

## **AGENDA**

### **COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND RULES**

**Meeting: 10:15 a.m., Tuesday, September 20, 2005**  
**Glenn S. Dumke Auditorium**

George G. Gowgani, Chair  
Debra S. Farar, Vice Chair  
Jeffrey L. Bleich  
Herbert L. Carter  
Carol R. Chandler  
Melinda Guzman Moore  
Ricardo F. Icaza

#### **Consent Items**

Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2005

1. Permanent Change in Placement of Public Comment at Board Meetings,  
*Action*

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND RULES**

**Trustees of The California State University  
Glenn S. Dumke Conference Center  
401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, California**

**July 19, 2005**

**Members Present**

George G. Gowgani, Chair  
Debra S. Farar, Vice Chair  
Jeffrey L. Bleich  
Herbert L. Carter  
Carol R. Chandler  
Murray L. Galinson, Chair, Board of Trustees  
Charles B. Reed, Chancellor

**Consent Items**

Chair Gowgani called the meeting to order noting there were two items on the consent calendar, the first, was the Approval of Minutes of the May meeting. He called for objections and hearing none, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Chair Gowgani stated that the second item proposing to move the public comment period to after the plenary roll call and limit the time allotted to 30 minutes was presented for information and that final action would be taken at the September meeting. He noted there was one public request to speak and offered the floor to Patrick Gantt, California State Employees Association. Mr. Gantt stated that he applauded the effort to move the speaking time up to the front of the agenda, but he felt that the 30-minute time frame was problematic. The CSU is a public institution, he said, and the Trustees serve the taxpayers of California by their appointment by the Governor or their constituency. The 3-minute restriction is a disservice to those wishing to speak. He stated that on campus, staff would never try to fit a discussion or presentation in a 3-minute period whether they were helping a student, a staff person with a supervisor or a faculty member with a dean. He urged Trustees to consider this when making the final decision in September. Chair Galinson asked if the proposal could state that the time was limited to approximately 30 minutes. Christine Helwick, General Counsel, replied that the only change being proposed was the placement of the public comment in the agenda order and that it would be a matter of practice as to what time limitation was imposed. Chair Galinson affirmed that there was really no time limit. Ms Helwick commented that it was important to understand that agenda items coming before committees are not governed by this rule. The rule applies only to public comments that are unrelated to agenda items. The rule attempts, she said, to balance the need to get things done with the obligation to take public comment and receive input from the broader public. Chair Galinson clarified that this item only moved the public comment time slot and that the chair had the authority to change the amount of time allocated to speakers.

Chair Gowgani adjourned the meeting.

## **COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND RULES**

### **Permanent Change in Placement of Public Comment at Board Meetings**

#### **Presentation By**

Christine Helwick  
General Counsel

#### **Summary**

In March, the Board implemented, on an experimental basis, a change in the order of business, moving the public comment period up from the end of the plenary session agenda to just after the roll is taken, and limiting it to 30 minutes. This item is presented to make this change permanent.

#### **Background**

The Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act applicable to CSU Board of Trustee meetings mandates an opportunity for the public to address items on Committee and Board agendas. This item does *not* involve that mandate, and the time for comment on items on the agenda will continue to be allocated as it always has been, based on the item and the number of speakers who indicate they wish to be heard.

This item goes to public testimony, *unrelated to Board agenda items*, that has traditionally been received by the Board, but is not mandated by the Open Meetings Act. The Board has taken these public remarks at the close of its business and just before the Board meeting adjourned. This placement has proved frustrating to speakers, inconvenient for Trustees, and has been difficult to bracket in time to ensure that the meeting adjourns at a reasonable time. It has often resulted in speakers appearing after many Trustees had departed, and left adjournment of the Board meetings on a particularly low note.

This action item proposes to permanently amend the Rules of Procedure by moving the public comment period to just after the roll is taken in the plenary session and before the Board undertakes its business agenda, and to limit the time available to 30 minutes. The time would be coordinated and allocated amongst individual speakers and/or specific issues in advance, depending on the number of speakers who sign up and the topics they wish to address. The public would be advised of the time limitation, and individual speakers would be advised of their own time allocations in advance. Staff would continue to coordinate with all speakers to ensure that the Board receives the broadest input on issues, while still allotting sufficient time to complete its regular business. The Chair would always have discretion to extend the 30 minute time limit in unusual circumstances.

Organization & Rules  
Agenda Item 1  
September 20-21, 2005  
Page 2 of 2

The following resolution is submitted for approval:

**RESOLVED** that the order of business set forth in Section III, § 6 of the Rules Governing the Board of Trustees of the California State University be amended as follows:

Call to order and Roll Call  
Public Comments  
Reports of the Chair and the Chancellor  
Approval of the Minutes  
Reports of Standing and Special Committees  
Adjournment to next regular meeting  
~~Public Comments~~