I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Public Comment
IV. Task Force Reports
V. Business
   a) AS.I.60.13.14 AS Programming Coordinator Position Description: Approval of the position description for the AS Programming Coordinator (Action)
      i) Discussion
      ii) Action
   b) AS.61.13.14 Workshop on Class Availability: Discussion of issues surrounding class availability (Discussion)
      i) Discussion
VI. Items for the Good of the Order
VII. Adjournment

Posted on Tuesday, January 14th, 2014 at the AS Senate Office by Iman Rashed
Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate
Associated Students
Sonoma State University

SENATE MEETING
Friday, January 17th, 2014
1:00pm, Bennet Valley, Student Center

Minutes


MEMBERS ABSENT Angie Durkee (unexcused)

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 1:02 PM.

II. Roll Call

III. Public Comment- Eli Stephenson on behalf of sports clubs commented on the limited grass space on the practice field. Due to this, there is extra traffic on the field. He came to ask for help in receiving more money to provide bleachers for the field to decrease traffic and provide more space. Elections Commissioner, Angie Ulloa came to remind the senators to sign up for tabling and classes to promote the upcoming elections.

IV. Task Force Reports- None

V. Business

a. AS.1.60.13.14 AS Programming Coordinator Position Description: Approval of the position description for the AS Programming Coordinator (Action)
   i. Discussion- Chair of the Senate, Iman Rashed, stated that the item was written incorrectly and will be discussed at a later meeting.
   ii. Action Senator Libby Dippel moved to table the item, Seconded by Tyler Davis. 12 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions (Hart, Dougherty, and Durkee absent)

b. AS.61.13.14 Workshop on Class Availability: Discussion of issues surrounding class availability (Discussion)
   i. Discussion Executive Vice President Gallino presented a workshop on class availability. After the presentation, a discussion took place. Senator Tesluk wanted to make this information more available to students. Senator Rice offered more insight on how departments schedule classes. Senator Dinari asked about Extended Education and whether or not students take those units or if they count. Executive Director Dickson answers yes but those students are not considered SSU students. Senator Green asked if the 7, 200 FTS enrollment target accounts for the leeway with accepting more students. Executive Vice President Gallino answered that yes the school can admit more students in regards to head count which is 9,000. Green asked if schools get more money in regards to target enrollment. Executive Director Dickson says yes, in essence. Dickson adds that the school accepts more than they
can actually take in. VP of Finance Dougherty asked if schools get money based on
the number of students in classes. Dickson answered that it is more based off of
seats, not students and the schools do not start from zero. Senator Davis thinks that
if students knew this information, they may be less angry regarding getting classes.
President Hart commented on Friday classes. There is an unwillingness to
teach/take classes on that day and thus, we are operating on a 4 day week. Gallino
added that the school will be working on spreading around classes to later times in
the evening and also on Fridays. Dickson adds that scheduling comes into play, they
can only put so many classes in so many slots. Senator Tesluk asks if there are
already a lot of night classes. Gallino answers that he isn’t sure, but regardless they
don’t compare to the number of earlier slots. Senator Sampo asked how willing the
provost and departments are to schedule GE classes. Gallino answered that they
need to balance scheduling upper division courses for the large classes moving
towards graduation as well as the incoming classes taking GE’s. They have to worry
about GE vs. major classes. Dickson adds to keep in mind that we are coming out of
a budget crisis. They have been trying to do what they can and keep hoping for
better next year. Senator Anthony adds that the School of Education offers many
night classes and feels they are effective. Dickson urges the senators to think about
what the actual issue of class availability is, regardless of individual student
complaints. Some issues may be student made, but the Senate needs to look at the
issues as community-wide. Matthew Lopez-Phillips adds that they often leave
wiggle room for constant moving pieces and that student behavior has a lot to do
with it. Senator Sampo suggested updating the GE pattern with what is no longer
offered, etc. Dickson commented that the GE pattern is more of a shopping list of
what students can take and it goes through a cycle. Some courses may not always
be available but they can come back. Gallino adds that is the same with the catalog,
if the courses aren’t offered so many years in a row then they are taken off the
pattern and out of the catalog. Senator Sampo wonders if students know such
information and that most likely they don’t. Senator Tesluk agrees that there is a
lack of information. Senator Anthony agrees but thinks that students also need to
be actively obtaining information. Senator Dippel reports on the issue of the C area
shortfall being discussed in the GE subcommittee meeting. Students who have
taken 10 or 11 units in area C are petitioning to have those 1 or 2 units waived.
Dippel comments that they are putting a hammer to such petitions. Currently, they
only have two 1 unit classes in area C available to make up those units. Dippel
continues that students often have to go elsewhere to receive those units, such as
online or a junior college. The solutions the GE subcommittee is discussing are
talking to the provost about getting more 1 unit classes in C or using the money the
GMC has set aside for blending classes with what are doing there. Dickson adds that
students are often paying more than SSU tuition just to graduate from SSU. They
have to end up paying junior college tuition or extended education tuition in
addition. Another issue is that area C is lacking 4 unit courses. President Hart is
interested to see how other campuses handle such issues. Senator Green feels that
there are other opportunities that students don’t know about- such as online
classes. Green also thinks that adding 4 unit courses to area C is more beneficial
than adding 1 unit courses. Gallino comments that courses become different in
nature when they are changed from 3 to 4 units and that it isn’t easy to do. Every
CSU has a different average unit load so comparing CSU’s won’t always work. They
must be comparable to SSU. Matthew Lopez-Phillips adds that the issue of quality
of education vs. getting units comes into play. Senator Tesluk asked about changing
courses from 3 to 4 units. Gallino answered that there are reasons behind it (work
load, length etc.). Dickson adds that scheduling becomes an issue too. Tesluk asked
about letting students know about online courses at other CSU’s. Senator Dinari
says that the school got an email last semester regarding that issue, but feels they could be reminded more. VP of Finance Dougherty asked if professors were paid more if there were more seats in a course, the answer was no. Dougherty sees the scheduling issue, but thinks it is a guess because they don’t know how many students will take the class in the upcoming semester and because they aren’t assigned classes, which he thinks could be better. Senator Dippel suggested in the GE subcommittee meeting to make the large classes in area C 4 units instead of 3, but it was countered that doing so can interfere with Arts and Humanities majors unit requirements. Dippel adds that not all students have an online learning style. Senator Green adds to keep in mind quality of education as an issue. Senator Rice responds to Dougherty’s guessing issue with the notion that departments have a lot of data of past years and future students. Dickson adds that different departments/schools handle that issue uniquely. President Hart brought up the issue of tenure vs. part time professors. Dickson comments that that does not affect class availability. Gallino adds that certain types of professors teach different things. Senator Zamora asks how what classes get certain amount of seats. Dickson answers that it depends on if the class is GE or major, type of faculty, quality of teaching vs. class size, etc. Senator Tesluk asks about the purpose of online classes. Senator Dinari answers that if a student is working full time, not getting units, etc., they can turn to online courses to get units. Dickson adds that education is always evolving. Senator Tesluk asked about the class in the hall of the GMC. Matthew Lopez-Phillips answered that it is no longer in existence. It was a trial but the scope of the class was too broad for too many people so they did not continue offering it. Senator Green asked if the senate should create a task force. Dickson suggests not to do so yet, but to go talk to students. Student Government Coordinator Gomez urges the senators to make sure to get a hold of key players in the scheduling process. He adds that the special interest senators can team up with the school senators to work with similar issues. Senators Tesluk and Sampo agree. Senator Sampo adds they should take the week to research so they can be ready for the provost’s visit. Gomez adds that there are many aspects to this issue and urges the senators to do good research and outreach.

VI. Items for the Good of the Order- Senator Rice thinks they should have set questions to ask the provost and to demand an answer. Dickson mentions that during Senate meeting next week, they will go over campus fees and gather thoughts and questions. Gallino adds that the discussion with the provost will be focused on the proposed Academic Success fee and what that means to the provost. Senator Zamora reports that in her classes there is a lot of frustration regarding women and sexual harassment and that they are looking at a process of protocol. Senator Dippel commented that there is work of banning plastic bags around Sonoma County. Gomez urges the senators to sign up for the upcoming elections info sessions and class raps. He wants Sonoma State to have another successful election with high turn-out.

II. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned by Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate at 3:19 PM.

Approved by the Associated Students on Jan 28 2014.

Iman Rashed, Chair of the Senate