THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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April 25, 2016

Members excused: Q. Chen, D. Helsel, Ü. Muller, R. Raya-Fernandez, J. Therkelsen, M. Thompson

Members absent: N. Akhavan, L. Cornelio, B. Der Mugrdechian, S. Fulop, J. Giglio, C. Henson, R. Thornton, J. Whiting, T. Wilson

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:07pm in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of April 11, 2016

MSC approving the Minutes of April 11, 2016

1. Communications and announcements
2. Provost Zelezny

On Wednesday at noon there will be a second forum on the proposed new student union and faculty center. It will be in ED140.

Noted that the search for a new Dean of the College of Science and Math has yielded four finalists, all external candidates, who will be coming to the campus for interviews before the semester is over.

The Provost is also chairing the search for a new Vice President of Administration. The first of two finalists (a third dropped out) is here today and the second will be here on May 5.

The job announcement for a new Dean of Research and Graduate Studies was issued today.

The Provost noted that she has been working with the Chancellor’s office regarding a new grievance filed by a Fresno State part-time lecturer regarding the new versions of APM 114 and 125 passed by the Academic Senate earlier this academic year. The two issues in contention are the denial of a chair vote to a lecturer teaching less than 6 WTUs and the requirement that chair vote tallies be broken out by lecturers and tenured / tenure-track faculty. The Chancellor’s office feels that the arbitrator is leaning towards the lecturer’s argument that this is discriminatory and that Fresno State should do a single tally and give lecturers teaching less than 6 WTUs a 0.25 vote for chair. The Provost insisted that the Academic Senate be allowed to revisit APM 114 and 125 rather than force changes on the campus. We have been given one and a half years to revise our policies.

The Provost was asked whether the result of the grievance decision, if it is allowed to stand in place of a revised policy, would apply just to that lecturer or the entire university. It appears to be the latter, and may even extend beyond Fresno State. Our current policies will stand until we make changes or a year and a half goes by without any change.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) asked about the protest outside of the North Gym last week when Chancellor White was holding a campus forum. She asked what we are going to do to recruit more African-American students and retain them, and how much of the problem with retaining students is due to impaction. The Provost said that she is also very concerned about the problem, though it has nothing to do with impaction, which has not yet begun. She, the President, and the Vice President for Student Affairs have been meeting with African-American leaders on campus to discuss solutions to the problem.

1. Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies)

Announced that on Friday, May 6, at the Tower Theater from 5 to 9pm there is a women’s arts festival which is raising money to pay Women’s Studies students to intern at rape crisis centers.

1. Chair Ayotte

Noted that the President’s Task Force on Testing Services recently sent out a survey regarding use of the now closed University Testing Center, as well as of the (still open) Academic Testing Center. Please fill it out. Senator Roberts (Plant Science) praised the survey for being short and to the point.

1. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate)

Noted that the academic technology survey recently sent is not so good because it does not allow you to go back a page.

1. Dean Hironaka-Juteau and Faculty from the College of Health and Human Services

Gave a brief overview of changes being made this coming year to the Nursing and Exercise Science programs, as well as changes that will come to several other academic programs in 2017, as a result of impaction. These are changes that will reduce the number of students enrolled in these programs.

Senator Malik Raheem (Counselor Education and Rehabilitation) noted that African-American students do better, and are more likely to stay in academic programs, when they are being taught by people like themselves. He then wanted to know how many African-American tenured / tenure-track faculty there are in the College of Health and Human Services, and what are they doing to recruit and retain African-American students? There are two tenured faculty members, and two lecturers who are African-American, but recruitment is hard for programs like Nursing because Fresno State cannot compete financially with other organizations. The Provost added that this number may change since hiring contracts are being signed right now.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) encouraged the College of Health and Human Services to tell students who could not get into their impacted programs to take GE courses in cultural and gender-based programs that would help them find another major.

1. Dean Moore (Continuing and Global Education)

He and Boyce Buckner, Chair of the Military Science Program in the Craig School, discussed how impaction is affecting this program.

1. Installation of new senators

The following new senators were installed:

Gil Kim

Department of Economics

Janice Smith-Warshaw

Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies

Aly M. Tawfik

Department of Civil & Geomatics Engineering

The following senators were re-elected:

Lisa Herzig

Department of Food Science & Nutrition

Thomas Holyoke

Department of Political Science

William Skuban

Department of History

1. Elections – Nominations / Elections and Nominations Committee
	1. Chair, Academic Senate

Elections and Nominations Committee Chair Mower announced that there were two candidates for Chair: Senator Ayotte (Communication) and Senator Jenkins (Mechanical Engineering).

After balloting, it was announced that Senator Ayotte had been re-elected as Chair of the Academic Senate.

* 1. Vice Chair, Academic Senate

Elections and Nominations Committee Chair Mower announced that there were two candidates for Vice Chair: Senator Holyoke (Political Science) and Senator Jenkins (Mechanical Engineering).

After balloting, it was announced that Senator Holyoke had been re-elected as Vice Chair of the Academic Senate.

1. New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

1. APM 231 – Adding and Dropping Classes. Second reading.

AP&P Chair Mullooly reminded the Academic Senate of where the debate currently stands. The pending motion is to substitute a version of APM 231 drafted by ASI for the one that came from AP&P. However, there is a new draft which is a compromise between ASI, AP&P Chair Mullooly, and Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies).

MSC calling the question and closing debate

MSC rejecting the motion to substitute the ASI version for AP&P’s version (1-abstention).

MSC substituting the newest version of APM 231 for AP&P’s version.

In this version, students can drop without permission for the first three weeks of the semester. In the fourth week they will need the signature of the faculty member and the department chair. This is how it is done at CSU, Northridge.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) asked what made this version better than the one from San Jose State University, which was the one AP&P had modeled its proposal after. President Hudson (ASI) said that all of the proposals were trying to solve the same bottleneck problem of too many students dropping and adding at the last moment. What little evidence we have suggests that the Northridge policy works better for both students and faculty.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) asked why AP&P Chair Mullooly and Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies) came around to supporting the compromise. Dean Fu had already left the meeting, but Chair Mullooly said that the bottom line is that they needed the drop date moved, and while this language was not quite what they had in mind, it appears to be good enough. Dean Fu had talked to his counterpart at Northridge and found that they were happy with their policy. Senator Kensinger asked if Chair Mullooly and Dean Fu had actually read the compromise language. They had.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked if this was exactly identical to the Northridge policy language. President Hudson said that she was not sure because she had not been able to find it. She had only found a chart detailing the drop and add deadlines and procedures. She noted that her proposal to have department chairs sign the drop forms along with the faculty was what won over Dean Fu.

Senator Raheem (Counselor Education and Rehabilitation) asked if this change would apply to all students or just undergraduates. It will apply to all students.

Senator Durette (Art and Design) said she thought this might increase the number of emails faculty and department chairs will receive from frantic students at the end of the fourth week of the semester as students try to get signatures. President Hudson agreed that this could happen, and suggested that lots of emails be sent beforehand reminding students of this deadline.

Senator Ram said that Dean Fu’s office should collect data on student drop rates and bring it to the Academic Senate so we could see if the new policy is working.

Senator Kensinger complimented ASI on its leadership. Chair Ayotte complimented AP&P Chair Mullooly and Dean Fu for being willing to compromise with ASI.

MSC approving the new APM 231.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:16pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on May 2, 2016, at 4:00pm in HML 2206.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate