THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

5241 North Maple Avenue, M/S Thomas 43

Fresno, California 93740-8027

Office of the Academic Senate FAX: 278-5745

TEL: 278-2743 (AS-5)

March 9, 2015

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:08pm in HML 2206.

Members excused: H. Chapman, C. Egan, T. Giannetta, T. Holyoke, G. Kriehn, D. Lewis, B. Myers, M. Ram

Members absent: A. Alexandrou, L. Davis, B. Dermugrdechian, A. Jones, M. Menchaca, H. Miltiades, A. Nambiar, J. Pausewang, T. Partin, L. Rios, V. Torres, J. Whiting

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC to approve the agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of February 23, 2015

1. Communications and announcements

A. Statewide Academic Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) announced the passing of colleague Philip Levine. Chair Ayotte asked for a moment of silence to recognize Philip Levine.

B. Vice President Lamas of Student Affairs introduced a video on Sexual Violence awareness that his office developed with the assistance of the Coordinator of the Women’s Resource Center, Jessica Adams.

1. New business

There was no new business

1. APM 355 Policy on Assigned Time for Exceptional levels of Service. (Second Reading)

Brian Tsukimura (Chair, Personnel Committee) introduced the changes the Personnel Committee made noting that most of the document is drawn from Article 2037 of the CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement) and APM 360 (Policy on Sabbatical and Difference in Pay (DIP) Leaves). He urged haste in the passage of this policy by noting that once passed, the timelines for the changes can begin to be applied to faculty.

Statewide Academic Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) moved to approve the policy. It was seconded.

Discussion: Senator Botwin (Psychology) noted we normally do not include CBA language in the APM.

Senator Fulop (Linguistics) noted that section B mention of the term “prior practices” might be misinterpreted in practice.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) asked if this APM would be coterminous with the CBA.

Brian Tsukimura (Chair, Personnel Committee) responded to all three questions stating that the CBA required such language to fund this assigned time and that the policy and CBA would be coterminous.

Statewide Academic Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) moved to waive the Second Reading, seconded by Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies).

Motion to waive second reading passed unanimously.

Chair Ayotte called for a vote on APM 355. It passed with one abstention.

6.) Academic Senate Resolution on Teaching Associate Fee Waivers.Second Reading.

Senator Henson (English) responded to questions asked at the first reading regarding the economic impact of these fee waivers by stating that there are currently 152 graduate teaching associates; that varies slightly by semester.

There is also a state university grant that many apply for. Those that receive the state university grant would not receive this waiver; in fact, we could require all to apply for this state university grant. If that occurred and approximately half received the state university grant, about 76 students would require this fee waiver. Including tuitions and fees, a total of $6738 per individual or $512,000 a year would be the approximate cost.

A second point of information that was reported was that a meeting was held with a variety of primary stakeholders and administrators that found that a committee needs to be made to investigate this. This committee has been established.

A visitor (recognized by Senator Henson) and TA coordinator for Earth and Environmental Sciences shared the value of these TAs since they are often the front line of contact with our undergraduate students, teaching bottleneck courses like Biology 10. These students could be making more outside of this context.

A second visitor (recognized by Senator Muller) stated that he is a Biology TA and shared his situation that includes working at a bar while TAing due to economic need. He teaches two sections of Biology 10, works 30 hrs a week at a bar, and spends 20 hours on research to reiterate the need for this fee waiver.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) Asked where will we cut to do this? He stated that when these classes passed GE, their applications argued that there was sufficient capacity for the department to teach these courses. He pointed out that maybe GE is part of the problem, with too many courses.

Another Senator spoke of the $500,000 price tag. He noted that from a business perspective they are cheaper than adjuncts.

Senator Muller from Biology calculated the price tag to be closer to $110,000 per year, and reiterated its value.

The main presenter Senator Henson came up again to defend the $500,000 price tag and reiterated the need for a committee to steer this process.

She then supported this with data from the English Department where 26 graduate TAs receive $2574 for one course and pay $3369 of tuition.

Senator Muller stated that these are the least paid of our colleagues.

A graduate student came up again and reported that he lost his grant partner due to economic trouble.

Senator Maitra (Chemistry) reported a successful student who almost quit due to economic trouble who is now a part time lecturer for us, which demonstrates the direct connection for us, graduate to undergraduate.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Chair Ayotte adjourned the meeting at 5:13pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate will be on March 23, 2015.

Submitted by: Approved by:

James Mullooly Kevin Ayotte

Senator Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate