Associated Students
Sonoma State University

SENATE MEETING
Friday, January 24th, 2014
1:00pm, Bennett Valley, Student Center

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Public Comment
IV. Task Force Reports
V. Business
   a) AS.I.62.13.14 AS Community Service Coordinator Position Description: Approval of the position description for the AS Community Service Coordinator (Action)
      i) Discussion
      ii) Action
   b) AS.63.13.14 Workshop on Campus Fees: Discussion of issues surrounding advising (Discussion)
      i) Discussion
   c) AS.64.13.14 Provost discusses Academic Success Fee (Discussion)
      i) Discussion
   d) AS.R.65.13.14 Resolution establishing Associated Students Honorary Members (Action)
      i) Discussion
      ii) Action
VI. Items for the Good of the Order
VII. Adjournment

Posted on Tuesday, January 21st, 2014 at the AS Senate Office by Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate
Associated Students  
Sonoma State University  

SENATE MEETING  
Friday, January 24th, 2014  
1:00pm, Bennet Valley, Student Center  

Minutes  

MEMBERS PRESENT Bianca Zamora, Tyler Davis, Luke Tesluk, Anthony Gallino, Mallory Rice, Sara Dinari, Matt Dougherty, Allison Jenks, Libby Dippel, Natalie Sampo, Angie Durkee, Mac Hart, Annie Green, Iman Rashed, Sarah Anthony  

MEMBERS ABSENT None  

OTHERS PRESENT Erik Dickson, Justin Gomez, Matthew Lopez-Phillips, Karen Thompson  

I. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate, at 1:00 PM.  

II. Roll Call  

III. Public Comment- Elections Commissioner Angie Ulloa reminded the senators that they need to sign up for more tabling and they each need to do at least two class raps.  

IV. Task Force Reports None  

V. Business  

a. AS.I.62.13.14 AS Community Service Coordinator Position Description: Approval of the position description for the AS Community Service Coordinator (Action)  
   i. Discussion This discussion took place after business item C, due to time constraints. Executive Director Erik Dickson explained that our Community Service Coordinator Genevieve Sullivan has formally resigned and her last day will be February 20th. AS will need to begin a search committee. Dickson continued that a few changes were made to the position description. The Bonner AmeriCorps duties were taken out. Senator Durkee asked why those duties were removed. Dickson answered that JUMP no longer holds that program. The steering committee terminated it. It required many hours of labor to benefit only few students, so it is no longer held through JUMP. Executive VP Gallino commented that the Personnel Committee just approved the updated position description that morning. VP of Finance Dougherty asked Dickson to clarify the search process. Dickson answered that they will be combining the search committee for Bruce Berkowitz's and Genevieve Sullivan's positions to save money and time but the positions will be separate. It will be more efficient to do the search together. Dougherty asked if the steering committee got a chance to look at this position description to make sure that is what they want in a leader. Dickson answered that yes they had a chance to look at it.
ii. **Action** Executive VP Gallino moved to table the Approval of the AS Community Service Coordinator position description until after the visit from the provost, Seconded by Senator Dinari. (Due to time constraints, the Chair requested to table until later in the meeting.)

14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Executive VP Gallino moved to approve the position description of the AS Community Service Coordinator, Seconded by Senator Davis.

14 yes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

b. **AS.63.13.14 Workshop on Campus Fees: Discussion of issues surrounding advising (Discussion)**

i. **Discussion** President Hart gave a presentation on the various campus fees in existence. The proposed academic success fee will be a new Class II fee. Starting a new fee can either be done through a referendum or alternative consultation where the FAC consults on the proposal of new fee and then advises the president. The FAC is mostly a student committee. Senator Green clarified that the fee would be under Class II campus based fees. Senator Sampson is concerned there is no visible break-down of the fees being paid by students. She wondered where the money goes, like the student union fee. Executive Director Dickson commented that the student union fee was created to build and operate the student union. Then, AS increased the fee to build the Rec center. It was increased again to build the student center. Student Government Coordinator Gomez reminded the senators to make sure to consider timing. While a referendum is preferred, they must have at least 30 days. Senator Anthony is also concerned there is no public list of the breakdown of the fees. Senator Green asked if the Student Union fee would ever decrease as the buildings are paid off. Dickson answers that there is no way to do that, fees can only move forward. Green also asked if the IRA fee is the same as the NCAA fee. Dickson answered that in a sense it can be, the fee may go towards that. Senator Tesluk thinks it would be beneficial to make a fee breakdown public. VP of Finance Dougherty commented to keep in mind that this fee would be mandatory. Fees don’t stop; they continue to grow each year because they are tied to the consumer price index. Senator Dinari asked who decides how much fee goes to certain places. Dickson answered that the FAC does. Chair Rashid commented that they only have one hour with provost so make sure to write down opinions and they will discuss everything later. She added to get as much information as they can.

