

Minutes of the Faculty Assembly
April 6, 1993

Assembly President Hellsbeck called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. He updated the assembly on several coming events.

(1) The Pan Hellenic Council is holding a reception in recognition of the faculty on Tuesday, April 27th at 4:30 on the G-wing bridge.

(2) Please submit nominations (ballots in the mail) for President of Faculty Assembly.

(3) The Deans will be holding elections this Spring to fill open positions on Assembly committees.

Hellsbeck next requested brief reports from standing committee chairs.

Library and Media Services - D. Colby announced that since journal prices have increased at a more rapid rate than library finances, the library has been forced to cut-back the number of journals that we can continue. It was also noted that each division's budget must balance both books and journals. Colby also addressed the assembly concerning the ad hoc No Smoking Committee noting that a recent re-evaluation may result in an earlier date for the complete ban on smoking in Stockton.

General Studies - M. Teski reported that in an effort to accomplish some of the many tasks required, the GS committee had set up sub-committees to work on the following four tasks: (1) formulate and solidify processes for reviewing courses, (2) enriching the Stockton experience for transfers, (3) investigation of possible freshman curriculums, and (4) workshops for faculty.

Academic Policy and Program Studies - R. Herlands, reporting for G. Leonard, noted that feedback from the faculty regarding the PT masters program has indicated cautious support. The committee decided to match the proposal against the criteria set out by the Select Graduate Education Committee. While the proposal satisfied most of these criteria, there were concerns regarding a clear mandate (Crit. 1) and some questions regarding resources. The committee recommends supporting the proposal if these concerns are met.

Research and Professional Development - C. Elsele reported that last year's minor revisions in the guidelines seemed to be working smoothly. In the Fall round for mini-grants, of the 17 applications submitted, six were funded for a total of \$3200. This Spring, with 32 applications, 27 were funded for a total of approximately \$64000.

The next item on the agenda was the revision of the SET and Hellsbeck asked M. Frank to present these revisions to the assembly. Hellsbeck noted that if this proposal is approved by the assembly, then it must still be sent to the Union for negotiation with administration. M. Frank reported that after considering data from faculty, research, and other colleges, the committee decided that the SET must continue to function in both a formative and summative manner. Frank noted that there has been an attempt to restructure and simplify this form and that one major concern was separating the rating of the instructor from that of the course. A few stylistic changes in the form were suggested by members and agreed to by the committee. Several members raised concerns regarding the publication of SETs and when they should and should not be completed. The committee responded that they were charged with the revision of the SET form only and that the matters referred to would have to be negotiated separately with the Union. There was a discussion regarding the collection of student demographics and the committee noted that in an effort to ensure anonymity for students, they had opted against the collection of such data. The point was raised that confidentiality rather than anonymity might be more useful in this context but, whether one rather than the other, would elicit more truthful responses from students was not resolved. Several other concerns were raised from the floor: (1) the SET provides one number for the ranking of faculty, (2) the aspects section

must be continued to allow flexibility for each instructor, (3) we need to consider what the instructor's rating (#5) means to review committees. There were no objections when Helsabeck called for a readiness to vote on sending these revisions on to the Union, and the count was recorded with 21 in favor of, six opposed and no abstentions.

Helsabeck next opened the floor for discussion of the proposed schedule change. This schedule (copies sent to faculty on 3/31/93) proposes a TRF and a MW schedule with three meeting modules, from 12:30 to 2:00, on the 3-day a week schedule (TRF). This allows the retention of two different class lengths, increases and moves the meeting modules, and starts classes 15 minutes earlier. Many members were happy with the earlier meeting module and/or with the increase in the number of meeting modules. It was noted that an issue not specifically addressed here (equity in time on campus for current two schedules), is in some part rectified by this proposal. An informal vote taken was overwhelmingly in favor of sending this proposal to the Academic Policy Committee for their consideration.

To conclude the meeting and his second one-year term in office, Assembly President Helsabeck reflected on faculty conditions at Stockton. He expressed concern about the lack of coherence among Stockton's faculty and about how much more we might accomplish if we were functioning as a unit rather than individually. He stressed the need to somehow reinstitute faculty workshops so that collective conversation would once again exist among faculty. These regular faculty discussions might help affirm the values we hold in common and change some of the inappropriate behaviors that reflect on our faculty as a whole. Helsabeck also noted that we have constitutional issues that require resolution (who sets minimum grades accepted by programs, who defines ASD, and other issues of interest to both programs and faculty as a whole). At this point a resolution was moved and unanimously passed expressing appreciation and congratulations to Bob Helsabeck for his time, efforts, and accomplishments on behalf of the Faculty Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margo Storm

