MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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September 8, 2014

Members excused: N. Akhavan

Members absent: K. Lee, L. Rios, W. Skuban

The academic senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:04pm in HML 2206

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC to approve the agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of May 5, 2014

MSC to approve the minutes of May 5, 2014

1. Communications and Announcements
2. President Castro

Noted that during the summer the university completed searches for three new vice presidents, including the hiring of Lynette Zylezny as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The president has also hired a new chief of staff to replace his executive assistant, Michelle Nelson.

The university is about to begin forming a committee to hire a new athletic director, and this will include members of the faculty.

Noted that a campus equity program is still in the university’s revised budget.

1. Provost Zelezny

There will be several searches this fall for deans. This fall there will be a search for a new Dean of the College of Health and Human

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Services, as well as for a new Dean of Undergraduate Studies. In the spring there will be a new search for a Dean of Graduate Studies, and in the summer a search for a new Dean of Continuing and Global Education.

Noted that she consulted with the Senate’s Executive Committee about whether to continue Café Academy. The answer was yes, so the first one will be on September 18.

1. Report from the Statewide Academic Senate, Senators Otto Benevides and Loretta Kensinger

Noted that, for the first time, the CSU is including faculty on the hiring committee for a new executive vice chancellor / chief academic officer.

Reported three resolutions of interest.

The first was opposing AB 46 regarding online classes, which is on the governor’s desk for signature or veto.

The second was on a resolution calling on faculty to get ahead of the curve and be proactive on their campuses in the prevention of sexual assault.

The last was a resolution to have faster responses by academic senates and other campus leaders when faculty are attacked in violation of their academic freedom.

1. Vice Provost Nef

WASC update. The university’s self-study was submitted, and WASC will be convening a team to interview President Castro in late October. Then they will develop lines of inquiry (questions) based on our self-study we will have to respond to. Finally, their team will come to campus in October of 2015.

1. Chair Ayotte

The next senate meeting of September 22 will be the official photo.

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Chairs of the standing committees will be giving reports on their activities last year and their plans for this year at several different senate meetings.

Noted that the faculty representatives on the search committee for a new athletic director will be directly elected by the faculty, not by the Senate Executive Committee, which is normal practice.

1. Senator Otto Benevides (State-wide)

Noted that faculty now have access to Lynda.com, which helps provide instruction for every online instructional program we have on this campus. Also reminded us about BOX, the cloud-based storage service we all have access to.

1. Installation of new senators

Major Todd Partin was sworn in as the new senator from the Department of Aerospace.

1. New business

There was no new business for the senate.

1. Budget presentation by Cynthia Matson, Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer

Noted that we have a 400 FTES increase from last year.

Most of the increase in money from the state coming to the CSU and Fresno State University is going to be for fixed costs, especially benefits because greater responsibility for funding debts and employee benefits is being shifted to the universities. A lot of capitol debt responsibilities are also being shifted to the university.

Increased compensation for faculty and staff is President Castro’s number one priority. He wants an equity program to go into operation for the next three years. $1.2 million is already set aside for the equity program, although it is currently a place holder while we wait to see what comes out of collective bargaining. There was disagreement over whether an equity program can be enacted right now under the current contract.

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The CSU system is providing Fresno State with $30 million to help pay debt on electrical improvements, and another $40 million for upgrades to our physical plant.

Base funding increases of $500,000 are being made for the Athletics Department, University Advancement, and the President’s Commission on the Future of Agriculture. Also, a one-time allocation of $1,000,000 is being made to Athletics to help them balance their budget. A great deal of faculty concern was expressed about these allocations, including concern over where the money was coming from.

Senator Fulop (Linguistics) asked to see data on changes to faculty salaries over time. He is especially concerned that the salary levels of full professors have been falling over time so that current full professors may be receiving more than junior faculty will receive when they reach comparable levels. VP Matson promised to assemble the data and present it to the Academic Senate.

At 5:17pm – MSC to extend the adjournment time by 15 minutes (to 5:32pm).

A great deal of anger was expressed about the lack of adequate faculty compensation. Faculty argued that the budget needs to be squeezed harder to find more support for salaries instead of other development projects at the university.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:29pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate will be at 4:00pm on September 22, 2014.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

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