

# Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2023

10-11:30am

BDC 134

<https://csub.zoom.us/j/87517006583>

## Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Daisy Alamillo, Janet Armentor, Andreas Gebauer (ex officio), Heidi He, Debra Jackson (ex officio), Maureen Rush, Danielle Solano, Michael Szolowicz, John Tarjan (Chair)

**Absent:** Mary Slaughter

**Guests:** Larry Gonzales, Kris Grappendorf, Aaron Hegde, Antje Lauer

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Our guests introduced themselves. Aaron Hegde and Antje Lauer attended to speak regarding the minor in sustainability. Kris Grappendorf attended to speak to the Concentration/Emphasis issue. Larry Gonzales will be taking over for Daisy Alamillo next year.

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

We approved the agenda.

### 3. Approval of Minutes March 23, 2023 (attached and in AAC Box folder)

We approved the minutes.

### 4. Announcements/Reports

- a. Small Business Concentration name change in second reading.
- b. Suggestions about school elevation sent to the Executive Committee.

### 5. Potential Resolutions for the Senate (Materials can be found in AAC Box folder.)

- a. Minor in Environmental Sustainability (see new memo in Box)

Aaron Hegde and Antje Lauer represented the Sustainability Committee who put forth the proposal. Aaron Hegde shared that when the Theme S:

Sustainability & Justice minor was created, some faculty wanted a sustainability minor, others justice minor; the two ideas were combined to create a Sustainability & Justice minor. So, a student hypothetically could take all courses in justice and not any in sustainability. Aaron Hegde added that a few years ago, there was an attempt to have a CSU system-wide sustainability minor which didn't go anywhere. All instructors and department chairs have been contacted and raised no objections. They also affirmed that the courses contain a significant amount (20%) of sustainability content. The one course all students would take is ERM 1090.

Antje Lauer added that all other CSUs have at least a minor in sustainability, many have a full program (Chico State has a major). She added the ERM 1090 course is mostly online with a few in person meetings and that the selected textbook is very affordable.

Maureen Rush asked if this minor would replace Theme S. Andreas Gebaeur replied that NSME does not offer courses that could meet the justice aspect, so Sustainability & Justice was created to include NSME. Andreas Gebauer asked transfer students could transfer into the minor. Aaron Hegde replied that the committee had not investigated this, but it was good idea to pursue.

Debra Jackson asked who would coordinate and advise students in the minor and if the interdisciplinary studies program be a good home for the minor. Aaron Hegde responded that the ERM program would be a better fit. Debra Jackson also asked if this program would be better as a concentration. While there is the possibility of elevating the minor to a concentration at some point, the Sustainability Committee decided to put forth the minor.

We reviewed the responses to our questions and generally thought they were sufficient. Maureen Rush suggested that the committee provide recommended pathways students during advising. Aaron Hegde responded that they did have plans to do that (i.e., make a recommend pathway for business students, etc.).

John Tarjan asked if there were any objections to the minor, and there were none. **John Tarjan will draft a resolution for submission to the Senate Executive Committee.** In our resolution, we will encourage the Sustainability Committee to provide clear pathways for students and review of the program in a few years for coherence in the curriculum.

b. Referral on Definitions of Concentration and Emphasis and Their Implementation (Data on potential impact from Dr. Jackson in Box)

Debra Jackson emailed a spreadsheet to the committee showing the impact of the current method of defining concentrations/emphasis as compared to the proposed changes.

After her research, Debra Jackson suggested that instead of using both the terms concentrations and emphasis, we pick one term (either concentration or emphasis). Andreas Gebauer pointed out that 12 units would require the least number of changes. He thought that it was important to note curricular differences and should keep both the concentration and emphasis definitions. There was general agreement that an “emphasis” represented less courses than a “concentration”. There was a significant amount of discussion definition how the current terms are used and how they might be changed.

John Tarjan asked the student representatives about their perspective. Daisy Alamillo didn’t think students would be able to differentiate between the terms. Larry Gonzales stated that he thought concentrations and emphases were the same thing.

Debra Jackson pointed out that several programs don’t even meet the Chancellor’s Office definition for a subplan. After extensive discussion, there seemed to be general agreement that these programs would be required to come into compliance with the CO definition in some way.

We debated how to handle the issue at length. Some committee members recommend a 12 unit or greater definition for a concentration, others suggested using the Chancellor’s Office definition. There was also a suggestion of using the 12 unit or greater definition but making an exception for high unit majors. Other committee members wanted to continue to use both the concentration and emphasis terms. **We will carry the conversation over to our next meeting.**

c. Bylaws Changes—Standing Committee Chairs (in Box, referred to all 4 standing committees)

The referral asked us to consider:

- Whether a statement of interest from the candidates for Sub-Committee Chair is required
- Whether two-years on the Academic Senate is required before one can be eligible to serve as Standing Committee Chair
- Clarify the term limits for Standing Committee Chair

- What qualifications are required or desired of the Standing Committee Chair

There was general agreement that there should be at least one year experience on the committee. Andreas Gebauer recalled that there used to be a statement of interest for the Senate Chair, and this process disappeared.

**We will carry the conversation over to our next meeting.**

d. Graduate Studies Committee (Dr. Jackson)

We did not get to this.

6. Continuing Discussion

a. Communication Across Schools When Changing Curricula

We did not get to this.

7. Open Forum

There were no open forum items.

8. Adjournment

We adjourned at 11:32am.