MINUTES OF THE RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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October 4, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Jenna Kieckhaefer, James Marshall, Fayzul Pasha, Vang Vang

Members absent: Tamás Forgács, Samina Najmi

(1) Approval of agenda (MSC).

(2) Approval of the minutes of 5/11/17 (MSC).

(3) Communications and Announcements

(a) Status of current committee members (J. Kieckhaefer). Helda Pinzon-Perez has stepped down from the committee, in an effort to provide service opportunities for junior faculty in her college. Song Lee also resigned, citing time shortage and other service commitments as cause. We thank them both for their service.

(b) Status of current committee members (J. Kieckhaefer). APP has been notified that we are short members of the committee, and should be making appointments for their replacements. We also lost the student representative. APP has been notified, and is working on finding replacement members.

(4) Discussion items

(a) Meeting days and times (J. Kieckhaefer). First Tuesdays of the month at 9am, in Thomas Administration 117.

(b) Discussing possible plans for committee this year (J. Kieckhaefer).

1. We could talk to faculty, since we talked to the deans last year (J. Kieckhaefer). The idea would be to go deeper than the survey we conducted last year. Perhaps we could ask faculty about the problems they see, but also how they would solve the problems. Another idea is to facilitate an open forum. We could work with other groups on campus with similar interests (like task forces) and get personnel from various entities on campus (like budget, etc.) together to discuss not only the problems but possible solutions.
2. One idea is to get on the university chairs agenda (J. Marshall). All department chairs meet, we believe once a month. Could talk to the chair of chairs, Matthew Jendian, about getting on their agenda in the future. Alternatively, we could get on the agendas of each college’s chairs meeting, for discussing these issues with a smaller number of people. In either case, we need to prompt them beforehand to think about our questions prior to that meeting. We should also condense the report into the main findings, about a half a page, to give to the chairs prior to the meeting for their review.
3. Life Work Balance Task Force is conducting focus groups later in the semester, and will be asking questions about research (V. Vang).
4. There is also a task force for graduate education and for research (J. Marshall). One of the recommendations is rethinking the indirect formula. Would like more transparency. Also, people in charge of determining this formula had no hand in generating this income.
5. There is also a task force looking into starting a journal in our library, to avoid paying for publishing (V. Vang & J. Marshall). The question is, does it make sense to publish in that type of a journal? Some tenure-track faculty have in their probationary plan that they have to publish in a top three journal, so they wouldn’t want to. Alternatively, CSU Fullerton has established a fund via their library that faculty can apply for money to publish their work, although we aren’t sure where that revenue comes from. A common myth is that open-access journals are free to publish in but that isn’t the case – authors have to pay sometimes thousands of dollars to publish, but to access that publication is free to readers.
6. We will also be reviewing the applications for the Claude Laval grant later in the year (J. Kieckhaefer).

(5) The meeting was adjourned at 10am.