

Executive Committee Minutes

Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 3:00 pm

Approved: December 5, 2023

Call to Order: 3:00 pm

Roll Call:

Adam Rechs, Aleta Baldwin, Amber Gonzalez, Andera Terry, Bertha Vegas Castellanos, David Moore, Jeff Wilson, Matthew Krauel, Michael Mink (absent), Monicka Tutschka, Raul Tadle, Tracy Dawn Hamilton

Open Forum:

Testing Center: Raul Tadle provided an update regarding the issues raised at the Nov 7 Exec. meeting: The Testing Center administration will be updating emails so that they are not confused with phishing attempts and an icon will be placed on the faculty page (at a later date). He also met with the Disability Access Center and they will also be updating their emails so as not to be confused with phishing attempts and will be looking into placing an icon on the faculty page.

Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was amended to add a new item #11: Resolution in Support of the Hornet Community and Free Speech Regarding the Violence in the Middle Easer. The agenda as amended was approved.

Approval of the Minutes – November 7, 2023 *Carried.*

From the Chair: November 28 meeting: Due to a lack of agenda items, it is likely the Nov 28 meeting will be canceled. The committee will be advised.

From the Provost:

Hornet Launch: VP Zeigler shared that on Nov 20 Hornet Launch has released all reserved seats it had set aside. Workshops are being offered to students for adding/dropping classes. He also shared that incorrect information is being given to students that some reserved seats are incorrectly attributed to Hornet Launch. He encouraged department chairs and deans if they see double-digit or higher waitlists to open a section to get students in, as long as the sections are not a single digit. The Senate Chair shared that a Hornet Launch presentation will be provided to the Senate in the Spring.

From the President: The Run to Feed the Hungry recent bomb threat was determined not creditable by the Sacramento Police and the campus has been informed. The campus will be moving forward with building an event center using student fees that for years have been collected for that purpose. An HSI director will be hired to advance Seal of Excellence in Education. The campus CWC program will be expanding, which is aligned with the CSU statewide initiative to increase Black student success and retention. The Athletics Club and rec sports in combat, judo, wrestling, collegiate boxing, etc. are not intercollegiate sports but will be moving under Athletics, which will be better able to support them. Cabinet members were asked to provide their 90-days goals and the report will be presented at a Senate meeting.

Program Proposals: The following proposals will be placed on Consent Action on the November 30 Senate agenda

Program Proposals – Amended Program

BS in Physics (Applied Physics)

BS in Physics (General Physics)

Program Proposals – New Program

BS in Physics (Biophysics):

BS in Psychology

MA in Education, Equity and Social Justice (Ethnicity and Race)

Minor in Premodern Worlds (Note: editorial change: move footnote #1 up to header).

The following proposals will be rolled back to the Curriculum Subcommittee to address:

MA in Education, Equity and Social Justice (Gender Equity Studies): Under the section “Required Courses” one requirement is listed as simply “electives”. The proposal needs to make it clear to the reader what courses count as electives (EDTE, EDBM, EDGR, EDUC, etc.?).

BA in Social Work: Provide missing required documents (Comprehensive Program Assessment Plan, Curriculum Map Matrix, and five-year budget projection); update learning objective language to be more robust and better align with Bloom’s Taxonomy. Note: Concern was expressed that BIO 7 is being added to the list of courses to meet the Life Forms requirement even though BIO 7 is designed for students pursuing a career in elementary education, covering topics to meet the standards of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Next Generation Science Standards), providing hands-on activity that can be used in an elementary school setting, etc., and is therefore not appropriate. Concern was also expressed about how opening BIO 7 to Social Work students would impact the already limited availability for Liberal Studies students (for whom it is a required course). Lastly, BIO 7 is a 4-unit course, so if it is kept as an option for meeting the Life Forms requirement, the listed unit count for the requirement would need to be changed to “3-4”.

MA in Ethnic Studies: Under “Admission Requirements” it is stated that only an undergraduate degree in any subject is required and that no minimum units of Ethnic Studies coursework is required. However, directly following this it is stated that students may be conditionally accepted if they are found to be deficient in Ethnic Studies preparation. The proposal needs to resolve how it would be possible to be deficient in Ethnic Studies preparation when none seems to be required.

The Chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee expressed concern about the Executive Committee rolling back proposal for reasons that are not in policy as it makes it difficult for the Curriculum Subcommittee in their work with units. It was felt that a conversation about the Executive Committee’s concerns (e.g., removing gendered pronouns, ableist language, more inclusive language, etc.) should take place and, if appropriate, the concerns should be incorporated into policy and shared with the campus community. AVP Wallace requested that the campus clarify what language needs to be in all policies (for the campus, CSU and accreditation). It should not be done for individual proposals but apply generally for all proposals.

UARTP Policy Section 5.5.E.1.c – Proposed Amendment Procedures to Govern the Administration of Written (paper) Student Evaluations

The Senate Chair shared the proposed amendments, which aim to address a misalignment between the current practice and the policy, while staying true to the rigorous chain of custody and removing adjudication responsibility from IRT. Consultation on the proposed changes occurred with the Provost Office, the AVP of Academic Technology & Campus Engagement, and Professor Schmittlein (who initially brought the misalignment to the administration's attention). The item was referred to the UARTP Committee for review.

Referral of Credit for Prior Learning (Prior Learning Assessment) Policy (Interim) Policy:

The item was referred to CPC with Consultation with GSPC, to be brought back by the end of spring semester.

Resolution in Support of the Hornet Community and Free Speech Regarding the Violence in the Middle East.

Discussion:

- The campus should offer counseling services for students and faculty.
- It was suggested that for this semester students have the option of changing to letter grades to credit/no credit (similar to when students were affected by COVID).
- The resolution is an acknowledgement of the students that have not felt supported. It is intended to be acknowledgement of student voices and other students and support of existing and future things the university can do to support the students.
- Those that contributed to the writing of the resolution were acknowledged.
- The Provost shared that, of the sister campuses, Sac State is one of three campuses to address the issues: On October 31 Academic Affairs send out a SacSend: Guidance for Faculty on Supporting Students During Middle East Violence to provide guidance for faculty on how to support students and resources to students.
- The President shared that the campus has done a lot to lean into the issue and recognized there is more to be done. Sacramento State is one of the few CSU campuses meeting and talking with students
 - On Oct. 8 a statement was released on violence in the Middle East.
 - The Dean of Students and campus organizations were asked to reach out to students.
 - The Division of Inclusive Excellence released a statement to the campus.
 - ASI listening sessions were held (with follow-up meetings) with students from the Jewish community and students from the SWANA community. From those meetings, students identified actions they would like to see.
 - He also shared that the administrator who advised ASI regarding their resolution on the Middle East conflict was an auxiliary administrator and not a campus administrator.
 - Shawki Moore, Presidential Aide, shared information about being in near constant direct contact with students from various communities and with administrators that oversee divisions.
- A member shared that they appreciate what the administration has been doing but feels that faculty and students are not aware of it. Students need spaces to have a constructive political dialogue. Need more support around that than in a class. A more holistic approach with less controversial items.
- A student spoke about not being aware of the ASI resolution that was mentioned at the November 16 meeting. She thanked the administration for their efforts but also expressed that students have not seen a SacSend message for 6 weeks and it has been a month since the Listening Sessions. Students need to hear from the administration on how the institution is supporting students and plans to support students.

- ASCSU Representative Hamilton shared that the ASCSU passed a resolution supporting free speech and condemning acts of terrorism that Sac State might want to look at it.

The Resolution in Support of the Hornet Community and Free Speech Regarding the Violence in the Middle East will be placed on the November 30 Senate agenda at the end of the First Reading items. *Carried.*

It was requested that the writers of the resolution be recognized and that the student who spoke at the 11/16 Senate meeting not be discussed by name.

Resolution for Senate Consideration from Dr. David Lang:

Discussion topics:

- Exec. Committee should not place it on the Senate agenda due to subjective language.
- Instead of having a resolution to chastise the Senate about not knowing how to respond, the Senate needs to know how to appropriately use the Interruption Statement.
- The Chair shared the VP of Student Affairs determined that the Hornet Honor Code was not violated at the 11/16 Senate meeting and the Senate Parliamentarian confirmed the rules of the Senate were followed.
- Article 13 of Robert's Rules covers how debate is to be conducted.
- Something cruel was said to Professor Lasher. He was hurt and we should reach out to him with our support.
- Senator Start stated that during meetings we should be cognizant when things are being discussed that the conversations don't evolve into anti-Jewish rhetoric.

Motion: The resolution from Professor Lange will be placed as an Information Item on the Nov 30 Senate agenda with the language: The Executive Committee received a resolution for Senate consideration from Dr. David Lang and took no action. *Carried.*

Adjourned: 5:32 pm