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-10)

March 23, 2015

Members excused: O. Benavides, M. Dangi, T. Forgacs, G. Kriehn, S. Lam, J. Pausewang, J. Peterson

Members absent: A. Alexandrou, L. Crask, M. Menchaca, H. Miltiades, U. Muller, A. Nambiar, L. Rios, V. Torres, P. Turnbull, J. Wang

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:06pm in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC to move item #8, APM 321, to the bottom of the list and re-order accordingly.

MSC approving the agenda as amended

1. Approval of the minutes of March 9, 2013

Approval of the minutes postponed.

1. Communications and announcements
2. President Castro

Announced that the university budget for the next academic year is nearly finished and the administration will present its broad outlines to the Academic Senate for feedback before finalizing it.

Very shortly he and the California Faculty Association will announce the final version of the faculty and staff campus equity program.

1. Provost Zelezny

Noted that she and President Castro are working to increase the number of tenure-track professors at Fresno State, aiming to reach 70 to 75% of the total faculty over the next ten years.

Discussed the university’s moves towards declaring impaction due to too little funding from the state. The university held three public forums, and took comments on-line as well, completing step one of the process of declaring impaction. The impaction request has now been sent to the Chancellor for approval. If the declaration of impaction is approved, it will go into effect in the Fall of 2016. She explained that they would try to manage enrollment in a way that will have as small of an impact on Fresno State’s dedicated service area as possible.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide) and Senator Chapman (Modern and Classical Languages) asked several questions and expressed a number of concerns. It was noted that changes to enrollment will fall on freshmen and transfer students, and the provost also noted that parents are beginning to call the university with concerns about diminishing opportunity for their children to attend Fresno State. The provost said that different enrollment models are being run to determine how best to raise admission standards without affecting the diversity of the student body. The provost was especially concerned about the impact this would have on the number of African Americans and Native Americans attending the university, especially males. The administration has not yet looked at how impaction might affect smaller academic programs and double majors.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) asked about public reaction at the community forums. The provost noted that many concerns were expressed about how much access to Fresno State would be lost, how this might break down by ethnicity, and what opportunities there were for students denied admission to Fresno State. The provost also noted that some faculty and others expressed support for raising admission standards, though they were a minority at the forums. Senator Fulop (Linguistics) expressed concern that area school district officials were not aware that this was happening, though the provost said that the university has been reaching out to district superintendents.

1. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Academic Senate)

Listed several resolutions currently being considered by the Statewide Academic Senate. These can be seen on the website of the Statewide Senate ([www.calstate.edu/acadsen/](http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/)).

1. Chair Ayotte

Announced that the Senate Executive Committee has decided to have an additional senate meeting on May 4.

1. New business

There was no new business

1. APM 325 – Policy on Retention and Tenure

Presentation by Brian Tsukimura, Chair of the Senate Personnel Committee. He noted that if the Academic Senate was supportive of the changes here, then it would be worth making changes to APM 324 as well to address the concerns of probationary faculty. Several senators spoke in favor of the new language.

AVP Caldwell (Faculty Affairs) said that the old language was highly prohibitive when it came to new tenure-track faculty using research prior to their appointments, and the new language is much more flexible.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked whether this opened the door to faculty being required to make long and complicated explanations of their research. Committee Chair Tsukimura explained that it would most likely be done in the introduction to the section of the WPAF pertaining to publications.

MSC waiving second reading of APM 325. There were a few “nay” votes in the voice vote.

Senator Ram (University-wide) changed the wording and order in sub-paragraph b. The motion was seconded. Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) and Senator Akhavan (Educational Research and Administration) argued that the Academic Senate was moving too fast and the amendments should be postponed, urging senators to vote against. Senator Ram’s amendment passed with 22 “ayes” and 18 “nays”.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) moved to reinstate second reading. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) moved to delete the last sentence of new sub-paragraph b. The motion was seconded. Senator Bryant (Ex-officio for Political Science) and Senator Akhavan (Educational Research and Administration) objected saying that this defeated the whole purpose of revisiting APM 325. The motion was defeated with one abstention.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:17pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be April 13, 2015.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate