

Policy File Committee Report
CSUEU Board of Directors
November 16, 2013

Committee Members: Steven Mottaz (Chair), Joan Kennedy (vice chair), Cyndi Olvera, Susan Baur, Nancy Yamada (staff assigned)

Executive Summary:

The Policy File committee met on October 5th & 6th as part of the All Committees meeting. Nancy Yamada was unable to attend. In that meeting the Policy File Committee prepared 4 motions for the Board of Directors. We reviewed 3 proposed changes submitted by Directors. We met jointly with the Finance Committee, Alisandra Brewer and Pat Gantt.

Motions:

401.04 Holding Closed Sessions, add language which exempts closed session meetings of advanced notice of agenda items and supporting documentation.

Rationale: closed session items often are of a confidential and/or of a timely issue. Dissemination of supporting documents could jeopardize confidentiality. Personnel, bargaining, legislative and other issues may and do arise shortly before a meeting and in less than the 20 day notice required for meetings.

1300.00 Board of Directors Orientation, Helps to ensure that all directors receive Director training.

Rationale: Although the policy file requires that such orientation and training be *provided* at the first Board meeting after an election, it does not offer or mandate any training for directors that cannot attend that training, or directors that are elected or appointed outside of the regular election cycle.

Appendix B Chapter Bylaws, Gives chapter executive committees a way of dealing with chapter officers who fail to show up at Executive Committee Meetings.

Rationale: On occasion, a chapter officer has failed to attend meetings and fulfill any of his/her duties. Although the officer has abandoned the office, he/she has not officially resigned. The chapter is unable to appoint anyone to fulfill these duties, or to recover union property (files, laptops, phones, etc.). This amendment would enable chapters to treat these situations as resignations upon proper notice to the officer.

Motion allowing for removal of BUC at large members, adds language allowing for removal of BUC at large members who fail to attend meetings. (This motion was pulled for further discussion and refining)

Rationale: On occasion, BUC at large members fail to attend meetings and fulfill any of his/her duties. Although the officer has abandoned the office, he/she has not officially resigned. This amendment would give BUC chairs a way of replacing an inactive at-large member.

Director submitted proposed changes to the Policy File/Bylaws:

1. A proposal for a Policy File change to PF 402.01 was made to provide consequences to chairs and officers who fail to submit agendas and supporting documentation in a timely manner as outlined in the Policy File. And Items that are not submitted within the constraints of the policy file could not be considered by the Board until proper notice was given.

The policy File Committee discussed this issue in depth. Some agenda items and reports contain information that may not be complete or changes in the days preceding a meeting. Finance and representation and bargaining reports are examples of this. Some agenda items are too important to simply not discuss because of improper notice. It is always an option for any director who feels they have not been given enough notice or need more information on a subject to motion to the board to table the discussion or action. The policy File committee does not recommend moving forward with this proposal.

2. A proposal for a Policy File change to PF 1102.02 was made to place time limits of five or ten minutes on oral reports given at BOD meetings.

Members of the Policy file Committee understand the frustration of long winded reports. However, after discussing this issue we find that some reports cannot be delivered in five or ten minutes, Finance, Representation, bargaining, etc. are examples. Also there could be a conflict with the corporation code which provides that Board of Directors discussions cannot be limited. The policy File committee does not recommend moving forward with this proposal.

3. A proposal for a Bylaws change to BL 5.1 to add duties to the Vice President for Representation, Specifically "Distributes copies of all contract bargaining proposals (including full contract, reopener, contract side letters and amendments) exchanged between the California State University and the California State University Employees Union to all Chapter Presidents no later than 72 hours after the exchange."

The Policy File Committee discussed this proposal separately with the President and with the Vice President for Representation. After lengthy discussion by the committee and with Pat Gantt and Alisandra Brewer the committee feels this would place an undo burden on the VP for Rep. Many proposals are passed back and forth at bargaining session. Bargaining session can and do go on for days. The focus of the VP for Rep should be on bargaining and not on disseminating documentation. The Policy File committee finds this proposal to be too strict, it ties the hands of the VP. The duties as listed in the Bylaws is their charge and major responsibilities and not so

specific in detail, and should not be. The policy File committee does not recommend moving forward with this proposal.

Other Discussions:

Stipend: A Member brought up an issue suggestion that the Board had violated Bylaws 5.10 “Compensation of Directors” when the board had passed a motion giving Pat Gantt a stipend for the work he has and continues to do as interim Chief of Staff. The policy File Committee reviewed Section 5.10 of the Bylaws and determined no such violation had occurred. The Bylaws Section 5.10 states “No Director or Officer shall be entitled to additional compensation of services rendered as such director or Officer...”. The Policy File Committee concluded that Pat Gantt was given the stipend by the Board for services rendered as a Chief of Staff, not for services rendered as a Director, so no violation had occurred.

Policy File Committee charge: A member brought into question the duties of the Policy File Committee in regards the Committee’s work on the Bylaws and the committee’s responsibility for submitting motions to the board of all proposals submitted to the committee by Directors.

The Policy File Committee reviewed its charges and duties as listed in the policy file and concluded the committee is working within its charge as stated in PF 1204.01 and subsequent sections.

Many times language already exists that meets the objective of proposals made. Furthermore any Director may motion to the Board a proposal for change and thus open up an issue for discussion by the board.

Representation Policy Summary: The “Representation Policy Summary” referred to the Policy File Committee for review of compliance with the Policy File and or Bylaws. The committee reviewed the document and found it to be in compliance.

Review the composition and voting for Bargaining Unit councils: It has been suggested that there be an elected chapter president that serves on each council. This topic requires further discussion and in review of PF sections the committee finds it also needs to clean up the language in PF 303.01, .03, .04, .05 and 601.02. This discussion will be on the agenda for the next Policy File meeting.

Rights and Responsibilities form: it has come to our attention that there are two different forms for this. We refer this to the Representation Committee to review and or consolidate these two forms into one.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven R. Mottaz, Chair
Policy File Committee