THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (Revised)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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March 7, 2016

Members excused: O. Benavides, P. Durette, S. Fulop, L. Herzig, M. Jenkins, D. Lewis, R. Maldonado, A. Mckeith, F. Pasha, S. Schlievert, J. Slagter, J. Therkelsen, P. Turnbull

Members absent: L. Cornelio, J. Giglio, A. Hudson, B. Roberts, M. Schettler, S. Sherchan, R. Thornton

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:07pm in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of February 22, 2016

MSC approving the Minutes of February 22, 2016.

1. Communications and announcements
2. Provost Zelezny

Noted that the search for a Dean of the Jordan College of Agriculture was nearly complete, and the search for a new Dean of Science and Mathematics was moving forward and should be done in June.

With so many searches going on, she is extending for another year the interim positions of the Interim Dean of the College of Social Science, the Interim Dean of Continuing and Global Education, and the AVP for Faculty Affairs. She noted that Luz Gonzalez, Dean of the College of Social Science, will have a one year position as a special assistant to the Provost working on our partnership with the community colleges and will likely be based in Visalia at the College of the Sequoias. Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) expressed concern over expensive special assistants and asked how many there were. Dr. Gonzalez would be the third under her supervision, along with Dr. Jose Diaz and Dr. Timothy Stearns (both ending this term).

She has made a verbal offer to a potential new interim director of the Lyles Center for Entrepreneurship, and is planning a national search for a new director in the next academic year.

The Provost had a consultant come in and make recommendations on how to more efficiently organize Academic Affairs. In response to the recommendations, the Provost is merging the Office of Graduate Studies with the Office of Sponsored Research to create a new Division of Research and Graduate Studies. A new search is starting for a dean of the combined division.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) asked whether the developing online degree in liberal arts, for students who left Fresno State without finishing their degrees at least three years ago, will go through all of the normal curriculum approval channels. The Provost said it would. She also noted that there are a lot of Californians with half-way completed CSU degrees out there and this would go a long way towards helping them finish their degrees and graduate. The online program would only accept students who left Fresno State in good standing. Chair Ayotte pointed out that at this point the idea was still conceptual and faculty input was being sought. Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) said that he knew students who would be helped by this program.

Vice Chair Holyoke asked about the nearly $2 million in state money being used to support the new sports of wrestling and water polo and whether plans were being developed to make these programs entirely self-sufficient so they would not drain resources from the rest of the university. The Provost recommended telling the President this on his feedback page, as well as expressing the concern to faculty members on the Level A Budget Committee.

1. Statewide Senate Report – Senator Kensinger

Noted that Statewide Senate met and several important resolutions were passed. Among others she highlighted:

* A resolution in support of shared governance, noting that the Chancellor has been using the expression “shared leadership” and the Senate wants to know what this really means.
* A resolution supporting four years of math at California high schools as a requirement for entry into the CSU.
* A resolution expressing concern over statements being made by many CSU presidents that faculty cannot discuss the strike in class when faculty, who control their classrooms, are actually allowed to tell students about it.

She also mentioned that a resolution was being developed calling for a study of what works, and does not work, in online education.

1. Installation of new senators

The follow faculty members were either elected or re-elected to the Academic Senate:

 Magdalena Gilewicz

 Department of English

 Paula SanMartin

 Department of Modern & Classical Languages and Literatures

 Chih-Hao Wang

 Department of Geography and City and Reginal Planning

 Todd Wilson

 Department of Computer Science

1. New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

1. Resolution in Support of Faculty at California State University, Chico – Second reading

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) spoke against the resolution, saying that we still knew too little about what was really going on there, and perhaps the concerns of Chico State’s faculty had already been addressed. He had even tried to contact faculty there that he knew. Senator Henson (English) said the faculty there had kept reaching out to the Chancellor for help and were reprimanded for it. She emphasized the first “resolved” in the resolution, that it was important for all CSU faculty and the Chancellor to recognize the importance of no-confidence votes and to respond accordingly with support.

MSC approving the resolution (a few “nays” were heard).

1. APM 321 – Report of the Faculty Scholar Blue Ribbon Committee and APM 324 – Policy on Probationary Plans and Faculty Mentoring. First reading.

Personnel Committee Chair Tsukimura summarized the Blue Ribbon Committee and the Boyer Model. The Boyer Model is the basis of our Retention and Tenure Plan model, but the Blue Ribbon Committee, which promoted it at Fresno State, over-emphasized the service portions of it and did not accurately represent the intention of the Model in its report. The Boyer report emphasized that scholarship may be in several different forms, teaching being one of them, and each faculty member should not be expected to be fantastic at every type of scholarship. The Personnel Committee recommends repealing APM 321, the committee report, since it is not a policy, and instead appending Chapter 2 of Boyer et al. 1990 to APM 324, with a new footnote in 324 noting the inspiration of the Boyer Model for the components of the RTP.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) moved to have Chapter 2 of Boyer et al. 1990 also appended to APM 325 and 327 but the motion died for lack of a second.

Senator Moreman (Communication) noted that there was a second edition of Boyer et al. published in 1997 and wondered if it should be checked for updates. Personnel Committee Chair Tsukimura felt this was unnecessary since the Blue Ribbon Committee specifically used the 1990 version to write APM 324.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) asked why the Personnel Committee had decided not to append Boyer et al. to APM 325 and 327. Chair Tsukimura responded that those parts of the APM were only about process for tenure and promotion, but that APM 324 was foundational and thus the most crucial part.

This item will return at the next meeting for second reading.

1. Resolution on Final Grade Due Dates. Second reading.

Senator Lewis (Kinesiology) had asked to have AVP Malisa Lee (Student Affairs Enrollment Services) and Tina Beddall (Registrar) come to the Senate to address this issue, but they cannot be available until the next meeting on March 28.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted that the resolution only asks that grades not be due before January 2 at the end of the fall semester, which has been done successfully in the past. Noted that this was an “ideal” timeline, not a required one. She wants nothing here to negatively impact students.

Senator Katti (University-wide) pointed out that this was all just a recommendation anyway, not a requirement.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) moved to table the motion adopting the resolution to the next meeting when Lee and Beddall were available. The motion was seconded. Senator Kensinger amended the motion to require the Academic Senate to take up the resolution again at its next meeting regardless of whether Lee and Beddall were there or not. It was seconded and the amendment to the motion passed. The main motion then passed with two “nays”. The resolution will return at the next meeting.

1. APM 231 Adding and Dropping Classes – Academic Policy and Planning Committee. First reading.

AP&P Chair Mullooly introduced the revised policy.

Anthony Farnesi (ASI) expressed concern that this change could be very hard on students. He felt other universities had devised better policies to deal with class bottlenecks from late adding and dropping and showed examples from Chico State, UCLA, and CSU, Northridge. He especially drew attention to the policy at UCLA, which he felt, minus the charging of fees, would decrease student requests to a trickle in the fourth week. Chair Mullooly expressed concern that some of these solutions might increase the faculty workload.

Senator Akhaven (Educational Research and Administration) argued that the proposed change might help students get the classes they need by making more seats available, and thus help them graduate within six years.

Senator Karr (Music) argued that any student enrolling in the fourth week has already missed so much of the class that he doubts they can succeed in it.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) felt that having the drop deadline earlier than the add deadline would make it easier for wait-listed students to get classes. Senator Ram (University-wide) noted that moving the add deadline up as well had been suggested in the Senate Executive Committee but it was argued that allowing a gap between the drop and add deadlines would be more beneficial to students Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies), indicated that the add deadline is a CSU policy and cannot be changed.

Senator Bryant (Political Science) asked for data on the number of students adding and dropping on the last day. The data will be shared with the Senate. It is not clear if it is the same students dropping and adding on the current drop/add deadline.

AP&P Chair Mullooly argued that the university needs a policy in place now to deal with impaction, but said AP&P is going to continue to work on this policy to make it as easy on students as possible.

Senator Henson asked Vice Chair Holyoke to email the drop / add data, along with the policies from the other universities, to all senators.

Senator Karr asked if the census day could be changed, but Dean Fu said it was set by the Chancellor’s Office and could not be changed.

This item will return for a second reading at the next meeting.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:20pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on March 28, 2016, at 4:00pm in HML 2206.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate