MINUTES OF THE STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Office of the Academic Senate

California State University, Fresno

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Phone: 559-278-2743 | FAX: 278-5745

Date: Dec. 9, 2020

Members present: N. Nisbett (Chair), L.Weiser, T. Lone, F. Tehrani, D. Hart, C. Fry Bohlin, B. Saito, C. Caprau, A. Bacani

Visitors:

Members absent: C. Coon (ex oficio), Samantha Bautista

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. in Zoom

# Previous minutes

Revised minutes were approved.

# Communication and announcements

Meeting agenda was approved. Attendees introduced themselves.

# Ongoing Business

There was no ongoing business to be discussed.

# New Business

The two items discussed were

A) Increasing faculty awareness of students’ needs in the virtual environment for connectedness to peers/faculty and for teaching geared to multiple learning styles.

B) Dates for spring meetings.

Student Connection and Teaching to Multiple Learning Styles

L. Weiser suggested that faculty do more in the virtual learning environment to encourage student connections and teach for a variety of learning styles (kinesthetic, visual, audio etc.) She gave examples of how students have been impacted by limited class interaction and a lack of variety in course materials (e.g. lectures as auditory only).

The committee, following a suggestion from T. Holyoke, will explore strategies/suggestions for making classes more interactive and more effective for a variety of learning styles. These suggestions would be sent to faculty before the start of classes next semester.

T. Lone suggested that Center for Faculty Excellence be consulted for teaching best practices in virtual instruction.

Meeting participants offered the following suggestions for ways faculty can foster greater connectedness with/among students and follow best virtual teaching practices:

* Taking the first ten minutes of each virtual class meeting for checking with students, open conversation (T. Lone).
* Beginning virtual class ten minutes early to allow for open discussion or feedback before class begins (A. Bacani).
* Using breakout rooms (in Zoom) of three or four students during class time for interactive assignments (e.g. writing workshops) (B. Saito)
* Having students host virtual salons for check-ins, discussions (B. Saito).
* Hosting a weekly social hour, not a required course activity, for courses, departments (N. Nisbett).
* Ensuring students know where to go for help for technical issues (like the DISCOVERe help desk) and skills support (F. Tehrani).
* Expanding work of SSD, library, and CFE to meet training/support needs of both students and faculty (F. Tehrani).
* Encouraging faculty training in virtual instruction from the administrative level (F. Tehrani).
* Creating a Resources module for students within a Canvas course. The module would contain content on how to be successful online students.
* Requiring part of course assessment to be group work (C. Caprau).
* Providing students with access to wellness information (C. Caprau).

 T. Lone will ask Bryan Berrett about surveying faculty in the AQ course T. Lone is taking. Faculty will be asked for their ideas regarding virtual best practices and fostering a sense of community among students.

Responding to C. Caprau, L. Weiser said that Student Health and Counseling Center has a wellness division that has been promoted and questioned whether there may be a better way to get the information to faculty. Also, faculty could be reminded of available support from Counseling Services. Faculty can refer students to Campus Assessment & Response Team (CARE Team) [559.278.6777]. They can get counseling center support by calling counseling reception desk, 559.278.2734.

Follow-up reports to faculty on individual students referred to Counseling Services are not possible due to privacy issues and HIPAA. Faculty follow up could, however, occur informally by emailing individual students to ask how they are doing.

N. Nisbett will forward discussion suggestions, survey results, to T. Holyoke.

Spring Meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10, at 10 a.m. Remaining dates for spring semester are Mar. 10 and Apr. 14, also at 10 a.m. Meetings will only be held when the committee has agenda items to discuss.

# Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.