THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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September 28, 2020

Members excused: D. Cady, F. Parra, T. Van Camp

Members absent: K. Jordan

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 09/14/20

MSC approving the Minutes of 09/14/20 as amended.

1. Communications and Announcements

Chair Holyoke initiated the session by sending congratulation to Dr. Castro on his appointment to be our next CSU Chancellor.

Provost Jiménez-Sandoval announced that Dr. Xuanning Fu has been named Vice Provost (Congratulations Dr. Fu), and gave a brief update that three Dean’s searches are in progress with committees almost complete.

Mr. Qutob spoke on behalf of ASI and students to remind faculty to please use any and all appropriate means to encourage students to register and vote, and asked faculty to continue to recognize the hardships faced by students under the pandemic and to exercise both compassion and collaboration.

1. Installation of New Senators

**Elected**

Segun Ogunjemiyo – Geography

Nataliia Kasianenko – Political Science (ex-officio)

Luz Herrera - Literacy, Early, Bilingual and Special Education

Nicole Smith - Kinesiology

Brett Mason - Aerospace

Larissa Mercado-López - Womens, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Cristina Herrera – Chicano and Latin American Studies

Jonathan Winder – Athletics

The installation of Senators is the official beginning of their terms in office. Upon installation of new Senators, outgoing Senators will no longer be able to vote.

1. Consent Calendar
2. Name Change for the Department of Chemistry to

 the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

1. New Business

None

1. Budget Presentation.

President Castro thanked the Senate and Campus for all the support he has received, and mentioned that Chancellor White will soon announce procedures for consultation on the appointment of an interim president.

Dr. Castro then introduced Vice President of Administration and CFO Debbie Adishian-Astone who delivered the semiannual budget presentation. The slides she presented are available on the Academic Senate website. A summary of the questions and answers about the presentation follow.

Chair Holyoke asked about why only part of the surplus for Academic Affairs went towards covering a former deficit?

VP Astone described this as a carry forward where a significant portion went towards Academic Affairs, with about $2M towards said deficit.

Sen. Ram inquired about the potential budget option mentioned last year (pre-covid) that perhaps some sports need to be reduced. She asked about the status of that proposal, and if any part of the mentioned cuts to athletics will be permanent.

Dr. Castro stated that currently we are currently supporting 21 sports in total, and reductions to that are being considered, and that he will keep the Senate posted on this. He also mentioned the work of Mr. Tumey and that we will probably compete in football and basketball later this year.

VP Astone elaborated on the current athletics budget situation, in that there is a permanent based budget reduction in place, noted that all revenues are down due to Covid, and that a revised budget will be formalized in mid-October. She warned that there could be a deficit on the order of $ 9M due to lack of revenues. In order to address these budget issues a special loan was arranged by the Chancellor’s Office with an MOU such that the Athletic Corporation will pay it off in 10 years at a very low interest rate.

Sen. Maldenado requested information concerning the Benefits pool, specifically a spreadsheet showing distribution among divisions. VP Astone agreed to provide such.

Sen. Walter expressed concern on the use of GI 2025 student success funds being used towards paying the faculty benefits pool, and if this is a justified use of funds allocated towards student success. In addition, how is a faculty job positon (as associated with said benefits) determined to be classified as part of GI 2025?

VP Astone and Dr. Castro described that the decision was made to use these funds to allow new hires (with the idea that increased tenure density is part of student success), given that no other funds for hires were available, and with the added constraint that the benefits pool could not be expanded. Ever since, the benefits for these GI2025 hires are covered by these student success funds.

Sen. Herrera asked Dr. Castro, once he is installed on the board of trustees, if he will advocate for no faculty furloughs? Especially given that we have new and vulnerable faculty where such a pay cut would be harmfully impactful. She also asked Dr. Castro if he would take cut to his salary as Chancellor, to stand in solidarity.

Dr. Castro answered that he does not believe that the trustees will consider faculty furloughs this year, and noted that the needed cuts (in lieu of furloughs) where met recently by losing management positions. He further stated that his hope is that no salary reductions will be needed for anyone.

Sen. Jenkins asked that if a furlough were to come to pass, would it be in terms of “time off” or an actual workload/wtu reduction? Dr. Castro answered that if the economy demands such drastic action that flexibility will be needed in the options.

Sen. Ram inquired about the use GI2025 funds currently and in the future.

VP Astone described that so far $13M is part of our operating budget, and that a separate accounting is kept such that any expenditures are tied back to GI2025 initiatives.

Sen. De Walt expressed concern about protection for academic support staff.

VP Astone mentioned specifically that athletic stateside academic counseling has been preserved.

Sen. De Walt also inquired about the accounting for the multiple reallocations in the current budget, and how are they marked so we have a record as we move forward. VP Astone answered that, yes, all are tracked in a spreadsheet.

Dr. Castro added that student athletes are assured of their scholarships (even if they opt out of events).

Sen. Cronin expressed concern with the EO recently issue by President Trump that seems to ban funds for use in work training about racism, specifically social work Title E money. He stated his concern that this may lead to defunding if we speak out on racism as part of our mission.

Dr. Schmidtke asked about a contingency plan if the numbers are worse than anticipated. VP Astone answered that our tuition revenue seems to be in good shape. All targets are firm at this time.

Sen. Jenkins expressed concern of the possibility that many students might take the spring off, hurting enrollment and associate tuition revenues.

Dr. Castro told the Senate that the data trends at this time do not support this, and mentioned that retention has been higher since the onset of the Covid emergency.

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The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be October 12, 2020.

Submitted by Approved by

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate