THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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September 9, 2019

Members excused: A. Alexandrou, A. Hammons, J. Mullooly, F. Parra,

Members absent: P. Adams, M. Fusich, M. Greaves, D. Lewis, K. McBee, B. Ong, M. Shepherd, B. Taylor, C. Yun

The Academic Sensate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:04 p.m. in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of 5/6/19.

MSC approving the Minutes of 5/6/19.

1. Communications and Announcements.
   1. Provost Jiménez-Sandoval

The new Provost was welcomed by the senate body. He expressed his respect for faculty governance and the consensus building that takes place in these meetings.

He motioned that the university budget will be sent to all Deans within a week or so, and that two Dean searches are underway for the Kremen School of Education & Human Development and the College of Health and Human Services and gave some details concerning search committee formation and duties.

* 1. Interim Vice Provost Fu

Dr. Fu was welcomed by the Senate as the new Interim Vice Provost. He spoke about the recent achievement of our campus and its ranking in Washington Monthly’s annual issue where Fresno State placed 24th on its list of more than 400 of the top national universities. In addition, US and World News ranked Fresno State 3rd in mobility of students. He noted that our graduation rate is going up, and although challenges exist, he wished to reflect on this success and send his appreciation to all faculty.

* 1. Chair Holyoke

Recognized in attendance: Dr. Bernadette Muscat as the new Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Opened floor for announcements:

Dr. Sara Werner Juarez (Literacy, Early, Bilingual and Special Education) introduced herself as our new senate appointee to Discover-e, and directed senators to contact her via email if they had any questions about the program: swerner@csufresno.edu

Sen. Schlievert (Statewide) updated the senate on state politics and AB1460, the ethnic studies bill. The bill has been put on a two year hiatus while the chancellor will collect data from all CSUs and their status on requirements concerning Ethnic Studies courses.

Sen. Bryant (Political Science)

Announced that tomorrow is constitution day with a series of events held on campus including: honoring the 100th anniversary of 19th amendment, and a seminar on the14th amendment.

Chair Holyoke made further introductions to begin the Fall Semester: Academic Senate Vice Chair Ray Hall, Senate Administrative Coordinator Venita Baker, Associated Students President Omar Hernandez, Associated Students Senator Kayleigh O'Connor, and Belinda Munoz Chair of Staff Assembly.

Chair Holyoke summarized the responses from the faulty he’s received so far on two questions sent to the faculty listserv: 1) Ethnic Studies bill AB1460 (responses so far mostly against, specifically not against a required course in the subject, but against the precedent of state legislation dictating curriculum) still open for comment. 2) Changing spring break so it is not necessarily aligned with Easter and in effect aligned with many K-12 school districts (responses so far uniformly against).

One a related matter Chair Holyoke mentioned that the MI Graduation requirement, despite mandates changing GE requirements, has been maintained as interim policy. The senate will address making this a permanent policy this year. Not a part of GE, but as an additional university requirement.

Chair Holyoke also address concerns from some faculty who noticed that athletic advisors were automatically given access to partial data to athletes enrolled in all courses. He clarified that instructors have right and ability to deny access. Athletics will provide info in this matter at the next senate meeting via Sen. Dawn Lewis.

Reminder to all Senators: We will take the annual Senate Photo at the next meeting.

1. Installation of new senators.

Monica Fusich was installed (in abstentia) as senator for the Library

1. Consent Calendar
   1. Name Change for the Department of Theatre Arts

New name: Department of Theater and Dance

Consent calendar approved by unanimous consent

1. New Business.

None

1. Draft Student Ratings of Instruction.

Presentation: Dr. Kathleen Dyer

Dr. Dyer acknowledged three of the Task Force members in attendance, and gave a review of the Task Force charge. She then reviewed the highlights of the pilot study, and how the Fresno State Student Ratings of Instruction (FSSRI) will be implemented this Fall. The Task Force report and Dr. Dyer’s presentation are available on the Academic Senate Webpage. Questions received during and after the presentation, along with Dr. Dyer’s responses, are summarized below.

Q: Sen. Levitt (Food Science and Nutrition): Since there was only one factor- did any loadings of specific items drop off? A: Factor loadings were not included in the report but are available upon request to the Task Force. The Task Force recommendation is to report only the overall score.

Q: Sen. Lent (Biology): Concerning online ratings- what about written comments using a phone? Since written comments are often valuable will requiring students to use an online system hurt this specific response rate? A: According to the published literature, online written response rates were higher, and more substantive, that those acquired by paper. Citations available in report/FAQ.

Q: Sen. Wilson (Computer Science): Can students change responses anytime during the ratings availability? A: Not completely sure, but a save later or complete button is part of the system.

Q: Sen. Ram (university-wide): How do completely online classes compare in terms of response rate? A: The Task Force did not study this.

Q: Sen. Sullivan (Sociology): Is there plans to allow customized questions on paper? A: Probably no. In fact paper may go away due to costs of printing and staff time.

Q: Sen. De Walt (Liberal Studies): What is the impact of other possible biases students might have on the instructor? A: The pilot study looked at gender, race, academic rank and other related possible factors, no differences were found in this pilot. We will continue to look for bias as institutional data is collected.

Q: Sen. Botts (Philosophy) Are there any disadvantages of online? A: Published literature suggests no downside.

Q: Sen. Hooshmandrad (Music): How to handle small class sizes (say one student)? A: Task force recommended: Quote standard deviation to handle this, and Departments are tasked with proper interpretation.

Q: Dr. Pinzon-Perez: Special abilities students may not have enough time, or appropriate access to make survey. A: This vendor met all CSU standards for access to be considered for the contract.

Q: Sen. Hooshmandrad (Music): How does one opt out? A: A button will be provided.

Q: Sen. Ram (university-wide): Can one undo an opt out after customizing one’s FSSRI? A: Not sure, but probably yes during a one week time frame.

Q: Sen. Sullivan (Sociology): Correlation plot shown, what factors influenced the 32% that went down? A: Majority stayed the same, those that went down lost 3/10 of a point on average, and these were predominately those with scores above 4.5 on a scale of 5. The scores that were higher on the new instrument were on average 6/10 of a point higher.

Q: Sen. Bryant (university-wide): How many would be under department threshold on FSSRI? A: the Task Force will look into this, the data and thresholds are available.

Q: Sen. Lent (Biology): Were all departments represented in the pilot study. A: All Colleges were, and special efforts were made to ensure variety of instruction types (Labs, Service, etc.) Given 81 surveyed classes in total, we expect that many of the 56 departments were included.

Comment: Mr. Hernandez (ASI): from his perspective as a student he prefers the questions on the FSSRI over those on the IDEA form in terms of clarity and simplicity.

Q: Sen. Henson (English): What sets the date for printing? A: The Print shop asked for this much lead time. In addition Explorance requests the Print shop to ensure needed resolution on paper.

Q2: What is the cost to department? A: 7 cents per copy at print shop/ time and labor of department staff.

Q: Sen. Botwin (Psychology) Great job to committee- and advocates for standing committee with adequate resources. Before IDEA every class was evaluated. IDEA changed this. Q: Would it cost more to do all faculty once again? A: No, the cost is the same for all or partial.

Comment: Sen. Hooshmandrad (Music): use the term cultural instead of race in these discussions.

Q: Sen. Sanchez (Chicano and Latin American Studies): People have been saying it takes 3 years to construct and validate an instrument, could faculty grieve scores? A: The Task Force disagrees that it takes 3 years to establish validity, and the pilot study as reported has confirmed reliability and validity. Comparison of FSSRI to IDEA is the challenge, and for the transition, the Task Force recommends reliance on peer evaluations.

Dr. Marsha Baum: Agrees that comparison is issue. Currently not thought to be problematic, and of course faculty always have the right to grieve if the need is perceived.

Q: Sen. Lent (Biology): IDEA had questions concerning infrastructure and impact of poor classrooms. A: The Task Force would seek and welcome your input to help study this for possible future improvements.

No further questions.

MSC to formally approve the list of questions for the piloted Fresno State Student Ratings of Instruction.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:14 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be Monday, September 23, 2019.

Submitted by Approved by

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate