THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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February 8, 2021

Members present: Thomas Holyoke (Chair), Raymond Hall (Vice Chair), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-Large), Tinneke Van Camp (At-Large), Jennifer Miele (At-Large), Lisa Bryant (Universitywide), Susan Schlievert (Statewide), Saul Jiménez-Sandoval (Interim President), Elizabeth Zuñiga (ASI Executive President)

Members excused:

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Xuanning Fu (Interim Provost), Bernadette Muscat (Interim Dean UG Studies), Keith Clement (Chair UG Curriculum), Laura Yager (Registrar)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 3:01 pm on Zoom.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

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1. Approval of the Minutes 1.25.21

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1. Communications and Announcements.

Interim Provost Fu thanked those that put on the forum last week and is now considering next steps, where the uncertainties include a possible need for social distancing in Fall 2021, although hybrid model may be part of solution but in itself presents a new set of problems and questions. He noted that conversations will be ongoing.

Interim President Jiménez-Sandoval discussed further the challenges in planning for repopulation of the Fall 2021 semester. Vaccine distribution issues and space limitations from potentially needed distancing are some of the unresolved issues that prevent a clear path at this time. Other updates: our cabinet level Director of Government Relations search is underway with Dr. Byant chairing the search committee. The search for University President has begun in earnest with the advisory committee completed. CSU Advocacy week is going well and a $144M CSU budget has been proposed, but we are requesting more for deferred maintenance. VP Astone made case for these needed funds and Chair Holyoke made case for further faculty support.

Chair Holyoke told the committee that the forum was very well attended, and diverse opinions were voiced, and makes a case for a survey of some sort. The essence of the forum was discussing what a post Covid world will look like, and what should be policy for teaching remotely. He said he is still processing the chat capture from the Zoom session which was rich in comments and ideas.

Dr. Van Camp asked about the scenario where family can’t get vaccinated and a faculty’s face to face meeting might put family at risk. The President indicated that such a situation would be a valid Covid reason to remain virtual. He also mentioned that the Chancellor’s Office has promised to provide legal guidance on these and related issues in the near future.

**Action Items**

A. Memo dated February 3, 2021 from Dr. Low, Chair Academic Senate to Members of the Senate Executive Committee re: Request for Change to APM 335 (Policy on Periodic Review of Academic Administrators). Memo has been received.

Suggestion: address at next meeting

B. Memo dated February 4, 2021 from David Low, Chair University Personnel Committee to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: APM 125 – Policy on Department Chairs. Memo has been received.

Suggestion: address at next meeting

1. Credit/No Credit Grading for Summer Session/Flexible Policies.

When will decisions need to be made for Fall 2021? Ms. Yager stated that the posting of dates is already made for Fall, and the calendar has “subject to change” disclaimer as is standard policy.

Ms. Yager shared these statistics:

How many opted for CR/NC? 2076

How many reversed this choice? 201

The committee inquired as to the total enrollment for Fall 2020. No one at the meeting knew this statistic.

Chair Holyoke inquired about impacts on GPA. Dr. Muscat described concerns related to her from Lyles about CN/CR issues in lieu of substitutions of C and B (and D ) grades to CR/NC. Ms. Yager did not have a direct response, but mentioned that opt out list has grown, and veterans cannot received resources unless they selected the letter grade option. She advised that veteran students need to be better advised of this fact. Dr. Fu stated that we need to look at this potential grade inflation (and lack of letter grades on transcripts) and the potential negative impact on our students’ futures.

Vote to approve Memo 1: extend CR/NC grading for Summer 2021

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Vote to approve Memo 2: extend “relaxed policies” for Summer 2021

Dr. Miele noted that the policy on office hours is not treated “flexibly”, but is really suspended for the interim.

Dr. Bryant expressed concern that the executive committee is allowed to make these decisions without consultation with full senate. Chair Holyoke stated that for any similar Fall 2021 decisions that we will bring such to full senate in some capacity.

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1. Suggestions for connecting with students.

Some suggestions from student affairs committee involving encouragement and guidance. The chair will send to senators for distribution to faculty.

1. APM 241- Proposed Changes. GE Assessment Committee.

Dr. Bryant (Chair of GE assessment committee) described the changes as needed to be in compliance with APM.

Move to include on senate agenda:

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1. APM 206 Online Blended Learning Subcommittee Update.

Background on this item from Dr. Clement in his role as chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: The move to a new document tracking (OnBase) has a number of (12+) curriculum proposals stuck in the pipeline. Also, APM 206 needs to be updated such that curriculum committee sees the proposal first, then appropriate subcommittees and then CFE’s QLT template/rubric applied. Perhaps this means CFE must be removed as primary contact. He noted that the process is 3 or 4 steps and time consuming, so he proposes doubling the number of committee members.

Dr. Bryant inquired if the stuck proposals topic classes or existing required courses, or are they current courses with enrollment. Dr. Clement says this is complicated due to an issue of bypassing APM 206 due to the Covid situation, he stated “it’s currently the Wild West out there” in this regard. Dr. Bryant asked if it is faculty or department chairs responsible for the backlog. Dr. Clement said it seems all of the above and guidance from this committee is warranted. Chair Holyoke suggested we meet this issue in the short term (fix backlog) and long term (fix APM). Dr. Clement strongly supports adding additional members to the committee and feels this will address both the short and long term issues. Dr. Van Camp asked if membership should be restricted to QLT certified faculty on Online/Blended committee. Dr. Clement told us he has made this proposal and strongly supports it.

Discussion then centered on whether it makes sense to certify faculty to teach online, but then also designate specific courses as “online”. Dr. Fu suggested that faculty certification is all that is really needed here, and that perhaps mandating all online courses go through the curriculum approval process needs to be reconsidered.

1. Executive Session.

Enter: 4:33pm

Exit: 4:54pm

Elected to Provost Awards Committee:

Martin Shapiro

Helda Pinzon-Perez

Jessica McKenzie

Maria Yukhymenkho

Fan Qin

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The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:57 pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held March 1, 2021, at 3:00 PM via Zoom.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate