Special Session of the Academic Senate

1908 Smith, MVS Decision Making Center

Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 2:30-4:30

1. Meeting called to order at 2:30pm
   1. J. Grier began meeting with a call for any announcements;
   2. L. O’Connor: on behalf of the Faculty Search Committee, announcement of dates for on-campus visits for tenure track faculty recruitment, bringing candidates across three weeks, one candidate each week, Oct. 29-30, Nov. 5-6, Nov. 12-13; similar to past visits, they’ll be at the hotel on Thursday, then on campus on Friday; this year a lunch will be available Fri.; the candidates have meet-and-greet Thursday afternoon, encouraged to reach out to them on Thursday for campus tours, etc.; noted that past candidates wanted more interaction with students; recognized that N. Castaniero, D. Vea and J. Petralba doing a great job of organizing schedules, but to please contact them if you foresee conflicts;
   3. J. Yudelson: reminded that after session today there is a faculty social at Broome Library sponsored by CFA; also next week Kevin Weir is our CFA negotiator who will be here; we’d like to get commit cards on whether or not to ask for job actions, fact-finding steps in progress, but please ask us for any updates or questions.
2. Approval of the Minutes of September 8, 2015
   1. Minutes were approved with no objections.
3. Report from the Senate Chair (Grier)
   1. J. Grier noted that this is a special session, and that results are in for the ACTCSP at 85 total votes; recognized S. Aloisio and C. Wyels as having the highest vote totals, congratulations to them; noted that myself (J. Grier) plus these two are the CI faculty who will be on this committee; this forum today is designed to help us determine the qualities that will determine the criteria for our new president; noted that this committee will act as one committee, rather than an advisory committee being separate from Board of Trustees committee; reminded that on Nov. 12th there is an open forum, a good opportunity for a lot of discussion;
4. Special Session Public Forum
   1. S. Clark commented that he would like to see the new president being bilingual or at least being able to speak a language other than English to a reasonable level – if so, it’s more than likely that they have international experience or multicultural experience, two mission pillars that are worthy of importance; recalled (and displayed for Senate) a few studies from a psycholinguist, who suggested that “if you’re a bilingual speaker, you’re able to entertain different perspectives and to go back and forth”; concluded that if anyone looks at stats from incoming students, there is a large portion of non-native-English speakers;
   2. C. Mack asked what the search process is; J. Grier answered that all searches start as closed, then they ask candidates if they want to put their names into an open pool; recalled a statistic that they’d lose 75% of pool if it were to become open; four presidential searches right now, two in Fall, two in Spring; J. Yudelson recalled several CSUs that have passed or are considering resolutions on open searches;
   3. K. Leonard asked if the newly elected members of the committee could rank a few top criteria; S. Aloisio commented that he wants someone to come here with strong commitment to high impact practices, undergraduate research, hopes our committee sets up an interview with our current president, since he’s been through the process; wants someone to come here as a good match for us, who will be with us for a while; C. Wyels noted that longevity will be valuable, wants someone to come to hear where our university is headed and to make recommendations, mission values and collegiality is important, really wants someone with an academic background (recommended to see Univ of Iowa example via a Google search); J. Grier agreed in wanting someone to have been a faculty member;
   4. J. Leafstedt wants a leader as a balance of what we do now and where we need to go, forward-thinking;
   5. J. Yudelson wanted to know what their background is with collective bargaining; also their opinion of non-tenure-track faculty; recalled that in many places lecturers are just called “part time,” which may devalue our input and/or impact; noted that we all want to increase tenure density, but what are they going to do about it;
   6. J. Grier reminded that this group will be shaping the job announcement;
   7. S. Stratton commented on CI’s mission on how we move forward, wouldn’t want drastic changes to this, wants to keep with the CI mission rather than being forced down a general CSU path;
   8. D. Downey recalled the phrase “we can do anything, but we can’t do everything,” so let us not be all things for all constituents, let’s focus on what we can do well; more attention to “nuts and bolts,” we tend to praise the big thinkers, but I think we’ve got the vision and are missing some of the nuts and bolts; good thing is once we have the people in place to do it, then we can add the accountability to that;
   9. K. Tollefson recalled that so much of our success depends on how unified our education is, I’d be interested in their feedback on building partnerships with early childhood partners and K-12s in the region;
   10. L. Popenhagen agreed that it’s important to have this balance between nuts and bolts and vision;
   11. M. Francois recalled that we’ve spent years raising money from the Feds, I’d want someone to help continue this to help bring more faculty to help us do this, but also to become a Hispanic-*serving* institution rather than just a Hispanic-*enrolling* institution; let’s use this money to shape the University;
   12. B. Veldmann referred to CI 2025 initiative and what buildings will be on campus, but this is determined on who our students are, let’s focus on serving the community that feeds the student population;
   13. J. Yudelson further suggested someone who can prove that they are committed to transparency, i.e. regular communication, input received before huge decisions are made; differences can be aired in an arena that is successful, rather than after the fact announcements;
   14. J. Griffin wants to know what the general budget priorities are, what are the basic categories for spending on our campus;
   15. C. Weis: Essential that someone is coming from a public system rather than a private one;
   16. G. Wood wants to focus our resources on education and best practices in higher education; concern that this may be considered a fundraising position; J. Grier clarified that you don’t want it to be only that; G. Wood answered that the resources are spent so that the aggregate is for education, rather than fundraising outside of our mission;
   17. A. Perchuk agreed with idea of someone who has a vision for the University, but added that this is not set in stone because once you get on the ground things can be modified; also expressed a need for someone who can articulate this vision in a compelling manner;
   18. K. Leonard asked who are the first five people they would want to meet on campus in an effort to know their priorities;
   19. S. Aloisio asked if we know who else is on the committee; G. Evans Taylor answered with several names, including Gary Cushing, Bill Kearney, Monique Reyna, noted that staff election is in progress; J. Grier added Larry Norton, Lillian Kimbel, G. Evans further added Peter Taylor;
   20. B. Monsma inquired about policy selecting a Vice President and President Office staff, adding that this could be a huge swing in the direction of the university;
   21. S. Carswell asked if there will be a chance for Senate to weigh in on the selection before the selection is made; J. Grier answered no, due to confidentiality issues, unless the search becomes an open search; G. Wood reminded that there is the Nov. 12th meeting, so the whole campus can attend, asked if it would be videotaped; J. Grier answered yes, the open campus forum will be videotaped and will be shared with candidates; noted that today’s forum does not substitute the Nov. 12th meeting;
   22. K. Leonard asked for clarification on the process and where the names go; J. Grier answered that the names are taken to the Board of Trustees, then their selection is made from this list, or they can also select off of their own list;
   23. J. Grier asked Senate to consider what are the pros and cons of someone who has been a CSU president, versus coming to our campus without this experience; D. Downey answered that to him it doesn’t matter as much whether they come from the Cal State system, but would want experience within and without the system, as we have seen people move around a lot within a single system;
   24. B. Monsma would want to ask candidates to give us an example of where they disagreed or differed from system-wide recommendations, let’s have someone who goes to bat for us or chooses in favor of creativity; J. Grier summarized someone who isn’t afraid of the risks;
   25. J. Grier noted that a search firm is being hired to vet candidates; S. Andrzejewski announced to Senate that it’s posted on their website, the firm is Issacson, Miller; J. Grier noted that the four presidential searches are not part of a mega-pool, they’re working with each campus individually rather than one pool for all CSUs that are currently conducting searches;
   26. M. Periera commented that because faculty are so involved with students, would be good to have a president that trusts the opinions of the faculty;
   27. J. Yudelson doesn’t want candidates to see us as a spring board; also wants a commitment to sustainable growth, where we’re not forced into a general trajectory that isn’t supported by our infrastructure, let’s grow via tenure track density; B. Veldman added that once they’re here that they also have the resources to help with this growth;
   28. M. Francois commented that each of our programs should reflect the diversity of our community;
   29. J. Grier added that this is really just the beginning, isn’t the final opportunity for our voice, and lots of us have been thinking about this since the announcement;
   30. S. Stratton reminded that the current president hired all of the tenure track faculty, recommended that all of the candidates are aware of the relationship that CI faculty have enjoyed with President Rush;
   31. B. Monsma recalled that he went to President Rush directly with serious concerns about frustrations we were having on campus, and it was great that we as faculty had this pathway available, without the risk of reprisal; may be potentially hard to communicate the type of personality that would allow for this;
   32. J. Grier recommended all to please come and participate 1pm-3pm on Nov. 12th; also feel free to share your comments with the S. Aloisio, C. Wyels and myself (J. Grier);
5. Announcements: T. Hunt announced that on Wed. Oct. 14th, student government is collaborating with Jacky Erwin on a financial management workshop; also on Oct. 21st the We Matter Series starts off with Black Lives Matter in the Lighthouse Café in the Student Union;