c. **AS.64.13.14 Provost discusses Academic Success Fee (Discussion)**

i. **Discussion** The provost came to the meeting to discuss the new proposed academic success fee and he also passed out the new proposed academic calendar. The provost explains that his goal is to get the idea of the fee circulating around campus to see if students would be receptive. He continues that if the fee was approved, all profit would go towards improving academics. He wants to keep it simple by using the fee in three areas. The first would be providing more classes to get students out of here faster. The second part would be in advising, because there is a major deficit there. And the third part would be put towards more scholarship opportunities for students. This last part is important to him because the extra piece in getting a job is having a scholarship, whether it is research, an internship, or a community project to show an employer. The provost continues that some students have mentioned better technology in classes would be helpful but he puts that at the bottom of the list. The purpose of this fee would mainly be to get students out faster. He
hears the same frustrations every semester with getting classes. He repeats that the money would be used almost entirely towards getting more classes, then advising, then scholarship opportunities. He comments that he is here to get the student opinion. The provost feels they have a chance to transform the academics of the university. Five universities have already done this sort of fee in the last year. He continues that there is a small window of time to be able to do this type of fee in the current economic climate. Executive VP Gallino asked the provost to share on how they have done the research to determine the cost of the fee. The provost answered that there is no exact number yet, but $250 a semester creates $4.2 million a year to put towards new faculty, classes, etc. He mentions that 10 tenure track professors will be hired if the new fee passes, who will be working with under graduates and scholarship opportunities. They would also be putting money towards more temporary faculty. He adds that they are mainly targeting bottleneck classes. The provost feels this will give students a more pleasing experience at school and at the same time will speed up the graduation rate. Senator Durkee asked the provost when students will have to start paying the fee if it is implemented. The provost answers that if the proposal is successful, the payment would start in fall 2014. He adds that it may not mean that every student will be paying $250, but it could be adjusted based on circumstance. The provost feels that the students would get instant gratification in terms of seeing change with this fee. We would be the 6th school in implementing such a thing. Senator Durkee also asked how this fee would affect financial aid students. The provost answered that this fee would not be added to financial aid, but may have to be taken out as loan for some students. He does not like this negative aspect as it may bring some issues. Some students may be able to add it to a loan but not many. This is where he wonders if this fee is the best option- if students having to put an extra $2,000 on degree would get them out faster. He also commented that he wants to make sure those students on grants wouldn’t run out of money. Senator Rice mentioned something similar that was proposed last semester that was a guarantee to get students out in 4 years with 120 units, 15 units a semester. The provost answered that that is not necessarily realistic, but he believes this fee will bring down students’ time here to 4.5 or 5 years instead of 6 or 7. He adds that the promise mentioned by Rice caters to students who can do such a thing in 4 years, but cannot guarantee that for everyone. Senator Tesluk mentioned that he did research on similar fees at other schools and feels the best method on getting feedback is talking to the students. He asked the provost if there is a plan on getting student consultation. The provost answered that this meeting is a necessary start, but yes he does need to be able to formulate the opinion of the entire campus. However, he adds that they are not there yet. They need to decide on something more specific and concrete before getting the word out there. The provost adds that they have only talked to committees, faculty, advisors, etc. Senator Tesluk thinks it would be a great idea for students to be able to hear about the fee and its benefits and issues. Tesluk also wonders if there is a risk of going too fast. The provost answered that in the beginning of the process there was a long list of things the money could be used for, but not all were efficient on getting students out faster. He agreed, however, that this needs to be done correctly. Tesluk also asked if there is a plan in place to see if this fee will be successful. The provost answered that it is still being argued over what this plan would look like, but they will start having to pay attention to graduation rates, times, getting jobs after graduation, etc. After fee is implemented, they will pick it up officially to put into process. Senator Green asked the provost if they plan on using a referendum, where all the students will
vote. Green also asked if the fee will increase every year like the Student Union fee—does he plan keeping it at $250 or will he raise it. The provost answered that SSU is #4 on the list of highest fees, so it is not his intent to keep raising the fee every year. If state funding increases, it will offset the need to raise the fee. He adds that whereas he wouldn’t raise the fee but tuition may increase in the future regardless. Green restated her question on planning to use a referendum or not. The provost answered that alternative consultation was more successful for the student center and he feels it can reach more students, but as of now he does not know for sure. He adds that the other 5 schools who implemented this type of fee were done by alternative consultation. It seems to be the preferred method, especially because it is faster. VP of Finance Dougherty clarified that the academic success fee would be a Class II fee. Dougherty also asked how this mandatory fee would benefit students who already use the help that is in place (advising, scholarship opportunities, etc.). The provost answered that 25% of students do graduate in 4 years, but most of those people have privileges (early registration, etc.). He would find it beneficial to get more careers advising for everyone. If they set up a career office, those who seemed to be doing fine could be doing even better. The provost adds that the career office was suggested by students, and may be open to alumni as well. He continues that 13 departments have only 10 students graduate a year, not because they are undesired but simply because students don’t always know what degrees will be just as beneficial as impacted ones. Senator Sampo wanted to expand on creating classes. She states that there are many GEs that are bottlenecked, and asked if this would be the main target of the fee. The provost answered that hiring the 10 new tenure tract faculty would be used for creating such classes. They will be solving problems that the university currently has instead of adding anything unnecessary. Senator Rice comments that many tenure tract faculty are over swamped and questions why they would only be hiring 10 and then a lot of part time. The provost answered that that is a decision he will have to worry about. He adds, however, that those 10 will be on top of the faculty they would have been hiring next year anyway, so it will be an addition. Having to incorporate those 10 new faculty would not be possible without the fee; we would still be in the same place as we are now. We will not be able to give everything we can to the students. He adds that the tenure tract faculty that are here now are too busy to advise with scholarships and such, and this is the type of faculty we need. San Jose State used their entire fee to go towards hiring new faculty. The provost believes that once we have more faculty, good things will come. President Hart thanks the provost for coming and mentions that Cal Poly implemented a different success fee for different academic schools and asked for his thoughts. The provost thinks it would be difficult to make an argument for that because it would make the process more complex. The costs of faculty are so much different between the academic schools and he feels it would be an unnecessary complication. Senator Dinari commented that the fee is contingent upon the current economy and asked if this fee will be one that stays beyond the pit falls of ups and downs of the economy, even 10 years from now. She wonders if it will fluctuate based on conditions of the university. The provost answered that he sees this as a fee to transform the university as it stands right now and it will improve all other aspects in turn. He adds that they can look at it again in 5 years’ time and will determine if it will continue to improve the university. They will have to wait and see, because some fees go away. He adds that he does not anticipate the fee going up in those 5 years. Senator Anthony asked who decides where the money from the fee should go and will the students have a chance to provide input. The provost answered that yes, he
wants to know the students’ opinion about the fee and their ability to pay. He adds that there is time to do such research and get such support from students. They have been talking to people since November and many ideas are coming from faculty. Senator Anthony also asks who decides to change the fee once the it is in place. The provost answered that it would be an upper authority, but it has much to do with the student government and that it would also be going through the FAC, which is a majority students. Karen Thompson clarifies that the implementation of the tenure tract faculty will not be immediate, but there would be a one year lag. The provost answers that for tenure tract, yes there would be. Thompson also asked if the current faculty has done everything they can in order to not have to put this fee on the backs of the students. The provost answered that he would think so. He adds that to get to the scale of $4.2 million, it cannot be done with only the little tweaks of the faculty, but could come with the implementation of the fee. The fee is not to fix the structural deficit but to add improvement to the academics of the university. Karen Thompson comments that she cannot think of one fee that has gone away. The provost answered that that is not his area of knowledge. Matthew Lopez-Phillips adds that if there no such language being had, the fee will be there forever. Executive VP Gallino adds that fees can be voted out and then brought back. Executive Director Dickson asks the provost for help in advising the senate with what to do next. He clarifies that the senate has three weeks to form an opinion on whether or not the fee is a good idea, and if it is a good idea then what should it look like. Dickson adds that this is a tight timeline for the senate. The provost answered that he would love it if during the next meeting, they could discuss the academic success fee, gather an opinion on if it is a good idea, and consider any areas he hasn’t thought about to represent the students. He adds that he wants to know if this fee can transform SSU to the best school it can be. The provost believes that if this is handled correctly, it could do so. Dickson comments that this group of senators generates a lot of questions and always wants more information and asks the provost if there is someone in his office that can answer those questions. The provost answered that they can come to him personally with questions. Dickson asked if any part has been discussed for graduate students. The provost answered that this fee would not pertain to graduate students. Senator Tesluk asks if there is consultation being done with other campuses who have implemented a similar fee to get any advice on the process. The provost answers no, because it is hard to compare two universities; each is completely unique. None of the other campuses are like us. He adds that the fee structure will be different than other schools, but he has talked with two other provosts about this fee, asking if it was beneficial to the campus. Senator Tesluk asks the provost what went right and what went wrong with the processes. The provost answered that as long as they had a clear message that was compelling, everything went smoothly. The provost adds that if this fee doesn’t work and students don’t feel this will give them what they want, then that is fine too. The main focus is to get across how positive this fee will be for the campus. Senator Tesluk expressed his concern that without a finite process, it could be a disaster. He believes that the message is important, but the process is also crucial. The provost answered that the academic affairs area is the place to go on how to proceed with such a fee. They will have a public meeting with students but will be looking mostly to academic faculty for help. Senator Zamora comments that she has heard a lot about benefits but asks what the downfalls would be. The provost answered that the added cost to students will be hard for some students and the issue is that he cannot determine if such a fee will be added to student loans. He adds that he is not
making light of that but if those students can graduate faster, then that will offset the added fee. He comments that 25% of students go back home after they graduate. They need to look at the degrees they are giving students and make sure they are the best they can be. That issue comes down to the classes students are taking. The provost comments that you may have the same degree as a fellow graduate competing for a job but they may have taken this one class that the employer is looking for that we didn’t offer and you will not get the job because of it. Senator Davis mentions that he is concerned where these classes would be put. The provost answered that that is not his area, it would be faculty issue, but they have plenty of room. He adds that they will not be using the money to add more students, but rather to help the students that are here now. They do not plan on having more than 9,000 students. Also, he adds that there is a new hall being built for the fall that will have 250 seats and they will also have Chalk Hill. This will improve scheduling. Senator Durkee asks the provost how they would measure success in the future. The provost doesn’t think this new fee can go wrong, but he is reluctant to make a 4-year-plan guarantee. However, he can guarantee a shorter graduation time at least. The $4.2 million plus a tight focus will be used towards more classes, which should work. He comments that Durkee’s question is a good question but is a bit premature right now; they will need to figure it out. The fee being $500 a year is tentative. Too little would not be affective but too much would burden students. Matthew Lopez-Phillips comments that in the academic senate, there was a call for more tenure tract faculty to take care of sexual harassment issues that also tie into an academic school. The provost would argue that strengthening the academic schools could be done with the faculty they regularly fire every year. The 10 added hires would be on top of the regular hires. Senator Green asks the provost if he thinks it would be beneficial to fix the problems that do not require much money first, like scheduling. The provost answers that fixing scheduling does not add any more classes for students, but only fixes the schedule. They don’t have enough faculty to deal with the issues they currently have, but will need money to hire such advisors. He adds that fixing scheduling is in the hands of the faculty. It does not solve any money problems but agrees that fixing scheduling can be going on at the same time as adding classes. The provost adds that he likes what Green is saying but does not think it will fix the class availability issue. Executive Director Dickson reminds the senators that the provost has brought forth the question of transforming the campus. In this tight timeline, he adds that that is what the senators must focus on. It will require hours of work to address such a proposal- is this fee the right way to do such a transformation? Dickson adds that this is not something that can be taken or done lightly; it requires an immense focus. The provost thanks the senators for the positive conversation and the help in moving forward.

The Senate took a five minute break at 2:30 PM.

d. AS.R.65.13.14 Resolution establishing Associated Students Honorary Members (Action)

i. Discussion Executive VP Gallino presented the resolutions regarding honoring members Bruce Berkowitz, the AS Programming Coordinator and Letitia Coate, the current controller of financial services and past Executive Director. Gallino explains that these resolutions are a way to thank them for their services here. Bruce has been here for 30+ years and Letitia has been here a long time as well. Senator Anthony clarified who Letitia is. Executive Director Dickson answered that she oversees all the finances of SSU and was the Executive Director for 5
years before that. Senator Dippel asked what the privileges of becoming an honorary member are. Dickson answered that they are treated as students at future events (entry fees, etc.) and is a way to honor the faculty. Senator Davis asked how they are formally recognized. Dickson answered that there is a signing ceremony where the chair signs the resolution and then it is framed and presented. For Bruce, it will be presented at his retirement party. This is the first time they find out about it. Letitia will receive hers in the same fashion. Senator Durkee asked how many honorary members there are currently. Dickson answered that there are currently 6. VP of Finance Dougherty asked if each resolution is general or if they are written for each individual. Dickson answered that they are individual to each person.

ii. **Action** Senator Durkee moved to approve AS.R.65.13.14 establishing Bruce Berkowitz as an Associated Students Honorary Member, Seconded by Executive VP Gallino.

14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Executive VP Gallino moved to approve AS.R.65.13.14 establishing Letitia Coate as an Associated Students Honorary Member, Seconded by Senator Dinari.

14 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

VI. **Items for the Good of the Order** Senator Davis asked about the significance of getting the proposed academic calendar. Executive VP Gallino answered that the main change is occurring in spring- moving the spring semester later, which will make the graduation date later. However, Gallino adds that this provides a benefit in the job market. Executive Director Dickson added that they want an input on the changing of the schedule as it affects the students. Chair Rashed commented that the proposed academic calendar will be put on the agenda for a later meeting to be discussed. Senator Zamora provided an update on EOP-the number of students accepted increased from 100 to 125 and next year they are shooting for 150. Zamora also mentioned that President Obama brought up the importance of having sexual harassment in schools properly handled. Matthew Lopez-Phillips mentioned upcoming programs: *Suicide Prevention Among College Students*, a professional development training for faculty and staff; and the following groups and workshops put on by CAPS (707-664-2153): Relationship Support Group, Bisexual Discussion Group, Survivors of Sexual Assault, Not the Perfect Family, Women Helping Women, Finding My Career workshop, Love Your Body workshop, Peace of Mind workshop, Peak Performance in Academics, Athletics, and Beyond workshop, and Managing Stress Before Finals workshop. President Hart commented that the senators need to be actively promoting elections and the senate and he urges them to sign up for tabling and class raps. Executive VP Gallino wanted to recognize Senator Zamora. In the Academic Senate meeting, President Arminana recognized a comment made by Zamora and agreed with it, a rare occasion. VP of Finance Dougherty commented that the new fee schedule has been approved. Senator Jenks mentioned that Governor Brown declared a drought last week so be aware. Dickson announced that Bruce’s retirement party is next Friday- it is open to the campus and is also his birthday. Senator Anthony mentioned that the Graduate Studies Subcommittee and the Student Safety Subcommittee are still open. Student Government Coordinator Gomez announced that the filing period for elections ends on February 7th so use this last week to push people to the elections info session. Chair Rashed reminds the senators to respect meeting times.

II. **Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned by Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate at 3:04 PM.

Approved by the Associated Students Senate on 1/28/14.

[Signature]

Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate