THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

Fresno, California 93740-8014 Fax: 278-5745

Telephone: 278-2743 (EC-10)

February 6, 2017

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Loretta Kensinger (At-large), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), and Lynnette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Members excused: Otto Benavides, Joseph Castro (Ex-officio), Michael Jenkins (At-large), and Tim Ryan (ASI)

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:05pm in HML 2108.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of January 23, 2017

MSC approving the Minutes of January 23, 2017

1. Communications and announcements
   1. Provost Zelezny

Talked about the recent trip she took with a few faculty members to CSU Stanislaus to look at their faculty development center as Fresno State proposes building one of its own. The Provost also noted that just attended a fundraising workshop that will help her raise money to fund the potential new building.

Senator Ram (University-wide), who also went on the trip, said it was helpful to see how CSU Stanislaus used their faculty center and we need to carefully consider what they saw as effective and what was not, such as the restaurant. The center also seemed to be underutilized by faculty so we need to confirm what our faculty would want and actually use in a faculty center.

Vice Chair Holyoke said that he had asked President Castro to talk about the new building with the Academic Senate in order to clarify a lot of questions and possible misunderstandings faculty and students have about the proposed building. Venita Baker noted that the president is actually scheduled to do this at next Monday’s senate meeting. The Provost recommended that Vice President Astone (Administration) be invited to speak as well.

On February 27 staff from the California Department of Finance will be on campus asking us some possibly tough questions about our 4-year graduation rate. Apparently they believe we are properly funded and thus may be wasting money if our rates are not improving. On the campuses they have been to previously, they mostly wandered around and randomly asked people questions. Now, for the first time, they are scheduling meetings with university officials and constituencies such as the Academic Senate. Chair Ayotte has been asked to meet with them along with other senators who might be interested. Vice Chair Holyoke and Senator Ram indicated that they might attend and it was recommended that Budget Committee Chair Robert Maldonado, Budget Committee member Jeff Cummins (Political Science), and former GE Committee Chair Paul Crosbie meet with them as well.

Senator Ram asked whether data on four year versus six year graduates are being broken out by part-time versus full-time status when examining our graduation rates. Apparently they are not. She also noted that the time spent taking remedial courses should not be included in years to graduation rates.

Vice Chair Holyoke noted that he had heard the Office of Faculty Affairs was requiring all new faculty probationary plans to include requirements for double-blind peer reviewed publications that are in journals appearing in major indexes. He felt Faculty Affairs is wrong to create any kind of standardization of probationary plans. The Provost had not heard this and promised to look into it.

Chair Ayotte noted that in a conversation with Larry Salinas, the Executive Director for Government Relations, he was advised to not send the recent Academic Senate resolution opposing the Trump Administration’s travel ban to lawmakers on university letterhead or through university mail. Chair Ayotte instead mailed it at his own expense. Concern was expressed over whether the advice was appropriate, and the Provost said she would bring up the matter with university counsel.

* 1. Action Items
     1. Memo dated January 24, 2017, from Lynnette Zelezny, Provost, to Kevin Ayotte Chair Academic Senate re: Provost’s Awards Committee 2016-2017. Memo has been received.

This was added to the agenda of the Senate Executive Committee.

* + 1. Email dated February 1, 2017, from Xuanning Fu, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, to Kevin Ayotte Chair Academic Senate re: Release time for chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee. Email has been received.

Dean Fu believes that the workload on the Curriculum Committee chair has grown and he is perhaps in need of time release. Chair Ayotte expressed some concern about this, noting that he had recently denied a similar request to the Chair of the University Board on Retention, Tenure, and Promotion. In any case, the Senate has no time release to give. The request was added to the agenda of the Senate Executive Committee for further discussion.

1. Faculty Workload Task Force

Chair Ayotte drafted a charge for the task force to get the it going. Senator Kensinger (At-large) recommended several changes, including the addition of language regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement and the need to look at existing APM language. Senator Ram (University-wide) made additional changes and corrections.

Vice Chair Holyoke noted that several faculty have expressed an interest in serving on the task force even though they are not currently serving in bodies from where members are to be selected. At the same time, while the Senate Executive Committee is to appoint two members, its current members are overworked and largely unable to effectively serve. Chair Ayotte recommended bringing an amendment to the resolution to the Academic Senate making it possible for the Senate Executive Committee to appoint willing faculty members to serve in place of committee members. It was also decided to amend the resolution to push the due date back to December 15, 2017.

MSC approving task force charge as amended.

1. APM 303 – Policy on Nepotism. Second reading.

A minor editorial change was made.

MSC placing APM 303 on the consent calendar of the next meeting of the Academic Senate.

1. Consultation on MAPP D-17 – Policy on Signage

There was considerable discussion over the list of restricted places where banners and signs could not be hung. It was ultimately recommended that bathrooms be taken off of the list. Concern was expressed over who determined what material was sexually explicit. Further concern was expressed over how the policy would be enforced and whether perhaps enforcement was only needed if the banner or sign created significant obstructions or safety hazards with new policy added allowing for exceptions from enforcement. Senator Kensinger (At-large) also requested language making it clear that when hate speech is used to deface a sign, it should be reported to campus police.

Chair Ayotte will communicate these suggestions to Vice President Astone (Administration) who has jurisdiction over this policy.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 5:02pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, February 6, 2017.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate