**May 20, 2024, Exc Com Meeting Notes**

**In attendance:** Marshelle Thobaben, Jeffery Borgeld, James Floss, Susan Dobie, Lou Ann Wieand

**Program Chair**: Susan

Discussed timelines for selection of presenters and announcement to the ERFSA listserv.

**2024 Fall Presenters**:

September 12, 2024

Jenn Capps, Provost, Cal Poly Humboldt

Provost Capps, perhaps with a panel of others, will discuss the status current and future programs in Academic Affairs

Marshelle will introduce

October 10, 2024

Jennifer Marlow, Environmental Science and Management

Managing Risk from Sea-Level Rise to Humboldt Bay’s Spent Nuclear Fuel Site

Jeff Borgeld will introduce

November 14, 2024

Cliff VanCott - McKinleyville Emergency Response Team Leader

Lou Ann Wieand will introduce

December 12, 2024

Jacqueline Dandeneau - Playhouse Arts

James Floss will introduce

**Membership Chair:** Jeff

Number of members: 58 for 2023-24 AY

"Catalog*"* incorporating the newly approved Emeritus Status recipients-as of May 19, 2024, still not completed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Lou Ann

ERFSA Funds Cal Poly Humboldt: TV012 Account approximately $2,475.00

HAF & WRCF Account: $50,900.50

Approximate annual budget: approximately $2,500

**Communications Chair:** James

ERFSA Website: PowerPoints/video from guest speakers—uploaded this summer?

**Discussion Items** Marshelle

**Emeritus Status:** The announcement of how to apply for ES was sent to the ERFSA listserv at the beginning of May.

**Small Grant Program: Reception postponed until fall 2024**

**Need to update grant forms for next AY**

**2024 Recipients:**

* **Justin Luong**: Assistant Professor, Forestry, Fire and Rangeland Management Department. *Project*: Assessing solar panel grid impacts on coastal prairies to guide regenerative agrivoltaics
* **Christa L Meingast**: Assistant Professor, Engineering Department. *Project*: Biochar Soil Remediation Study in Distributed Environment
* **Silvia E Pavan**: Assistant professor, Biological Sciences Department. *Project*: Presenting research with students at the 2024 Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists
* **Rachael M. Wade**: Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences Department. *Projec*t: Ecologically-driven morphological plasticity in coralline algae

**ERFSA Members**

\*Surveyed ERFSA members regarding support for the ***Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU)* Resolution "Call for CSU Administration to Engage in Shared Governance in Response to Student-Led Protests on CSU Campuses".**

**Results of our survey of Humboldt-ERFSA 2023-24**

**58 members**

*57%* responded to the survey

81% were in favor of endorsing the ASCSU Resolution

13% opposed

*06%*abstained.

The Executive Committee will be informing the Cal Poly University Senate and Cal Poly Administration of the results of the survey.

**Fundraiser:** When to have a fundraiser?

**Change in ASC Support—unknown**

**Website: summer**

* March-May Meeting Notes, Grant Recipients, etc. need the website uploaded to website.
* Exc Com members---are additional templates needed for your ERFSA responsibilities.
* ERFSA Website: PowerPoints/video from guest speakers—uploaded this summer?

**\*AS-3698-24/FA/Exec May 17, 2024, Approved: Academic Senate of the California State University Call for CSU Administration to Engage in Shared Governance in Responses to Student-Led Protests on CSU Campuses**

**1. RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of the California State University(ASCSU) object to the Cal Poly Humboldt administration’s refusal to engage in meaningful shared governance (such as advisory consultation prior to decisions) during the April 22-30, 2024, campus response to the student-led protest in support of Palestinian lives and a call for a ceasefire in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war; and be it

**2. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU support the May 7, 2024, Cal Poly Humboldt University Senate resolution calling for an independent investigation into the events and related administrative decision-making processes in response to the student-led protest1; and be it

**3. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU urge CSU Presidents and the CSU Chancellor’s office to engage faculty, staff, administrators, and students in meaningful shared governance processes to develop and implement campus responses to student-led protests, including the decision to rely on police action; and be it

**4. RESOLVED:** That, in the absence of faculty shared governance engagement, the ASCSU express a deep concern about decisions to close campus for an extended period of time and to mandate rapid and extended pivots to remote learning – a decision that is squarely curricular and pedagogical, and within the faculty purview; and be it

**5. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU highlight the disparate and inequitable impacts of said campus-wide modality pivots on educational access for marginalized student groups including low-income and first-generation student groups; and be it

**6. RESOLVED:** That the ASCSU distribute this resolution to:

Governor Gavin Newsom

CSU Chancellor, Mildred Garcia

CSU Executive Vice Chancellor and General Counsel G. Andrew Jones

CSU Deputy Vice Chancellor Dilce Perez

CSU Deputy Vice Chancellor Nathan Evans

The Cal State Student Association (CSSA)

CSU Board of Trustees

CSU campus Presidents

CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs

CSU campus Senate Chairs

CSU campus Senate Executive Committees

Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Asm. Jim Wood, District 2

Senate President Pro Tempore, Sen. Mike McGuire, District 2

Emeritus & Retired Faculty & Staff Association (ERFSA)

1 Sense of the Senate Resolution on An Independent Investigation into University Decision making related to the April 22, 2024 Protest Actions passed by Cal Poly Humboldt University Senate on May 7, 2024.

**Rationale**

The Cal Poly Humboldt presidential administrative team, acting in an “emergency” capacity in response to a student-led protest, which began on April 22, 2024, continually made decisions that excluded established processes of consultation and shared governance. These decisions included the immediate response to call-in law enforcement in riot gear to remove student protestors who were attempting a sit-in, the decision to cancel all in-person classes and events and require faculty to move to remote learning for the last two weeks of the semester, and the imposition of a ‘hard closure’ of campus that threatened faculty, staff and students with criminal sanction if they accessed facilities on campus, such as personal offices, the Library and research labs. These decisions have had disastrous effects on the lives of students, faculty and staff and will likely negatively affect future student enrollment.

The events referred to in this resolution began when a group of approximately 30 Cal Poly Humboldt students entered the main administration building, Siemens Hall, on April 22, 2024, between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm, to engage in a protest and sit-in near the President’s Office, an act of intentional civil disobedience taken as part of a growing

student movement in support of Palestinian lives and calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.

These actions were in violation of the University’s Time, Manner and Place policy, but not entirely unexpected, as student-led pro-Palestinian protests had occurred since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war in Fall semester, and students, faculty and staff of the Cal Poly Humboldt campus (formerly Humboldt State University) are known nationally for their commitment to issues of social justice and the environment, which can sometimes

involve civil disobedience action.

Some student protestors refused to leave the building after University Police Department (UPD) officers asked them to move their protest outside to the “Quad” area.

UPD subsequently called for additional law enforcement to provide support to forcibly

3 Defne Karabatur and Ryan Fonseca, “Occupation, Lock-Down, Tree Sit-in: How Cal Poly Humboldt became California’s Epicenter of pro-Palestinian Activism.” The Los Angeles *Times* (5/1/24).

Thadeus Greenson, “On Siemens Hall Hill: How an Eight-day Occupation of Cal Poly Humboldt Divided

Campus.” The *North Coast Journa*l (5/2/24). remove the protestors from the building,4 and while estimates vary based on observer accounts, at a minimum, 30 officers from local law enforcement agencies, as well as

California Highway Patrol, arrived at Siemens Hall. Many officers wore helmets, and carried batons and shields, typically associated with police riot response units. As the police attempted to enter the building, a physical exchange ensued between the officers and the protestors. Police elbowed student heads and struck students with batons. Some student protestors resisted. One protester hit officers’ helmets using an empty 5-gallon plastic water container he previously had been using as a drum.5 At least one protester and a few police officers suffered injuries. At 8:52pm, a campus alert was sent to the campus community stating that campus was closed through Wednesday, April 24, 2024, and “The campus community is advised to avoid the area of the building [Siemens], as it is a dangerous and volatile situation…In-person classes and activities are transitioning to remote where possible.

Check in with your instructor or supervisor for next steps.” “Campus Closed as Dangerous Situation Continues in Siemens Hall”, emergency alert email, 4/22/24. Hank Sims, “Major Pro-Palestinian Protests at Cal Poly Humboldt Provoke Massive Police Response; Prostestors Occupy Siemens Hall; Reports of Violent Force Between Activists and Law Enforcement,” *Lost Coast Outpost* (4/22/24). A video of the confrontation between police and protestors can be accessed at Humboldt Freelance Reporting, “Serious Head Split Injury treated by ER after Local Police Respond to Cal Poly Protest” (4/22/24): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjYlO3Glf7A

Humboldt Freelance Reporting, “Police clash with protestors inside Cal Poly Humboldt: FIGHT WITH

POLICE & WATER JOG GOES VIRAL” YouTube, (4/23/2024).

Note that this action seems to contradict the university’s past protocol during sit-ins (see Sense of the

Senate Resolution on Dropping the Charges Against Student and Faculty Protestors passed by the Cal

Poly Humboldt University Senate, May 7, 2024) and is incongruent with the advice to CSU administrators

in the Handbook of Free Speech Issues (2009) authored by the Office of General Counsel of the California

State University. The current Cal Poly Humboldt Emergency Operations Plan Manual indicates that

additional law enforcement support can be called in the event of a “riot or major civil disturbance.”

Around 10:30 pm, in an effort to de-escalate any continuing confrontations between student protesters and police, the additional police forces left the campus. Students inside Siemens Hall had barricaded themselves in the building, blocking all exits but one, which led to an occupation protest that continued through 5pm, Friday, April 26.

During this four-day period, faculty and two administrators, the Provost and the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, negotiated with the “protest collective,” which included the students inside the building and those who had created an encampment outside of the building. The goal of these negotiations was to listen to the protesting students, understand their demands, and potentially meet the demands such that the students barricaded in the building would leave peacefully, avoiding additional police action.

On Friday, April 26, 2024 at 12:28 pm, an alert communication was sent to the campus community stating that the campus was closed through May 10, and “work and academic instruction will be remote”. Around 5pm on April 26, protesters ended the occupation of Siemens Hall and removed the barricades. Damage from graffiti was visible throughout the building and walls, mirrors, furniture and artwork in the President’s Office were defaced. Other administrative offices had been breached, but confidential files remained secure. On Saturday, April 27, 2024, a campus alert was sent informing the campus.

For a detailed first-hand account of faculty leaders’ interactions with administration during this time period, see Chair’s Report from the May 7, 2024, meeting of the Cal Poly Humboldt University Senate community that the administration was imposing “hard closure” in which “‘individuals are prohibited from entering or being on campus without permission.” The source of this decision making remained anonymous.

With Siemens Hall no longer occupied, in the early morning hours of Tuesday, April 30,2024, over 150 officers, most in riot gear, entered campus with the goal of clearing the remaining protest encampment on the Quad. After blasting messages for several hours warning of impending police action, the officers acted to arrest a relatively small group of 32 protesters sitting in a circle, including 13 Cal Poly Students, 18 people who were not currently enrolled, and 1 Cal Poly Humboldt faculty member. These activists were taken to the Humboldt County jail and charged under California criminal codes.

There is urgency for the California State University system to learn from this inflection point, as the Cal Poly Humboldt and Chancellor’s office administrations’ refusals to engage in consultation with faculty with expertise in protest actions and the exclusion of the views of faculty leaders from key decisions during the campus response to the protest violate shared governance precedents and have immense implications for the entire CSU community. Based on the testimony of students and faculty members, the administration’s actions have severely impacted students, especially those who identify as BIPOC, are low-income, and/or are first generation. Students who lived in campus. Kym Kemp, “Tensions and Demands Persist Following Mass Arrests Early Tuesday Morning at Cal Poly

Humboldt”. Redheaded Blackbelt.com (5/1/24); Brad Butterfield, “University Brings Busload of Police in

Riot Gear to End Pro-Palestine Protest,” The *Lumberjack* (5/1/24).

Cal Poly Humboldt Alert email to campus, “Campus Access, Resources and Support” (4/28/2024) housing during the crisis were petrified of the purported campus lawlessness reported in anonymous campus alert messages, and some of these students did not access food and other supplies as they were instructed to shelter-in-place multiple times. Student protesters may face school discipline charges, such as suspension, and those students who were arrested and charged will face lifelong consequences.

Moving forward several critical issues of campus and statewide shared governance must

be addressed:

1. Given that there are very different interpretations among state and local officials, administrators, faculty, staff, and students of the intentions, dangerousness, and volatility of the student protestors, and of other facts, an investigation is warranted. While it is undeniable that Siemens Hall was damaged by graffiti and broken furniture during the protestors’ occupation, it is not clear that the protestors would have enacted a closed occupation with barricades had the campus administrative team not immediately called in police to respond to what students have reported was their plan for an open occupation/sit-in.

The language used by President Jackson to describe students who occupied Siemens Hall as “criminals” who are not engaged “in a noble cause” (published in the local newspaper on April 26, 2024) is at odds with the views of faculty and staff, 320 of whom signed a letter asking for the immediate resignation of President Jackson and the chief of staff, Mark Johnson due their decision to prematurely call in riot police in disproportion to the threat of the students’

intended civil disobedience.11 Local elected officials wrote an “open letter” to the Cal Poly Humboldt administration asking for consultation and dialogue before campus administration and the CSU Chancellor’s office made a decision to further deploy law enforcement in response to the protest, noting that they had been shut out of the decision making.12 Local Jewish leaders, including the rabbi of the only Jewish temple in Humboldt County who has also taught in the Religious Studies program on campus, wrote an open letter to state legislative

representatives to contend the claim by the University that the police action(s) were necessary to protect Jewish staff, faculty and students during the protest, stating that during the period of April 22 through April 30, they were not contacted by administration, faculty, staff or students about the presence of

antisemitism.

2. There was no faculty representation on the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) team and administrators did not consult with faculty experts on student political activism and campus protests before calling for a forceful police response. The campus-based and Chancellor’s Office members of the EOC were never named “In Open Letter to Legislators, Humboldt Jewish Leaders Reject the Notion that the Cal Poly Protests were Anti-Semitic” *Lost Coast Outpost*, 5/3/24.

1Kym Kemp, “Letter to the CSU Administration From Community Leaders Calls for Dialogue” *Redheaded*

*Blackbelt* (4/29/2024).

Jackson Guilfoil, “Everything is on the table’: Cal Poly’s Tom Jackson Discusses Campus Unrest,

University Response”. Eureka *Times-Standard* (4/26/24). “320 Members of Cal Poly Humboldt’s Faculty

and Staff Call for ‘Immediate Termination’ of President Jackson and his Chief of Staff” Lost Coast

Outpost,(5/6//24) publicly and all communications to the campus community about the situation

issued by the EOC as “CAL POLY HUMBOLDT ALERT” were anonymous. During the emergency the President did not communicate directly with campus or make a real effort to de-escalate conflict to resolve the situation, such as listening to student protestors about their reasoning for their actions and discussing their demands.14 The only statement the President has made to the campus community about the emergency was part of a press release on April 30, 2024, in which he thanked law enforcement “for their effort in resolving this very dangerous situation.”

4. There was no consultation with faculty leaders or the California Faculty Association about the decision to close the campus for two weeks, beginning on April 22, 2024, which meant moving all instructional, research and other

university-related events and activities off-campus unexpectedly. Faculty and students were not equipped to teach and learn online in such an unexpected way.

Student learning has suffered and faculty have taken on extreme workloads in order to facilitate student learning outcomes. Research, particularly involving organic specimens and animals, was endangered, in possible violation of federal law. Under the “hard closure” mandate imposed on April 27, 2024, faculty could access their offices or research labs only for brief periods of time when they were accompanied by an administration-designated escort and faculty who were not 15 “Law Enforcement Secures Buildings and Restores Order at Cal Poly Humboldt”, press release and statement to the campus community, 4/30/24.

Jennifer Fumiko Cahill and Thadeus Greenson, “Failed Leadership.” The *North Coast Journal*, 5/2/24.

pre-authorized risked possible citation, arrest and/or professional discipline if they came on campus. The ACLU of Northern California has challenged the constitutionality of the unilateral imposition of a campus “hard closure”.16

5. No compelling evidence has been provided to justify the emergency response led by the Chancellor’s office Emergency Management designee, Saturday, April 27-Tuesday, April 30, which resulted in the “hard closure” of the entire campus and a massive 150+ police officer and first responder response to clear the protest encampment in the early hours of April 30.17 In the interest of accounting for spending state revenue in deploying the Unified Command, an investigation of the need for and expense of such a response should be conducted. Protocols at

the Chancellor’s office and at the campus level for responding to a student-led protest and accompanying civil disobedience must be reviewed and improved to promote safer, more efficient and more effective outcomes.

August Linton and Warren Pedersen, “Cal Poly Humboldt Police Move-In, But Most Pro-Palestinian

Protestors Stay Put,” San Francisco *Chronicle* (4/27/24).

ACLU of Northern California, Letter to President Tom Jackson, Jr. re Hard Closure of Cal Poly Humboldt

Campus and Media Access, 5/4/24. Accessed at

https://lostcoastoutpost.com/loco-media/loco-media/blog/post/39230/2024.05.04%2BFinal%2BLetter%

2Bto%2BCal%2BPoly%2BHumboldt%2Bfrom%2BACLU%2Band%2BFAC.pdf