THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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September 28, 2015

Members excused: N. Akhavan, O. Benavides, J. Giglio, L. Herzig, R. Maldonado, H. Marshall

Members absent: P. Cornelio, M. Gilewicz, C. Henson, A. Hudson, A. Liu, D. Lewis, S. Sherchan, J. Whiting, L. Williams

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:03pm in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC amending the agenda by moving item #15 (Changing the name of the M.S. degree in Rehabilitation Counseling) to become agenda item #10 and re-ordering the rest of the agenda accordingly.

MSC approving the agenda as amended

1. Approval of the minutes of September 14, 2015

MSC approving the minutes of September 14, 2015

1. Communications and announcements
2. Provost Zelezny

Introduced the new Chief Information Officer, Orlando Leon, to the Academic Senate. CIO Leon said that he was on a listening tour and wanted every senator to feel free to contact him on any relevant issue.

1. Vice Provost Nef

Noted that the WASC team will be on campus in a couple of weeks and will want to meet with senators. A schedule will be forthcoming shortly.

1. Chair Ayotte

Because the agenda of the Academic Senate has become so long, it may be necessary to have some weekly senate meetings. The Senate Executive Committee will make the final decision on this.

d.) Senator Botwin (Parliamentarian)

 Noted that he had been investigating some of the Roberts Rules of Order we use and, after having also consulted former Parliamentarian Cagle, concluded that any motion changing the normal order of senate business (like waiving second reading or extending the duration of senate meetings) requires a 2/3rds vote.

1. Installation of new senators

The following new senators were installed:

C.K. Leung for the Department of Geography

Samina Najmi for the Department of English

Captain Larry P. Cornelio for Aerospace Studies

1. Senate Photo – this was taken in the Peace Garden
2. New business

There was no new business.

1. Construction Management – Change Status from Program to Department. Second reading.

Senator Jenkins (Mechanical Engineering) presented some data that he felt should give pause on the future viability of the Construction Management Program and whether it should be upgraded to a full department, including data on enrollments, degrees granted, and faculty.

Dr. Manoochehr Zoghi, chair of the Construction Management Program, also presented data in support of the request to change names. He noted that enrollment in programs like this tend to shift up and down with the construction industry, and since the local industry is coming back he expects enrollments to pick up as well. Some of the recent data on a downturn in enrollments was due to an enrollment mistake.

MSC approving the change to the name of the program.

1. APM 114 – Policy on Faculty Consultation and Voting

Chair Ayotte relinquished management of deliberations on this item to Vice Chair Holyoke so that Chair Ayotte could speak to the motion on the floor.

Chair Ayotte spoke against the motion to amend language (replace “will” with “may”) of the proposed amendment to have lecturer and tenure-stream vote tallies reported separately. He stated that lecturers must have a voice in department chair nominations, but the voice of the minority should also be protected. Many senators have noted the different experiences and responsibilities that distinguish tenure-stream and lecturer faculty. Given currently low tenure density, in Communication the lecturer vote exceeds the tenure-stream vote by a greater than two-thirds margin (21-11). Similar imbalances exist in other departments, so if the tenure-stream voice is to be heard at all, the vote tallies must be reported separately.

This would also protect lecturers, in our department and others, by ensuring that both groups have a voice that is heard in the nominating election. In departments with only a few lecturers, separate tallies would guarantee that their voice is not swamped by the tenure-stream vote. In everyone's favor, administrators would be able to see if there is a discrepancy between the perspective of the tenure-stream faculty and lecturers, flagging the need for further investigation in the department chair selection process and ensuring that all voices matter.

Senator Durette (Art and Design) noted potential concern about the need to protect the confidentiality of votes, particularly in small programs where the votes of lecturers or tenure / tenure-track faculty might be inferred.

Senator Alexandrou questioned whether a dean would actually award chair positions to a person receiving only a minority vote in the department.

Dr. Kathryn Forbes (Women’s Studies, recognized by Senator Ram) asked why we should not distinguish among the tenure / tenure-track faculty ranks when voting.

Senator Forgacs (Mathematics) spoke in favor of keeping the word “will” in the proposed new language because “may” might create a problem with variable practices across the campus.

Motion approving the substitution of “may” for “will” fails on a voice vote.

MSC approving the substitution of “shall” for “will”.

Returning to the original motion to add new subsection “c”.

Senator Durette (Art and Design) argued that tenure / tenure-track faculty have very different responsibilities from lecturers, so their voices need to be heard separately.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) reminded senators that the department vote for chair is consultation only. Deans make the actual decisions.

MSC approving the amendment adding the new section “c” tallying the votes of lectures and tenured / tenure-track faculty separately.

On the main motion to approve the new APM 114:

Senator Slagter argued in favor of the new policy because weighting the votes of lecturers by time base is the best way to assess the extent of lecturer sentiment.

Dr. Forbes (recognized by Senator Bryant) summarized the outcome of recent arbitration and how APM 114 might be affected by it.

Motion made and seconded to strike sections 6a and 6b.

Senator Forgacs (Mathematics) argued against the motion because this might cede all authority for selecting chairs to the deans.

Personnel Committee Chair Tsukimura argued that weighting by time base might invite another grievance because it potentially leaves lecturers off in a worse place then under the arbitration agreement.

Motion made and seconded to continue the senate meeting until 5:30. The motion failed on a voice vote.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:18pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on October 12, 2015, at 4:00pm in HML 2206.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate