

Motion from Stockton Senate Executive Committee Regarding a Joint Task Force on a Potential Atlantic City Campus Dec 9th, 2014

Preamble

In the November 2014 meeting, the Senate passed a resolution calling for a full and substantive participation with the administration in developing and implementing an Atlantic City Campus, were such a purchase to take place. In the ensuing weeks, the senators engaged in a discussion about possible models for operationalizing such participation. It is essential to reiterate before going any further that the project is still hypothetical and may well not come to fruition for any number of reasons.

However, if the campus does come about the Senate Executive Committee, having studied and reflected upon the discussions and deliberations of the Senate over the past two weeks proposes the model outlined below.

The Senate Executive Committee believes the proposal below incorporates the best of the various excellent suggestions which were put forth and would present the administration with a coherent and workable model for how the faculty could have the “full and active participation” in the process of determining the nature of the College’s new campus.

Motion from the Senate Executive Committee

The Senate should form a Joint Task Force on the Development of the Atlantic City Campus composed of an equal number of faculty and administrators and include student representatives.

Charge: *The Task Force would advise and make recommendations to the Office of the President as to how to proceed in the implementation of this new phase of Stockton’s existence as well as facilitate communication back and forth between the faculty and administration.*

This task force would be co-chaired by a faculty member and an administrator.

Motion from the Senate Executive Committee

Having passed the charge for the Task Force on the Atlantic City Campus, the Senate Executive Committee proposes the following structure regarding the membership of the Task Force

Membership of Joint Task Force on the Atlantic City Campus

Faculty Side:

The faculty membership of this Task Force would be as follows:

One representative from each of the Standing Committees of the Senate (eight faculty)

Two representatives selected by the Senate Executive Committee (two faculty)

One representative of the SFT selected by the SFT leadership (one faculty)

The above representatives would all be tenured faculty and each school would have representation.

Because there is a time sensitive aspect to this project, and the next meeting of the Senate is not until January, the Senate Executive Committee requests that the Senate designate the Executive Committee with the authority to select the individuals for the task force. This would allow the task force to immediately begin work on this project, if circumstance so required. The Executive Committee would follow the above guidelines.

Administrative Side

The administrative membership would be composed along the following lines:

Four representatives from the support services of the college (e.g., Academic Advising, Student Affairs, etc.)

Two Provost's representatives

Three President's representatives

However, other configurations of the administrative membership of the Task Force could be equally appropriate and hence, would be left to the discretion of the Office of the President.

Student Representation

Two student representatives: one from the Stockton Student Senate and one from the Graduate Student Council (to be selected in whatever manner these institutions deem fit)

Rationale for this model

In the discussion which ensued upon the passage of the November resolution, clear preferences emerged.

---The idea of incorporating the full participation of all the Senate Standing Committees struck most, if not all, the commentators as being unwieldy and ultimately impractical. Trying to coordinate the contributions of that many individuals, with all their various pedagogical, scholastic and service commitments, would be implausible. Many also felt that it would be wrong to ask the level of commitment which will be required of this process of individuals who had originally joined the various standing committees under a very different understanding of the committee's work load.

---The ability of task forces in recent years to tackle large scale time sensitive issues has been amply demonstrated. To name but a few, the *Task Force on the Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality*, the *Task Force on E-Learning at Stockton*, the *Task Force on Double Majors*, the *Task Force on Dual Credit*, and the *Task Force on College & University Status*. While the Standing Committee structure is well designed to handle a number of the issues which face the college, there are other kinds of challenges we face which are better handled by a task force. There was

a generally wide spread agreement that of the three options initially presented to the Senate, some version of a task force would be best.

---- Many senators also felt that, while relying solely on the Standing Committee structure would not work (for reasons outlines above), we should still draw upon on the Standing Committee structure in some manner. Their view was that it has a well worked out division of duties and responsibilities regarding life at Stockton and could provide a useful framework for determining the membership of a task force.

--- While many appreciated the goal of the Town Hall model, no one believed this could function as the primary vehicle for an effective role for the faculty in moving forward on this project. Moreover, most commentators remarked that it would be quite possible, indeed desirable, to incorporate town halls as a supplementary feature to a task force. Such town halls would provide the task force with the opportunity to solicit ideas, grievances, recommendations, and so on, from the faculty at large, as well as update everyone as the project moves forward.

----While there was some support for creating a new standing committee, as opposed to a task force, creating such an entity would require a vote by the faculty assembly, not just the Senate. Moreover there are constitutional restrictions on how standing committees are to be constructed and which would thereby make it problematic to put into place the particular makeup of the committee above, a membership structure which had garnered the most support from the commentators.

---Although a task force technically has a designated life cycle (typically it completes its work no later than the end of an academic year) its term of existence can be extended by a simple vote of the Senate. Hence, a task force could continue to be operational for as long as the Senate deemed necessary. Furthermore, any modifications or adjustments to the task force's charge or membership can be done at any time by the Senate.

-- By creating a task force in which there was equal representation by both administration and faculty we increase the likelihood of "buy in" from both sides and that there would be genuine and substantive contributions from all parties.