THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-14)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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May 2, 2022

Members excused: F. Chen, R. Raya-Fernandez, J. Wakabayashi

Members absent: N. Akhavan, G. Brar, L. Brillante, R. DeJordy, B. Mason, G. Parra, S. Schlievert, C. Wang

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Hall at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC

1. Approval of the Minutes of 04/25/22.

MSC

1. Senator installation correction

Welcoming Aaron Stillmaker (Universitywide Senator).

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from President Jiménez-Sandoval:

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** highlighted ongoing initiatives to increase funding for a health unit, to increase access to health care in our community, and for securing money for the farms on CSU agriculture campuses.

He invited all Senators to attend the Mariachi Festival on May 7 at the SaveMart Center, proceeds of which will go towards student scholarships.

*Questions for the President:*

**Senator Jenkins** wanted to know whether there has been a reaction to the four Senate resolutions regarding the Title IX situation.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that the resolutions are with the Provost. A memo will be sent to the Senate Chair about the resolutions.

**Senator Pinzón-Perez** asked what the procedure is if newly elected senators wanted to comment on the resolutions regarding the Title IX situation when they only joined the Senate after these were passed.

**Chair Hall** suggested to bring any additional comments to the chair of the Senate.

**Senator Jenkins** requested more information about auxiliary funding to be presented in Senate.

Communications from Provost Fu:

The new Dean of COSS will be in place before the start of the new academic year.

*No questions for the Provost.*

Communication from Senator Bryant:

Since moving PLSI 2 from GE to a campus requirement there has been a significant drop in enrollments. Advisors have shared that it seems that faculty are telling students they are no longer required to take it, because it is no longer in GE, which is incorrect. Senator Bryant requested Senators to remind the colleagues in their department that PLSI 2 is still a campus requirement.

**Senator Jenkins** wanted to know whether writing courses are a campus requirement and whether all programs have writing tests.

**Provost Fu** responded that a process was started to address the issue of writing exams, as these have low passing rates, and improve access to writing classes.

**Dean Muscat** added that we are trying to get more writing courses into majors, as well as avoid adding three additional units to a major by allowing double counting.

**Chair Hall** suggested that more communication about this could be offered in the Fall.

Preliminary Report from Post-Covid Task Force – Dr. Kathleen Dyer, Committee Chair

[Report was shared with Senators on the Senate webpage; presentation will be shared there as well.]

**Senator Dyer** noted that according to how WASC counts, all of GE is now distance learning so every one of our programs is essentially a distance education degree program. The report from the task force looks at both GE and major courses.

The report includes observations concerning to what extent students want online learning. From the student ratings data we see that 12 per cent preferred Zoom classes, 14 per cent online, 16 per cent hybrid and 58 per cent face-to-face. There also seems to be a preference for online office hours.

The task force considered whether students should be permitted to pursue their degree entirely online. The task force opposes this. Having flexibility is possible and beneficial, but there is also a need for interaction on campus.

Fully online courses were difficult for students, as demonstrated in the data collected by OIE. Especially freshmen were less likely to succeed in them. High school GPA also impacted success in a fully online course. Fully online works for some, but not for the most vulnerable students: 80 per cent of students can do fine, but 20 per cent struggle to find a private space, and have connectivity issues, despite efforts by DISCOVERe.

OIE data for Fall 2021 on passing rates shows a gap in pass rates with online classes and variations of online. Digital campus classes, using trained instructors, had similar passing rates as in-person classes, but synchronous, asynchronous and HyFlex courses had lower passing rates. The task force advises to spend more time to look at how classes with an online component can be improved.

There are also inequalities in workload to consider, for instance whether or not faculty should be able to only teach online. The task force believes that tenured and tenure track faculty bear a responsibility to create and maintain an intellectual community on campus, and faculty have to be here to do so.

Primary recommendations from the task force (majority position) include: the need for a policy from Senate to establish limits on class modality assignments (for instance, tenure track faculty are only allowed to teach a certain percentage of their WTUs online; departments may only offer a percentage of instructional WTUs in distance modalities; a class can only be offered in a distance modality if it is also available in a face-to-face modality); departments must maintain a list of courses that may or may not be offered online. Alternative recommendations (minority position) include allowing departments to set their own limits regarding teaching modality assignments. Other recommendations (majority position) include amending APM 338 to match office hours to class modality; establish policies that would make remote work for staff available; request the Bulldog Testing Center to resume providing services to online instruction. Other issues that are not necessarily addressed in policy but need to be addressed include the experienced collective trauma, and how we hold meetings, conduct searches, and manage offices.

The task force will have a final meeting this week.

*Questions:*

**Senator Durrette** wanted to know whether blended classes were taken into consideration.

**Senator Dyer** responded that they looked at APM 206 and WASC language, and that there was a debate in the task force on whether or not blended classes should be considered as online, but they were lumped in with other course modalities for the presentation today.

**Senator Jakobs** asked whether the findings apply to graduate courses too.

**Senator Dyer** suggested that that is probably not the case but that online teaching in graduate courses will have to be sorted out as well.

**Senator Turnbull** was told that there is a limit of 6 units for online teaching for a faculty member per academic year.

**Senator Dyer** suggested that this might be a college level decision, but that it is not a campuswide policy.

**Provost Fu** added that for Fall it is required that two thirds of sections need to be in person, but no number of units was specified.

**Chair Hall** apologized for having to cut short this discussion because of the need to move onto the next agenda item. He suggested to send any additional questions to senator Dyer, and that this issue can be further explored in Fall.

Executive Summary Report from the Library Task Force. Dr. Bradley Hart and Dr. Blain Roberts

The report of the task force was released several weeks ago and available on the task force’s landing page.

Main findings include the following:

The individuals who proposed naming the library for Madden were not aware of his views.

Disturbing views were expressed in his letters, including violent sentiments, and photos.

He harbored deep-seated antisemitic views, which persisted through WWII, after the Nuremberg trials, and during his career at Fresno State.

He never reckoned with or repudiated his views. After retirement, he spent countless hours going through his letters *etc* to donate to the library, so he knew future researchers would see them. He did not write an apology or repudiation to add to the material he donated, which he knew he could do as a historian and librarian.

He held racist views that impacted his work at Fresno State.

Commemoration of an individual is an expression of values. At that time, the university and board acted on an incomplete picture of who Madden was.

Reevaluation is vital.

*Questions:*

**Chair Hall** expressed appreciation for the task force’s work.

**Senator Pitts** wondered why his records were sealed for 25 years.

**Lukens** (chair of the library task force) responded that it is not unusual for records to be sealed.

**McDaniel** (Associate Dean of the Library) added that at the time the papers were donated, Madden’s successor was his executor, and the agreement to keep the boxes sealed was part of Madden’s will, which was not unusual at the time, but it does seem odd given that he was being commemorated.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** mentioned that the processes of naming rights are now more comprehensive.

1. New Business

**Senator Johanson** submitted a resolution from the library - Removal of Name from University Library.

*Motion to put the resolution on the agenda.*

*Seconded*

*Vote on putting resolution on the agenda: approved*

*Motion to move the resolution to the top of the agenda*

*Seconded*

*Vote on putting resolution on the agenda: approved*

*Discussion on the resolution on the senate floor:*

**Senator Stillmaker** asked for a clarification whether this concerns removal of the name or renaming.

**Lukens** responded that renaming needs to be approved by the board of trustees.

**Senator Jenkins** added that the ASCSU is passing a resolution to revisit naming and unnaming policies. He wanted to know whether the report that was presented is a final or preliminary report.

**Lukens** responded that the feedback form on the task force’s landing page is available until Friday this week. Once all feedback is in, it will be incorporated in the final report, which will be sent to the President by the end of the semester.

**Chair Hall** asked whether the resolution that is now under discussion would be incorporated if it passed.

**Lukens** responded that trustees have asked for a resolution from the senate.

**Senator Yang** thanked the task force. He added that the library and university belong to the community and wanted to know whether it has been explained to the community why change is necessary.

**Chair Hall** answered that forums had been held last week and mentioned that community members could find information on the task force’s landing page. He also mentioned that the task force had a community representative.

**Lukens** added that there had also been a forum for the Jewish community.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** mentioned that this has been reported in the media as well and that the feedback form was available to the public.

**Senator Jenkins** referred to public pushback to renaming schools and inquired about any negative feedback on this.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that some people expressed being upset about this, following which he sent them documents with evidence of Madden’s views.

***Senator Maldonado*** *moved to waive second reading.*

*Seconded*

*Vote on waiving second reading: approved*

***Senator Coy*** *moved to call the question.*

*Vote: approved*

*Vote on the resolution: approved*

*The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:17p.m.*

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The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be September 12, 2022.

Submitted by Approved by

Tinneke Van Camp Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate