MINUTES OF THE STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Office of the Academic Senate

California State University, Fresno

Henry Madden Library 3206 (3rd floor, south wing)

5200 N. Barton Ave. M/S ML 34

Fresno, CA 93740-8014

Date: 9/9/20

Members Present: N. Nisbett (Chair), C. Caprau, D. Hart, T. Lone, N., F. Tehrani, B. Saito, L. Weiser

Visitors: None

Members Absent: C. Coon, C. Bohlin

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am via Zoom.

1. **Previous minutes:**

None

1. **Communications and announcements:**

L. Weiser proposed that all committee members complete assigned tasks by committee deadlines to ensure committee efficiency and respect the time of all involved. The committee agreed that once a deadline has passed, further contributions are forfeited. N. Nisbett stated that prior to a deadline, agenda items may be moved if needed, and committee members may contribute via email when unable to attend a meeting in person.

1. **Ongoing Business:**

N. Nisbett explained the task of the committee to new members

Current task:

Use of cameras in the virtual classroom: Executive Committee wants our input on what is in the best interest of students and faculty

Discussion (committee members discussed their experiences so far):

T. Lone: Camera use is voluntary, 40% turn cameras on, hasn’t negatively impacted discussions or quizzes, he will not be making camera use mandatory for students.

F. Tehrani: his students are required to use audio and video, if a student cannot comply, they can provide a legitimate reason and he will make exceptions.

C. Caprau: Prefers video on, unsure whether students are engaged in lecture when not using video. She calls on students whose cameras are off to track engagement, is not in favor of enforcing camera use during class sessions, wants cameras required during exams to ensure that faces and names match.

D. Hart: Wants best practices/etiquette for classes, acknowledges there may be privacy and enforcement issues, and that sometimes requiring cameras may not be workable. She does not want all students to provide reason when wanting cameras off (especially with large classes), wants to trust that students will do the right thing.

B. Saito: Thirty percent don’t turn on their cameras, this does not cause a problem, possible students may not have needed bandwidth, need to consider whether students have the right bandwidth and equipment. Faculty could be trained on using CANVAS/other ways students may participate besides Zoom.

N. Nisbett: Has small classes, all students fit on gallery view, likes to see student non-verbals, recognizes all students will not fit on gallery view in large classes. In her college need to see students demonstrate techniques/observe their performance in labs. Alternative to cameras on: students could post video so faculty can assess student skill. In her classes students came up with agreement for when to have cameras on. In large classes, need to monitor who is taking exams. Also, students with disabilities need consideration to meet their needs. Nancy will reach out to SSD re accessibility issues.

T. Lone: noticed that students use cameras more in breakout rooms.

L. Weiser: need cameras in counseling sessions, can be extremely difficult to provide services to new students when unable to see body language and facial expressions. CAPS is requiring students to turn on cameras for counseling services.

N. Nisbett: Summarized document from Executive Committee: should camera use be included in syllabi? One size does not fit all. Need to consider student experience, e.g., those contending with household noise and other distractions.

F. Tehrani: There is also a privacy issue: some software may be used in an unintended way, students’ privacy needs to be protected. Household noise/distraction but needs to be addressed though it is not a camera issue.

C. Caprau: Need to be strict about having a policy for exams and also allow flexibility.

N. Nisbett asked committee members to talk to their colleges, get wider views. The committee will craft our recommendations at next committee meeting.

New meeting time discussed at request of C. Bohlin via email. Committee agreed to return to normally designated time for this committee: 10am.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 14 @ 10am