THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-3)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Fresno, California 93740-8014

Office of the Academic Senate

(559) 278-2743

September 25, 2023

Members excused: T. Huerta, J. Shatz, P. Turnbull

Members absent: A. Alexandrou, B. DerMugrdechian, M. Greaves, M. Hernandez, R. Klepper, L. Lachs, S. Pao, R. Perez, R. Sias, K. Smith

In-person attendance: 38 Zoom attendance: 12

The Academic Senate was called to order by **Chair Hall** at 4:04 p.m. in Library room 2206 and via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

*Motion to approve amended agenda*

*Seconded*

*Vote on the agenda: approved*

1. Approval of the Minutes 9/18/23.

**Senator Kensinger**:Amend comments on page 10 to clarify that questions were asked.

*Motion to approve amended minutes*

*Seconded*

*Vote on the minutes: approved*

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from Chair Hall:

No faculty have been nominated for the search committee for the AVP of Compliance. Please reach out to your departments and encourage colleagues to nominate.

*Questions for Chair Hall:*

**Senator Bryant**:Is this a new AVP?

**Chair Hall**:Yes it is.

Communications from President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval:

The President gave a presentation on recent activities using presentation slides.

*Questions for President:*

**Senator Kensinger**:Why didn’t the budget presentation happen in the Senate?

**President**: We did present to the Senate last Spring. The staff did not get that presentation. The Senate got it first, the staff got it second.

**Senator Kensinger**: We have heard there are two new VP positions. We welcome the new person. We have seen an increase in VPs throughout the CSU, but we are told we do not have enough money for faulty hires or elsewhere. Can you tell us how many MPPS have been added at Fresno State in last 2, 5, 20 years?

**President**: Not off top of my head. VP coming in is replacing outgoing VP, not a new position. The other position is new.

**Senator Kensinger**: I would like to see data.

**President**: I will provide data.

**Senator Lent**: Appreciate social mobility rankings, but this multiyear tuition increase will offset mobility. Have you set up investigation of how tuition increase will affect mobility?

**President**: We have. We advocated strongly for a tuition increase that would not happen as dramatically to students as the one we have. I understand we have not raised tuition in 12 years, which is an issue because things have gone up in 12 years. But we are getting together to come up with ways to help and inform our students that Fresno State is still a viable option. Compared to other 4-year institutions in country, CSU is still far ahead. We provide a significant amount of financial aid close to $300 million. Worry is not next year because that is less than $300. Worry is that tuition increase compounds, which we will start to see in third year. Dr. Willis and I are bringing a group of individuals who will try to do wraparound services of students and reinforce values of this institution. We are aware of how this could be detrimental and discourage students from applying to Fresno State. We are the least expensive CSU because other CSUs have more fees.

**Senator Bryant**: In budget presentation to staff, there was a new slide on revenues from sale of merchandise. All of that is going back to Athletics? Has merchandise always produced revenue for us and are we just being more transparent? Has it been redistributed in the past?

**President**: Merchandise has always been in the purview of athletics

**Senator Bryant**: Has it always been that high?

**President**: It has been growing.

**Senator Bryant**: There was a million dollars taken out of reserves for Athletics. Is it possible to reduce that amount by using merchandise revenue?

**President**: We will look into that.

*Michael Jenkins recognized by Senator Peterson*

**M. Jenkins**: Given tuition increases and operating budget, is using bonds a model for the system, or is that specific to Fresno State?

**President**: I cannot endorse Measure E, but I can talk about what happens if Measure E passes. If Measure E passes, we could take a portion of that and put it aside for scholarships. We could also put a portion aside for research. Other CSUs have reached out asking what the process is for Measure E. We do not control the process, but we have responded to these questions. Caveat is that if it does pass, we would have a committee on campus that would propose projects, and this committee would send projects to the County and the County would have its own oversight committee to approve the projects. The big issue is that Fresno State represents the State of California and no one can come to Fresno State and say they are giving $100 million and decide how it gets spent. The jurisdiction will rest on the Trustees, and that will be informed by the campus specifically. If campus says no, it is a hard no. Several other universities have tried it in their own communities and done surveys.

**Senator Ram**: In terms of planning ways to inform students about tuition increases, faculty want to be involved in that discussion.

**President**: Faculty Affairs will be involved.

**Senator Pinzon-Perez**: With increasing COVID19 cases, are there anticipated changes in policy? Like large courses, I teach a mega course. We tell them to be cautious and wear masks, but everything is up to them.

**President**: What I’m hearing from the state and CSU, there is not a change in policy.

**Senator Donnelly**: Question about what it means to leave Mountain West and join national conference.

**President**: Going into a conference that is national, going into a Power 5 conference, our games would be broadcast nationwide without paywalls and our commercials would be aired nationwide.

Communications from Senator Kensinger:

I would like to recognize and honor the life and contributions of Dr. Francine Oputa and take a moment of silence.

1. New Business

*None*

1. APM 301 – Policy and Procedures on the Appointment of Tenure-Track Faculty including the Award of Service Credit. Second Reading.

*Discussion on motion to amend Section III.3 of APM 301:*

**Senator Miele**: There was a lot of discussion about whether department chairs should be able to serve if departments would like for them to serve. Removed department chairs from this item to get ball rolling on this discussion.

**Senator Donnelly**: A point was raised with my department that there is a power dynamic no matter what because of different faculty ranks. No objection to chairs being allowed.

*Vote on motion to amend Section III.3 of APM 301: approved*

*Friendly amendment by Senator Ram to Footnote 2 accepted*

**Senator Chowdhury**: We need to check for consistency in document on department chairs.

**Senator Jones**: There are several instances in the document. This is a pretty significant number of changes. Can we ask Personnel Committee to take a pass at it?

**Chair Hall**: This would be the second time it is sent back to committee, but the body can make a motion.

**Senator Holyoke**: This doesn’t require necessarily sending it back to committee if Chair of Personnel can take a pass at it to make sure there is nothing contradictory in the document. It might be worthwhile.

**Chair Hall**: We could move to next piece of business and come back to this briefly after D. Low has looked at it

**Senator Lent**: Motion to amend Section XI.5 to add language restricting department chairs from reviewing recommendation if they are serving on the committee.

*Motion to amend Section XI.5 of APM 301*

*Seconded*

*Discussion on motion to amend Section XI.5 of APM 301:*

**Senator Mulhern**: If we do add this language, the rest of this paragraph has a procedural point. Who will do this task if chair is on the search committee? Perhaps the chair can do it still.

**Senator Lent**: The chair should not have oversight over their own recommendation.

**Senator Mulhern**: The concern is that who will do this if the chair does not?

**Senator Kensinger**: I am speaking against where this is placed, because what’s important in this part is the that for finalists who have previous employment in department, chairs can review personnel documents in a way that others cannot.

**Senator Lent**: There is so much embedded in this one paragraph. Oversight issues and concern about reviewing internal applicants. If there are procedural issues in the committee, they’re just reporting to themselves, that shouldn’t happen. There are multiple things chairs shouldn’t be doing if they are on the committee. The part about their role of reviewing internal applicants should be pulled out separately from this item.

**Senator Chowdhury**: This might be a useful place to empower the search committee chair with these tasks rather than the department chair. Faculty already have access to personnel files through RTP.

**Senator Stillmaker**: I like Senator Holyoke’s suggestion of having chair of Personnel Committee wordsmith it instead of continuing to do it here. There is a lot to unpack and we have to make numerous changes.

**Senator Stillmaker**: Can we move to table in the middle of discussing an amendment?

**Senator Holyoke**: Table amendment or table document?

**Senator Stillmaker**: Table the document.

**Senator Holyoke**: We can do that at any time, and we would come back to this amendment.

*Motion to table APM 301*

*Seconded*

**Senator Lent**: Are we sending it back to committee?

**Senator Holyoke**: When you table something, it is simply put aside until somebody makes a motion to bring it back.

**Senator Kensinger**: It is a time certain table.

**Senator Lent**: He did say he wanted to send it to committee?

**Senator Holyoke**: He said he would like to send it to chair of Personnel, not committee.

**Chair Hall**: We will sort out parliamentary procedure on this.

*The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15p.m.*

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The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be October 2, 2023.

Submitted by Approved by

Amber Crowell Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate