THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-6)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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November 23, 2020

Members excused: W. Wise

Members absent: G. Brar, L. Brillante, J. Crane, P. DeWalt, K. Jordan, B. Mason,

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:02 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC

1. Approval of the Minutes of 11/09/20 as amended.

MSC

1. Communications and Announcements:

Sen Zuñiga informed the Senate that she and others from ASI are working on a new draft of a Student Bill of Rights through collaboration with the Personnel Committee.

1. Consent Calendar

Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition Sciences Degree Program Elevation

Option Elevation Proposal for ECE

1. New Business

None to report.

1. Ethnic Studies Requirement Mandate Discussion:

Chair Holyoke reintroduced the topic of the integration of a new Ethnic Studies (ES) requirement as required by law, and explained that ultimately the Senate will need to update our policies, which can happen once we have a consensus on a direction and plan. He discussed the path of the deliberations thus far and listed the names of all those sitting on the ES task force for the Senate, and described how the proposals before us today have originated from a variety of sources: Senators, Deans, and Administrators.

Vice Provost Fu then gave a slide presentation (distributed to Senators via email) which detailed the eight proposals currently on the table, indicating that so far the most palatable was Option 8 (move D2 into a campus requirement, and allowing high-unit majors to decide how to accommodate the new Area F, but offering multiple possible solutions).

Sen Mullooly inquired if exemptions or waivers for GE are easy to obtain if a program requests such. Dr. Muscat explained that GE area waivers would be an option of last choice for high unit programs (39 identified), such as Lyles College majors, some of which are still over 120.

Sen Bryant inquired why D2 rather than D1 would be moved out of GE, and how any changes to GE might affect transfer students. Dr. Fu mentioned that this was a decision internal to deliberations in COSS. They offered the alternative proposal of moving D2 instead of D1.

Sen DeJordy asked for clarification concerning the terms “waiver” versus “exemption”, and also brought up the concern of FTES impacts on programs. Dr. Fu clarified that for this conversation waivers and exemptions can be considered the same thing. Dr. Muscat described that she will reach out to each the high unit majors, and work with them individually, within a very fast timeline, to find a solution that accommodates the new ES requirement. Dr. Clement (chair of the University Curriculum Committee) described it as a flex model (with pressure on timeline) to work with 39 programs in resolving how to implement ES.

Sen Ram described, from her understanding in her role as Chair of Political Science, that the moving of D2 will not have an impact on the requirement, and that it would transfer to other CSUs with no problem. However, she asked about proposal 8 and the possibility of a W course overlay, and if that every major would need to add a W course to GE. Dr. Clement answered that would be a way that we would have the ability to double count, as per the Chancellor’s mandate and suggestion. Dr. Muscat suggested also that some majors may have an existing course that could work to become GE.

From Zoom chat (Erica Lassen, Articulation Officer) sent this clarification: Technically speaking, PLSI 2 is already a "campus requirement" and is listed as such on the DPR. It will just no longer double count in GE as GE must be reduced by 3 units.

Sen Ciftci inquired why not let colleges choose from these 8 options to allow for flexibility? Dr. Fu: need to have university policy for practicality. But Option 8 does grant some flexibility.

Sen Mercado-Lopez asked for clarification if every major is expected to reduce by 3 units, and if the core competencies have been sent to us from the Chancellor’s office yet. Dr. Muscat clarified that most majors will reduce campus electives to accommodate the new Area F. Ms. Lassen sent a link to the newly approved official core competencies via the Zoom chat: https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/diversity/advancement-of-ethnic-studies.

Sen Maldonado observed that it was good that this plan that is not “one size fits all”, and the accommodation of high unit majors seems to have some recognition of student needs. He asked if, for high unit majors, the proposal of allowing two upper division GE courses to count towards the W requirement was still being offered as a possibility. Dr. Fu said it could be considered, but that writing should be in line with the needs of the discipline. Sen Maldonado clarified that he hoped the answer was no, and that he did not think this was a good idea.

Sen Cronin expressed concern for those not part of this meeting that will be burdened with responsibilities for implementation and inquired about what coaching will departments receive. Dr. Muscat said she will meet with each program and that proposals for specific departments are already in consultation stages with their respective Deans.

Sen Ram expressed concern with the idea of adding W courses, as some program may not have experts in writing. She offered that adding W courses to GE might help such programs. Dr. Muscat stated that she looked into that as well and it fits with the GE as overlay idea of double counting.

Sen Crowell asked if the policy will explicitly say that the waiver option must be last resort. Dr. Muscat indicated that yes this was the intention. Chair Holyoke affirmed that he will verify that this is in the final language of the proposal.

Sen Jakobs shared her concern about turning GE electives into the W classes, specifically the 25 student enrollment limit on W course. She asked if it can it be raised to 30, (she would like to offer 2 sections for her program’s 60 student cohort). Dr. Muscat indicated that some are already offered above 25, however, making GE into W would need to adhere to 25 limit (due to workload concerns) which may limit this option, but exceptions may be made.

Sen Jenkins shared his experience as his Mechanical Engineering program is a high unit major with a 105W elective as overload (they double count already), and their accreditation though ABET sets the units high. He is concerned this hurts the GE experience for engineers and feels the right move is to ask for waiver to increase units above 120 for his students.

Chair Holyoke ended the meeting with a request to all senators to consult with their department Chairs and colleagues on what we heard here today.

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The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be December 7, 2020.

Submitted by Approved by

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate