THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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March 28, 2016

Members excused: L. Davis, R. Maldonado, A. Mckeith, J. Peterson, M. Raheem, B. Roberts, M. Schettler, S. Schlievert, J. Therkelsen, N. Akhavan

Members absent: L. Cornelio, P. Durette, P. Garcia, J. Giglio, R. Hall, S. Sherchan, M. Thompson, R. Thornton, J. Whiting

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

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the move of item #7 (resolution on the due date of grades) to be new item #6 and the rest of the agenda reordered according

MSC approving the agenda as amended

1. Approval of the Minutes of March 7, 2016

Friendly amendment to the minutes

MSC approving the Minutes of March 7, 2016 as amended

1. Communications and announcements
2. Budget presentation by President Castro and Interim CFO Moffit

Main message of the presentation is that the majority of the university’s money from the state goes to employee salaries and, for the last couple of years, benefits, and this percentage is growing.

Senator Karr (Music) noted that our effort to increase tenure-density is going to require an even larger portion of the budget. Where will the money come from? The legislature will need to appropriate more for the CSU. He also wondered why money saved when senior faculty retire is not put back into a faculty compensation pool rather than simply returned to Academic Affairs generally.

Vice Chair Holyoke asked if money, perhaps $2 million, was still being taken off the top of the annual budget for the Athletics Department and asked if Athletics is trying to make itself more sustainable so the state subsidy will no longer be required. President Castro indicated that Athletics Director Bartko is working hard to make Athletics more independent, and that some big projects like the refurbishing of Bulldog Stadium will be done only with private money.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted that the university administration had not really protested when the state required campuses to pay directly for new employee benefits. She also wanted to see salaries broken out so we could tell administrators from faculty, as well as identify staff and student payrolls. She also expressed concern over state allocations that come in and then at the end of the year become carry forwards, and then those funds we are told are one-time funds that we cannot use for their original intended purpose. President Castro explained that money for Athletics was coming from the university’s central reserve, which is about 50% of total reserves, and none of it was coming from the reserves of the colleges or other divisions. He and CFO Moffit gave a lengthy description regarding the use of campus reserves for a variety of high priority projects, often with allocations made prior to the Level A distribution of money to the major university divisions. CFO Moffit will provide the Academic Senate with more detailed information on salaries.

Chair Ayotte asked what additional state money for student success was being used for in the Division of Student Affairs. President Castro and Vice President Lamas (Student Affairs) replied that it was being used to support various “high impact practices” such as career counseling, leadership, outreach, the Dream Center, the Renaissance Scholars program, and financial aid. All programs supposed to help low-income / first generation students.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) asked another question about the use of university reserves and the extent to which it could be moved around, including support for faculty pay equity.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked about money that appeared to be allocated off the top for Student Affairs before the Level A distribution and asked whether it was one-time and why it was coming off the top rather than through Level A. President Castro indicated that it was a recurring allocation and reflected university priorities.

Dr. Kathryn Forbes (Women’s Studies) asked to what extent CFO Moffit was projecting future savings from the retirement of senior faculty and whether that money could be used to fund an Equity III program or hire more tenure-track faculty. Moffit responded that the savings would have to be considerable because we did not have to pay the benefits for senior faculty, but must pay them for all new faculty, which means new faculty are more expensive for the university than they used to be. A little forecasting is done but noted that CALPERS is so volatile that good forecasting is hard to do. President Castro said that they do need to think more strategically about the benefits pool in the future.

Senator Henson (English) asked if the allocations of extra money to Student Affairs is being used to hire people and, if so, were they administrators or staff. Vice President Lamas (Student Affairs) indicated that they were staff, often at the “coordinator” level who worked directly with students. Senator Henson then asked if the extra allocation to Student Affairs would be on-going, and it was indicated that it would be. Senator Ram (University-wide) followed up, asking if the on-going allocation would be off-the-top or through Level A. President Castro indicated that at this time there would continue to be an off-the-top allocation to Student Affairs in place of its regular Level A distribution.

Senator Moreman (Communication) noted that there is a lot of concern nationally about trends in bloated student affairs divisions at universities and asked if we could have a clear vision of what our Student Affairs division is trying to do. That, he argued, would help faculty have more trust in these on-going special allocations to the division. President Castro wondered if Vice President Lamas ought to come give a presentation to the Academic Senate on this. Lamas said his division’s strategic plan is already on the website.

Senator Taylor (Information Systems and Decision Sciences) thought it would be useful to see data on actual budget expenditures, as well as some audit reports. President Castro said we are audited and all budget expenditure information was in the Budget Book on the website.

Senator Karr (Music) argued that this discussion needed to end so other business could be attended to, but asked CFO Moffit to provide the data breaking out salaries and benefits for different categories of employees.

1. Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate)

Reported that the process of selecting new vendors for online education platforms is ongoing. Four have been examined, including Blackboard, and three will be officially selected.

1. New business

Senator Langer (Library) introduced an amended version of the Academic Senate Resolution in Support of AB 798, the College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015. Vice Provost Nef had expressed some concern about the original language so the new version has a new section.

MSC approving it as new agenda item #9.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) introduced a resolution written by herself and Senators Botwin, Jenkins, Henson, Katti, and Slagter expressing the Academic Senate’s support for the California Faculty Association’s Fight for Five campaign.

MSC approving it as new agenda item #6 and reordering the rest of the agenda accordingly.

1. Consent Calendar

A. APM 311 – Policy on Teaching Associates

The Consent Calendar was approved by unanimous consent

1. Resolution expressing the support of the Academic Senate for the California Faculty Association’s Fight for Five campaign. First reading.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) introduced and explained the resolution. It calls on Chancellor White to resolve the impasse with CFA before the scheduled strike.

MSC passing the motion to call the question and endorse the resolution (1 abstention).

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:16pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on April 11, 2016, at 4:00pm in HML 2206.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate