MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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November 10, 2014

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Madhusudan Katti (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (State-wide), Moses Menchaca (ASI), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), Lynn Williams (Ex-officio)

Members excused: President Joseph Castro (Ex-officio), Michael Jenkins (At-large), and Provost Lynette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Visitors: Venita Baker, Michael Caldwell (AVP for Faculty Affairs), Paul Crosbie (Chair, GE Committee), and Matt Jendian (Chair, Sociology)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:07pm in HML 2108.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC to approve the agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of October 27, 2014

MSC to approve the minutes of October 27, 2014

1. Communications and announcements
2. Email dated October 21, 2014, from Kathleen Scott, Administrative Manager, Office of the Vice President for Administration to Chair Ayotte, re: Bold Ideas Challenge Follow-up.

Six of the ideas submitted by faculty and staff to the president’s Bold Ideas Challenge may be actionable by the Academic Senate. The Executive Committee is being asked to provide feedback on how the ideas should be handled. Since there was so much detail, and committee members had not been given much time to consider them, it was decided to postpone further consideration of the six ideas until the next meeting.

1. Email dated November 10, 2014, from Dennis Nef, Vice Provost, to Chair Ayotte re: Feedback on proposed policy on experiential learning. An early draft of a possible new policy on experiential learning in accordance with Executive Order 1064 was created by an ad hoc working group of faculty, staff, and administrators, and was sent to the executive committee for possible referral to a standing committee.

Because the proposed policy was long and complex, and because it had just been received, it was decided to postpone further consideration to the next meeting.

Chris Fiorintino, Director of the Richter Center for Service Learning, had also suggested that a standard experiential learning report form be created and included with the proposed policy. The committee requested that Vice Chair Holyoke inform him that the Academic Senate is not responsible for the technical details of how a policy is administered and should not be tasked with creating such a form.

1. Faculty nominees for several search committees. Names have been received and will be selected during executive session.
2. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Academic Senate)

A report was given regarding last week’s meeting of the Statewide Academic Senate. Several resolutions that passed were explained, as were a couple that are still pending on second reading.

1. Request from the department chairs of the College of Social Science that the GE Committee reconsider a decision allowing the Craig School of Business to substitute its own courses for regular courses fulfilling the Multicultural / International (MI) requirement of the GE program per APM 215 (page 12, Section G).

Paul Crosbie, the Chair of the General Education Committee, and Matt Jendian, Chair of the Department of Sociology and a member of the GE Committee, both made quick presentations to the Executive Committee. Dr. Jendian felt that there were some irregularities in the decision made by the GE Committee three years ago and suggested that letting Craig School departments substitute their own courses for regular MI courses violated the APM 215 (page 11, Section F, Paragraph 4, sub-section f) and system-wide requirements that no GE course be fulfilled within a student’s own department. It was also suggested that the GE committee may not have followed proper procedures when it made the decision three years ago. He felt that the College of Social Science was not properly informed or allowed to offer a counter argument. The College Dean found out about the decision after the fact, and College department chairs only found out about it when the AY 2012-13 catalogue came out. Overall, he noted that weakening the MI requirement ran counter to the stated goals and mission of the university.

Chair Crosbie pointed out that lots of special arrangements have been made for departments and colleges across the university, and he was not sure that procedure had been violated because there was no clearly established procedure to violate. He also expressed some concern about the Executive Committee’s authority to require, or even pressure, a committee to revisit a past decision. Several members of the Executive Committee agreed that the Executive Committee did not have any such authority unless it was clear that there was a procedural violation on the part of the GE Committee. Several members also felt that it was not clear such a violation had occurred, though it was nearly impossible to tell since there was no spelled out procedure and the notes from three years ago for the GE Committee are extremely vague.

Senator Kensinger was very concerned that there was no evidence that the courses the Craig School was using as substitutes adequately covered MI topics because no course syllabi had ever been submitted and she emphasized the importance of students taking courses outside of their home department, as emphasized in MI policy.

Vice Chair Holyoke pointed out that the GE Committee had to take up the issue again anyway because the agreement three years ago between the committee and the Craig School was that the latter had to prove through assessment data that their courses were making it possible for students to achieve the MI objectives. An assessment report was finally submitted to the GE Committee last week, and at their meeting later this week the GE Committee members will read the report. Whether they would vote on its acceptability, or what it might mean if the report found that students were not receiving adequate instruction. The Craig School’s exception might be lost, or the School might have a chance to correct its mistakes and do a better job.

Senator Ram asked for clarification regarding whether the committee decision on the waiver was temporary or permanent, Chair Crosbie having suggested the exception was a two-year experiment with the GE Committee reviewing the results (APM 215, page 12, Section G requires exceptions to be re-evaluated every two years).

The Executive Committee made no final decision and is waiting to learn what the GE Committee’s reaction to the assessment report is.

1. Executive session to decide on faculty to serve on search committees

The Executive Committee entered executive session at 4:33pm.

The Executive Committee came out of executive session at 4:46pm.

MSC to appoint Paula Durette and Brent Aurenheimer to the search committee for a Chief Information Officer.

MSC to appoint Susan Geringer to search committee for a new University Registrar.

Names of faculty interested in being considered for the search committees for an Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services and a Director of Financial Aid had been received after a second call had gone out. These names were not presented to the Executive Committee and will be considered at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on November 24, 2014.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

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