

## SENATE YEAR-END REPORT

2011-2012

Michael Frank, Senate President (2011- 2013)

This is the end of year report for the third year of operations of the Faculty Senate. I want to formally acknowledge the excellent work and real dedication the first President of the Senate, Dr. Robert Helsabeck, has shown and acknowledge his leadership and good advice. In acknowledgment of the good work of the faculty involved in governance of the college, a plaque was commissioned to list all the previous moderators and presidents of the former Faculty Assembly and was hung in our Library. Likewise, a plaque of previous presidents of the Senate was commissioned and Dr. Helsabeck was listed as the first Senate President. This, too, was mounted in our library.

This year was rather unique in that the college was undergoing evaluation for accreditation by Middle States. This was a huge task that many faculty and administrators worked on for many months. The President of the Senate was tasked with attending many of these meetings, working directly with the Middle States team and representing the faculty of the college. At this juncture, it looks like the college fared quite well in this process and I am hopeful we will receive full reaccreditation shortly. As Senate President I want to thank the many faculty members who contributed to this monumental effort.

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF SENATE ACTIONS 2011-2012

1. Master of Arts in American Studies (MAAS) approved. (October 2011)
2. Constitution of the Senate amended. (October 2011)
3. Vice Chairs elected to Standing Committees. (October 2011)
4. Policy approved to allow undergraduates to enroll in graduate courses. (December 2011)
5. Policy approved to allow matriculated graduate students to take specific courses at other institutions with prior approval. (December 2011)
6. Withdrawal date moved to the eleventh week of each semester.(January, 2012)
7. First Year Working Group Report accepted. (January, 2012)
8. Policy approved to award secondary titles to faculty who teach in one interdisciplinary minor but policy not extended to an additional major program. (April 2012)
9. Report of the LIBA Working Group accepted and the implementation of school based LIBA degrees endorsed. (May 2012)
10. Removal of the term “telecourse” and its replacement with “ONL” (Completely Online) or “DEONL” (Distance Education Online Learning) approved. (May 2012)

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENTS

As noted in the previous President's end of year report in June 2011, the Senate realized that the relationships between the standing committees of the Faculty Assembly and the Senate needed to be strengthened. As a result, one of the first actions of the Senate Executive Committee was to draft amendments to the Constitution in a few crucial areas. First, references to the "Committees of the Faculty Assembly" were to be replaced by "Committees of the Senate" in order to complete the reorganization of governance. Second, in order to improve communication between these standing committees and the Senate, the Vice Chairs of the committees were designated as seated Senators who can serve as liaison between the Senate and the committees. Finally, some relatively minor language changes were needed throughout the document. All the recommendations for changes proposed by the Executive Committee were unanimously approved by the Senate during its September 20, 2011 meeting, and were approved overwhelmingly by the entire faculty of the college during an electronic vote conducted October 10 to October 14, 2011. There were 128 ballots cast by the faculty with 120 approving the amendments, or 93% of the voting faculty which far exceeds the required two thirds threshold for amendments to the Constitution. The amendments became in effect following the ratification vote of the Assembly. Accordingly, the Senate elected Vice Chairs of the standing committees on October 18, 2011. In my view, these changes have been very helpful in efficient Senate operations.

## PROPOSALS AND RESOLUTIONS

### *Senate Operations:*

Appointment of Task Force members. The Senate approved, unanimously, that the Executive Committee of the Senate have authority to appoint Task Force members in the case of replacing existing members subject to Senate approval at the next scheduled Senate meeting. (May 9, 2012)

### *Academic Programs:*

Master of Arts in American Studies (MAAS) Proposal. A proposal from the prior year, the Master of Arts in American Studies (MAAS), was withdrawn (September 20, 2011) in order to be reworked based on comments received in its initial presentation during the previous year. After revision, the MAAS was recommended to the Senate by the Academic Programs Committee and was approved unanimously by the entire Senate. (October 18, 2011)

Report of First Year (FRST) Working Group. The Chair of the working group presented the First Year Studies (FRST) proposal as one which develops a comprehensive approach in the areas of BASK, freshman seminars, common readings, learning communities, and the honors program. (October 18, 2011) The Senate unanimously accepted the FRST proposal and offered firm support for the proposal following contract talks concerning its implementation between the administration and AFT local 2275. (January 24, 2012)

LIBA Working Group Report. Over a year ago, the Senate had created the LIBA Working Group to consider ways to enhance the LIBA degree. Initially this working group had conceived of the need for a new type of degree, Bachelor of Arts Independent Studies (BAIS); however, the group determined that the goals of this degree could be achieved without resorting to a new degree type. The working group presented some models that include “school based” LIBA degrees and the Senate unanimously approved the proposed enhancements. (May 9, 2012)

*Academic Policies:*

Withdrawal date. A Senate action from the prior year (October 18, 2010), that changed the withdrawal date to the tenth week of the semester, was reconsidered by the Academic Policies Committee in light of a package of integrated policies proposed by the Deans Council. The APC recommended moving the withdrawal date to the eleventh week of the semester. (Academic Policies Committee, November 8, 2011) Following a discussion, the Senate voted 25 Yes, 1, No, and 2 Abstentions to rescind its October 2010 action and adopt the APC recommendations moving the withdrawal date to the eleventh week of the semester. The Provost, who was in attendance, thanked the Senate, indicated concurrence with the recommendation and assured all that the changes would be implemented in the Fall 2012 semester. (January 24, 2012)

Secondary titles. After initial discussion (October 18, 2011) of a proposal to consider secondary titles, the Senate voted (November 15, 2011) to withdraw the proposal as presented and to function as a committee of the whole. While there was general support for the proposal, the committee of the whole recommended the proposal be revised in light of issues raised. The Academic Policies Committee presented its findings and the Senate unanimously approved the APC policy recommendations regarding the conferral of secondary titles recognizing interdisciplinary minors but not majors. Procedures are to be negotiated with the Faculty Union. (April 17, 2012)

Policies regarding graduate courses. The Senate addressed policy changes in Graduate School courses that are accepting undergraduate students. After debate and some “friendly” amendments concerning signatures and preservation of Program prerogatives, the amended proposal was passed unanimously. Similarly, a change in the transfer credit policy allowing matriculated graduate students at Stockton to take specific courses at other institutions with prior approval was passed unanimously. (December 6, 2011)

Stockton-equivalent courses at local high schools. The Executive Committee offered a resolution prohibiting any academic program at the college from offering Stockton equivalent courses at local high schools without the approval of a majority of the program’s faculty. This was referred to the Academic Policies Committee for future action. (December 6, 2011)

CAPP adjustment forms. The Senate directed the Academic Policies Committee to investigate the changes the Deans’ Council approved on the CAPP adjustment forms and return to the Senate with recommendations. (May 9, 2012)

Telecourses. The Senate unanimously approved that the term “telecourse” be eliminated from designated methods of instruction and be replaced by ONL (completely on line) or DEONL (distance education online learning, where 2/3 of the course is delivered via technology). (May 9, 2012)

*Administration and Finance:*

Parking. The Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, Senator Chhatwal, presented the results of a survey his committee undertook in order to assess faculty (but not staff) satisfaction with parking on campus. The Senate passed a resolution to seek solutions to these problems. (November 11, 2011) Subsequent to this resolution the President of the college convened a committee to seek a comprehensive solution involving all constituents of the college, faculty, staff, students, and visitors. The Administration and Finance Committee followed with a brief report on the progress (or lack thereof) on resolving the parking issues. (May 9, 2012)

#### MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

ACE military transfer credits. Senate President Michael Frank presented guidelines for the acceptance of ACE Military transfer credits.

IDEA Task Force Report. Following a report from the IDEA Task Force, the Senate thanked the task force for their work and noted that although the IDEA was not perfect, it would do for the time being. (December 6, 2011) For a summary of the IDEA Task Force’s report to the full Faculty Assembly (September 1, 2011), see “Faculty Assembly Meetings” below.

Double majors and dual degrees. A brief presentation of accelerated dual BS MS degrees housed solely within NAMS was presented. The Senate President informed the body about the progress in implementation of double majors and a possibility that the college need not require an additional 32 credits for a dual undergraduate degree. (April 17, 2012) Later the Senate received a further progress report on dual degrees and double majors presented by Vice President Rodger Jackson and authorized the continuation of work on this issue. (May 9, 2012) Discussion with administration is ongoing and we expect this topic to move towards resolution in fall 2012.

Graduation speakers. The Senate expressed strong support for more faculty input into the selection of graduation speakers at Fall and Spring Graduations and unanimously directed the Executive Committee to form a small committee to work on this issue. (May 9, 2012)

#### FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

During the Spring Semester of 2011, the Senate appointed a Special Task force to review the use and operations of the IDEA student evaluation of teaching instrument. The Task Force’s Chair, gave his report at the first meeting of the Faculty Assembly on September 1, 2011 and opened discussion. While

some faculty found the IDEA form objectionable, the overall sentiment was that the form ought to be retained for another five years and local negotiations between the Administration and AFT 2275 on the use and implementation of the instrument ought to continue.

The February 14, 2012 meeting of the Faculty Assembly was devoted to the State of the college report presented by the college's President, Herman Saatkamp. Details can be found on the college's website.

The March 20, 2012 meeting was unusual in that it was a special joint meeting of the Faculty Assembly, the Faculty Senate and the Stockton Federation of Teachers. This event was a first for the college and offered a panel of Stockton Faculty as well as Dr. Mary Burgan, author of *Whatever Happened to the Faculty? Drift and Decision in Higher Education*. I am particularly grateful to the College's President for both the financial and intellectual support for the event. The Faculty panel, Drs. Haresign, Dugan and Nichols, added texture and dimension to Dr. Burgan's excellent talk.

#### MAJOR ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN AY 2012-2013

We will need to examine the parking situation on campus. There may be short, intermediate, and long term approaches to the problem that must be examined.

The Senate will consider the viability of both double majors and dual degrees.

The selection of graduation speakers will be considered.