CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES
ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
May 3, 2022

ASM 21-16 APPROVED
MAY 10, 2022

O. Bernal, B. Cerqueira, L. Chao, D. Czypinski E. Drost, J. Eleby, C. Flores, L. Fu, T. Gershberg, J. Lopez, J. Malveaux, A. Munger, D. Seals, B. Son, E. Velazquez, H. Walukonde, Z. Ye

ABSENT

K. Chim

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Chair Bettcher convened the (Zoom) meeting at 1:48 p.m. Chair Bettcher reviewed meeting protocols.

Senator Ramos read the Tongva land acknowledgement.

1. 1.1 Chair's announcements:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1.1 A reminder that the Organizational Meeting of the 2022-23AY Academic Senate will take place next Tuesday, May 10 from 1:45-2:10 p.m. If you will not be serving on the Senate next year, you are not required to attend this meeting. For those of you that will be serving in the next academic year, you will receive an email with a different Zoom link for the Organizational Meeting and once that meeting ends, you will need to switch over to this standing Zoom meeting link.
The final meeting for our current body will begin at 2:15 p.m.

1.1.2 You should have received an email soliciting nominations to serve on the Ad Hoc Advisory Search Committee for the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs position. Please email nominations of tenured faculty members, self or others, to AcademicSenate@calstatela.edu by noon, Monday, May 9. The Academic Senate will elect four tenured faculty members (no more than two from any one college). The work of the search committee will begin Fall 2022 and will continue (tentatively) until mid-Spring 2023.

1.1.3 On April 29, 2022, President Covino approved the following recommendations:
Modification: Course Components and Instruction Modes, Faculty Handbook, Chapter IV – effective Fall 2022
Modification: Early Registration, Faculty Handbook, Chapter V – effective Fall 2022
New: Criteria for Proposing Courses with Hybrid and Online-Only Components – effective January 2023 (for the next curricular review cycle for the 2024 Catalog
Recommendation: Optional Inclusion of Student Evaluation Reports in PAFs for Spring, 2022

President Covino returned unsigned the following recommendation:
Modification: Workload of Permanent Faculty, Faculty Handbook, Chapter VI

The Faculty Handbook will be updated to reflect the changes according to the effective dates.

2. 2.1 Senators and visitors raised concerns regarding the removal of Dr. Melina Abdullah from the Pat Brown Institutes co-sponsored LA Mayoral debate by police officers on the Cal State LA campus on Sunday, May 1, 2022. Concerns included, but are not limited to, the following:

CONCERNS FROM THE FLOOR

- The disproportionate and violent treatment of tenured professor, Dr. Melina Abdullah
- Inaccessibility to the debate by faculty, staff or students of Cal State LA
- The oblivious statement released from Cal State LA in regards to the incident
- The mental impact of the incident on observers, Black members of Cal State LA and the community, and friends or family of Dr. Melina Abdullah
- Militarized police presence at the event and on campus
- The campus not abiding by its stated core values
- Re-allocating funds from and removing the campus police
- Anti-black racism at Cal State LA
- Violations of black women

CONCERNS FROM THE FLOOR (continued)

2.2 CFA President read a Resolution to Protect Cal State LA Faculty, Staff and Students, to Practice Anti-Racism and Social Justice and adhere to "University-Wide Guiding Principles for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging at Cal State LA".

2.3 It was m/s/ (Riggio) to extend the set end time of the meeting to 4:00 p.m. No objections were raised.

2.4 It was m/s/ (Schaff) to allow for the submission of the Intent to Raise Questions. No objections were raised.

INTENT TO RAISE

3. 3.1 Senator Schaff announced his intent to raise the following question:
This is an official question for President Covino and/or other administrators responsible for campus programming regarding recognition of minority issues and interests.
Last year on April 24, the U.S. government officially recognized the Armenian genocide. After that announcement, I had multiple Armenian American students in the College of ECST complain to me that Cal State LA has systematically failed to recognize the Armenian genocide specifically and Armenian American students' interests more generally.
During an open Q&A in Academic Senate last year in late April, I raised this issue with President Covino directly, who agreed that it was time for Cal State LA to make this recognition and that plans were in the works to do so in 2022.
Over the weekend, numerous genocide memorials took place across LA, as well as a major protest before the Turkish consulate in Beverly Hills, and it reminded me of this conversation with President Covino at this time last year.
It is therefore disappointing that Cal State LA has once again failed to recognize the Armenian genocide with either an official statement or public memorial. Can President Covino please speak to this disappointment and indicate what he plans to do to ensure this oversight does NOT continue again for the future?

3.2 Senator Talcott announced her intent to raise the following questions:
The following are my questions for President Covino, in regards to the events of May 1, 2022:

1. How many tickets were issued to Cal State LA students for the Pat Brown Institute (PBI) mayoral debate on May 1, 2022?
2. How many tickets were issued to Cal State LA faculty for the PBI mayoral debate on May 1, 2022?
3. How many tickets were issued to Cal State LA administrators for the PBI mayoral debate on May 1, 2022?
4. How many tickets were issued to Cal State LA (including PBI) donors for the PBI mayoral debate on May 1, 2022?
5. How many seats, out of the 192 available in the U-SU Theater, remained empty and/or unticketed?
6. Who made the decision to limit the audience and exclude members of the Cal State LA student, faculty, and staff community, on the grounds of our public university, and in a building paid for, in part, by student fees?
7. Students at elite private LA universities such as Loyola Marymount and USC were granted access, to a much greater degree, to their campuses' mayoral debates. Why were our students – majority working class and of color and diverse in many ways – excluded from accessing this vital lesson in civic engagement?
8. Faculty have shared that, after calling PBI to request tickets for their students, PBI staff committed to calling them back and then never did so. Who directed PBI staff to handle relations with Cal State LA faculty in this manner?
9. Students have shared that, when calling PBI to request tickets to this debate in an effort to be civically engaged students, PBI staff told them to just come to the event and they would be let in. On May 1, 2022, they were not let in. Who directed PBI

INTENT TO RAISE QUESTIONS (continued)

staff to verbally tell students they would be allowed in? Who is responsible for their exclusion from the event upon arrival on May 1, 2022?

10. Who wrote the Cal State LA news release of May 2, 2022 in response to the events of May 1, 2022?
11. Who directed the Cal State LA campus police to violently remove Dr. Melina Abdullah – Cal State LA's most prominent and internationally known faculty member, political scientist, and Pan-African Studies scholar-activist, and Academic Senator – from the U-SU theater?
12. Were you, President William A. Covino, involved in the decision to tell police to remove Dr. Abdullah?
13. Was PBI Board President and Provost (on leave) Jose Gómez, involved in the decision to tell police to remove Dr. Abdullah?
14. Did university officials at any time during the May 1, 2022 event use public resources (such as university issued phones, tablets, laptops, or servers) to communicate using privacy software such as Signal, WhatsApp, or other programs that cause their communications to be in violation of the Public Records Act while using state resources?
15. What are the names of the four police officers who carried Dr. Abdullah away, each one holding each of her limbs, legs spread wide open in a humiliating, degrading fashion (as documented by LA Times photographers)?
16. What is the salary of each officer?
17. What weapons was each officer carrying at the time of seizing Dr. Abdullah?
18. Have you called Dr. Melina Abdullah to apologize for her treatment by your campus police force?
19. Have you offered some form of repair to Dr. Abdullah for the anti-Black and misogynist violence and damage to her professional reputation that she experienced under your leadership as President of Cal State LA?
20. What will you offer Dr. Abdullah, and when?
21. Will you hold an open forum, in person (not zoom), with the Cal State LA community to hear our concerns about armed campus police on our campus, and the lack of care (e.g. counseling services) available to our students? When?

4. It was m/s/p (Hanan) to adjourn at 4:14 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT