THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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April 27, 2020

Members excused:

Members absent:

A head count was taken, but formal attendance was not taken this special session.

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC

1. Approval of the Minutes of 03/16/20

MSC approving the amended Minutes of 03/16/20

1. Communications and Announcements
2. Election – Nominations – Nominating/Elections Committee.
   * + - 1. Executive Committee - three positions
         2. (Nominations from the floor)

Nomination for Statewide seat: Susan Schlievert

Dr. Austin accepted a motion of acclamation:

MSC (Congratulations Dr. Schlievert.)

Executive Committee Seats:

Lisa Bryant nominated

Dr. Austin accepted a motion of acclamation:

MSC (Congratulations Dr. Bryant)

Two members nominated:

Jennifer Miele and Michael Jenkins

Voting will take place with Qualtrics

Results to be reported within two weeks.

5. New Business.

none

6. Provost’s Forum: Report and Discussion on Pandemic Impact

The following are excerpts from the “chat” feature of Zoom and Provost Jiménez-Sandoval’s responses. (Please pardon the casual formatting of this part of the meeting record as this reflects our first attempt to meet via Zoom).

From Travis Cronin to Everyone: 04:28 PM

In this scenario, would desks be removed where possible?

From Magdalena Gilewicz to Everyone: 04:33 PM

In the 50-50 scenario, do we cover only 50% of material, or do we teach Tuesday with 1/2 students on Zoom and 1/2 in person in classroom at the same time?

From Todd Wilson to Everyone: 04:35 PM

When is the decision going to be made? As a chair, I would typically now be busy trying to deal with full classes by opening additional sections, changing faculty course assignments, finding rooms, etc., much of which will be moot if we continue online this Fall. I've therefore resolved not to work on this until the University makes the decision about Fall mode of instruction. The sooner this decision is announced the better!

Provost: This will be a deliberative and joint/collaborative process.

From Fernando Parra to Everyone: 04:35 PM

Thank you Provost Jimenez Sandoval, can we allow DISCOVERe courses to become online classes without going through CUP committee? this may help reduce the number of students on campus

Provost: This will be explored.

From Melanie Ram to Everyone: 04:35 PM

Is there a possibility (given the timeframe figure) to come back in August as normal (for all classes) and go online in November if needed?

Provost: All decisions will depend on assessed risk factor. The stakes can be very high, so we must put as priority safety first.

From ddlent to Everyone: 04:37 PM

What about MS students that must be on campus for research and thesis completion? Will they be allowed to return even if campus is closed to everyone else? I could not advise my students to continue to pay to not work towards their career goals.

Provost: Consultation with Deans and faculty will be essential to determine these priorities.

From Lynn Jakobs to Everyone: 04:37 PM

With the nursing program it is essential to have students in lab for the first 6 weeks. Each cohort is only 10 students; would this be taken into consideration

Provost: Again, this is where consultation with chairs and deans is key.

From Emily Walter to Everyone: 04:37 PM

What measures are being considered to accommodate for the budget shortfall? Many faculty, especially those who are not tenured, are concerned about furloughs.

Provost: With so many contingencies, any answer given now would be speculative. We await more information.

From weswise to Everyone: 04:39 PM

Will we be transitioning, if we do fully online or a hybrid model, to a more secure platform than Zoom?

Provost: We are exploring all options.

From Michael Jenkins to Everyone: 04:41 PM

Since curriculum, including mode of delivery, is the purview of the faculty, I presume that faculty will have the final say (not deans or chairs alone) will decide which courses are best suited for virtual and which are not. In some cases, lab and design course are impossible to run virtual yet faculty are being pressured to come up with scenarios to run these virtual!! How does experiential and hands on work these cases..we would be better off cancelling these classes for Fall rather than run them as a sham offering.

Provost: Risk factor foremost must be assessed. If virtual is not possible, please communicate the specific needs with Chairs and Deans.

From Omar Hernandez to Everyone: 04:42 PM

Personally I think the fastest way to find out where students stand on returning is to send surveys. This will eventually get to CSSA and all students will be made aware of the possibilities. Maybe we can be proactive and ask them soon?

Provost: Surveys have been created and are going out now/pretty soon.

From kejordan to Everyone: 04:46 PM

These plans are based on the projections of current epidemiological models, which vary, are provisional and always subject to change with new data (and whether the populace keeps up with social distancing). Would any plans decided on now be amenable to modification (one way or another) based on changes in the actual course of the pandemic?

Provost: All decisions are a work in progress.

From Mohan B. Dangi to Everyone: 04:48 PM

Is it safe for faculty to go to their office?

Provosts: Faculty can access offices maintaining social distancing and wearing masks.

From Dr. Dawn Lewis to Everyone: 04:49 PM

Some senior faculty (older in aged; and apology for the lack of political correctness) who have never taught online and use instructional technology limitedly have expressed a good deal of stress with the abrupt move to online instruction - and their expression of stress is significant and different than younger folks. Is there a way to offer technology training for this group?

Provost: Plans for the Summer include allocating training to prepare those that want it for online delivery.

From Daniel Cady to Everyone: 04:51 PM

I hope that the administration will be vigilante in protecting professors from radical national groups advocating for the recording of professors on zoom in order to continue destabilize colleges with “campus clashes.”

Provost: We are sensitive to this, and please alert us to any concerns.

From Omar Hernandez to Everyone: 04:52 PM

Have we looked into how the different options may affect students of low soci-economic background or of other marginalized communities?

Provost: Yes, from surveys, to getting laptops and tech to students, to making sure health and financial services are available are all part of our current actions.

From Emily Walter to Everyone: 04:52 PM

I am happy to step up and help with doing active learning via Online and Hybrid models this summer; I’m sure others are as well.

Provost: Thank you!

From Katie Dyer to Everyone: 04:55 PM

What are we thinking about the dorms in these various scenarios?

Provost: We still have 200 students in the dorms. International and some others stay for other reasons. Single rooms mandatory. Otherwise we are exploring options.

From kejordan to Everyone: 04:55 PM

If either of the first two models (face to face or hybrid) are implemented, would there be reduced caps on the total number of students enrolled in large lecture classes to facilitate social distancing?

Provost: Yes, this is a must if distancing is needed.

From Beng Ong to Everyone: 04:57 PM

Is there a visa restriction of international students taking more than X units of online classes?

Provost: I will have to get back to you.

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The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be scheduled for the Fall Semester 2020.

Submitted by Approved by

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate