housing, when will they receive the refund? It has been almost a month and students still were not able to receive their refunds.

Will the Academic Senate/ School administration hold an open forum where students can bring up their issues and be heard?

OSD students feel that they are not being supported. How are the teaching instructions for these students?

Regarding the Cares fund, we know that we have not received the funding yet. But I have questions regarding that. First, I would like to know how will that funding be distributed to students? How much will go to students? Who will be eligible to apply (DACA, international, non-resident students)? We would like to ask if student leaders will be part of the decision process on how these funds will be allocated?

Other CSUs have decided to go online for the Fall semester, if Cal State LA will go online too, will there be a reduction in some of the school fees that students cannot avail of since they are not on campus?

Are there services being offered to our homeless students?

7. Posting the Golden Eagle handbook to the Cal State LA University Facebook Page

The committee discussed a recommendation from the Faculty Policy Committee. The committee agreed it was a good idea to promote the Golden Eagle handbook to students. It was M/S/P L. Loo/Zurita-Lopez to request ITS to add a link to the Golden Eagle Handbook to the GET portal. Furthermore, the University should increase the visibility of the GE Handbook on social media platforms but they should be pegged to the academic calendar.

M. Clarke will draft a response for the committee to review at the next meeting.

8. Missed Class Time and Makeup Policy

The committee discussed the policy but due to the current COVID 19 situation that we table the discussion until further notice. It was M/S/P Zurita-Lopez/Amaya to table this topic until the University observes normal operations.

9. Campus Security

M. Clarke shared his draft list of recommendations with the committee and will draft a response for final review.

10. Cohesion between academic departments and student success centers

Discussions continued regarding concerns surrounding the cohesiveness between academic departments and the student success centers. A. Villegas gave the committee her thoughts and insights on the various concerns and agreed to draft a response to share with the committee at the next meeting.

Adjournment

M/S/P to adjourn Ellis/Zurita-Lopez, 10:36 am.