THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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September 14, 2015

Members excused: J. Giglio, M. Jenkins, M. Katti, R. Raya-Fernandez, M. Thompson

Members absent: M. Dangi, S. Sherchan, J. Therkelsen, V. Torres, J. Whiting

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:09pm in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC amending the agenda by moving item #11 (change of status for the Construction Management Program) to be the new #7, and re-ordering the rest of the agenda accordingly.

MSC approving the agenda as amended

1. Approval of the minutes of May 4, 2015

MSC approving the minutes of May 4, 2015

1. Communications and announcements
2. Chair Ayotte

Noted that a reference sheet on basic parliamentary procedure is available for senators.

1. President Castro

Noted that the governor and the legislature were nice to the CSU, increasing the budget for priorities like student success.

$1 million is to be made available for Equity II, splitting the money more or less equally between faculty and staff.

He recently gave a presentation to the CSU Board of Trustees regarding Fresno State’s rising graduation rate and rising number of applicants. The trustees were impressed.

Noted that we will develop a new strategic plan this semester. He wants this plan to be more focused, with only 3 to 5 priorities. He also wants as many faculty as possible to be involved in the development of the new strategic plan. Hopefully the new plan will be in place by the time the fall semester ends.

The president’s office is also going to be searching for a new government relations executive director, filling a position that has been left vacant for many years.

1. Provost Zelezny

Announced that the President’s Commission on Human Relations and Equity is having a seminar on September 15 regarding intersectionality. She would like faculty to attend.

The Provost and Vice President Lamas (Student Affairs) will be presenting to the Academic Senate in the near future about how impaction will affect the campus.

Much of the extra money coming from the Chancellor’s Office for student success will be used to increase tenure density. The result is that the original plan to hire 60 new tenure-track faculty this year will increase to 67.

d.) Statewide Senators Benavides and Kensinger

Noted that the statewide academic senate recently passed four resolutions, including a resolution supporting legislation banning firearms on all K-12 and college campuses in California. Senators should have recently received an email from Senator Benavides describing these resolutions, as well as ones that have not yet passed.

Senator Benavides also noted that there is a task force (which he is on) looking into new online learning management systems, including whether or not to renew the contract with Blackboard (which expires next year).

Senator Kensinger noted that the statewide academic senate remains very concerned about community colleges offering BA degrees and will keep Fresno State updated on this topic.

Senator Kensinger also noted that the statewide senate is becoming increasingly concerned about faculty governance at some CSU campuses. Some provosts have been removed without proper faculty consultation. Furthermore, some campuses are searching for new presidents without any meaningful faculty input.

e.) Senator Williams (Agricultural Business)

Recommended that all faculty should try to carpool when they can, and that all faculty can ride the Fresno buses for free. He also felt the administration should get some credit for improvement in morale on campus.

1. Installation of new senators

The following new senator was installed:

Malik Raheem, Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation

1. Consent Calendar

Senator Roberts (Plant Science) asked to have the approval of the name change for the M.S. in Animal Science removed from the consent calendar. It became item #16 on the agenda.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) asked to have the approval of the name change for the M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling removed from the consent calendar. It became item #17 on the agenda.

MSC approving the rest of the Consent Calendar, which was approval of the Web-Based Certificate of Advanced Study in Community and Regional Planning.

1. New business

There was no new business.

1. Construction Management – Change Status from Program to Department. First reading.

Dr. Manoochehr Zoghi, chair of the Construction Management Program, gave a brief presentation on the reasons for the change of status.

Motion to waive second reading made and seconded. The motion failed to receive the required 2/3rds majority.

1. APM 114 – Policy on Faculty Consultation and Voting

Senator Forgacs (Mathematics) indicated that his department wants more flexible language, with the degree of each lecturer’s vote weighted by factors other than just WTUs.

Chair Tsukimura (Personnel Committee) noted that while we have the right to make our own campus policy regarding the participation of lecturers, our current policy is leading to the filing of grievances. It is possible that if we do not do something, we could effectively end-up with a default policy created through arbitration.

Judith Scott (Communication), noted that the policy in her department has been set by arbitration. Lecturers with a timebase of less than .4 receive a half vote for chair, and lecturers at or above .4 (two or more courses) receive a full vote. The administration wants a new campus policy before any more grievances are filed and policy determined by arbitration.

Senator Durette (Art and Design) suggested that the proposed policy be changed so that college deans receive information on how the lecturers voted, as well as how tenured and tenure-track faculty voted, so that a more informed decision could be made.

Senator Henson (English) moved to add the following new subsection c to the proposed new language in APM 114:

“c.) In reporting the vote to the dean, the department will provide a tally of the votes from

tenure / tenure-track faculty and a tally of the votes from the temporary faculty.”

The motion was seconded.

MSC extending the adjournment time of the Academic Senate from 5:15 to 5:30.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) moved to change the word “will” to “may”. The motion was seconded.

Motion made and seconded to call the question on the motion by Senator Williams. The vote failed to receive the required 2/3rds majority.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:30pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on September 28, 2015, at 4:00pm in HML 2206.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate