THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-04)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

5200 N. Barton Ave ML 34

Fresno, California 93740-8014

Office of the Academic Senate

(559) 278-2743

October 25, 2021

Members excused: D. Cady, T. Garcia

Members absent: B. Mason, B. Taylor

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 10/11/21.

MSC

1. Communications and Announcements.

Student Email Deactivation

**Robert Guinn** (Interim VP for Information and Chief Information Officer) and **Brad Barker** (Technology Services) were invited to explain plans by Technology Services and University Advancement to deal with student email accounts that have been dormant.

Many email accounts are left unattended. This is a security risk. Other universities are also deactivating such accounts. Technology Services is reaching out to campus members to help get the word out and help figure out how to communicate this to students. Technology Services also wants to make sure to identify the correct accounts and will help affected alumni to transfer digital content to a new account. People will be given alternative tools and solutions.

*Questions for Guinn and Barker:*

**Senator Jakobs** explained that her department conducts exit surveys and follow-up with alumni for accreditation purposes one year and 18 months following graduation. Will the plans allow for this time lag?

**Barker** responded that deactivation will occur at least 12 months after graduation, and those affected will receive regular messages about this. If particular departments need to reach certain accounts, that can be identified, after 18 months, a solution can be worked out.

**Senator Maldonado** added that security risks are compelling enough, but that there are also costs to maintaining accounts. Will costs also be affected?

**Barker** explained that cost has already come down, but we are still experiencing extra costs.

**Senator Karr** wanted to know how long faculty maintain their accounts.

**Barker** explained that emeritus status implies keeping it for life, but there is no policy for non-emeritus faculty who leave, but in practice their accounts have not been taken away yet. Following student email deactivation of unused account, there are plans to do the same with unused employee accounts.

**Senator Yang** asked how this will impact communication with alumni.

**Barker** responded that two thirds of alumni are captured by new accounts – the Alumni Association has their own accounts.

**Senator Lent** wanted to know whether permanent forwarding to a new address could be set up.

**Barker** responded that that is technically possible and can be explored, but it is complex and there is a significant cost involved. This would have to be outsourced.

**Senator Ram** referred to the use of new university addresses for alumni at some universities as a possible solution.

**Barker** responded that we did that for a short while and nobody used them.

**Senator Ram** added that providing a university address to alumni is useful when they are applying for jobs one or two years after graduation.

**Chair Hall** added that if chairs or program coordinators need to contact alumni, Technology Services and the Alumni Association can help.

**James Pitts** asked how often one has to use their account for it to be considered an active account.

**Barker** explained that we could monitor when people log in, but that many students are already forwarding their emails, which does not require them to log in. An account user has to renew their password every six months, so they would have to log in at least every six months.

**Chair Hall** mentioned to reach out to himself and Robert Guinn if there are more concerns.

Communications from President Jiménez-Sandoval:

The President mentioned that the university will engage strongly with the county to see where we are for teaching after Thanksgiving. He added that we will most likely not go virtual after Thanksgiving based on conversations with the county health department so far as well as for reasons related to workload for faculty. More counsel will be sought from the county, Chancellor and Sacramento closer to Thanksgiving.

In relation to COVID-19 measures, efforts are focused on testing compliance now and for the next semester.

The President charged a committee for an RFP for a strategic plan consultant. The committee has reviewed our current strategic plan and San Diego State’s strategic plan, which is inspiring and has clear deliverables. The aim is to have a strategic plan that is both aspirational and has clear deliverables.

The Chancellor has posted equity goals and priorities for Graduation Initiative 2025. Dean Coon and Provost Fu have prepared a comprehensive and strategic plan to close equity gaps. Part of this will be improving tenure density, adding advisors, focusing on course access, enhancing outreach, improving course registration efforts to improve retention, and focusing on basic needs of our students.

*There were no questions for the President.*

Communications from Provost Fu:

*The Provost had no updates.*

*There were no questions for the Provost.*

**VP Adishian-Astone** shared updated information on COVID-19 related matters [*PowerPoint Presentation was shared with the Senate Chair*].

Vaccination uptake is further increasing among employees and students. Among faculty, 86 percent have certified as being vaccinated. Oct 27 is the deadline for self-certification for faculty. Collective and individual reminders will be sent out. Among students, 421 have not certified, of whom156 have in-person courses. Students who have not self-certified cannot register for spring courses. Forty-one percent of campus members that need to be tested, are getting tested.

Card privileges are being taken away this week from students who are not testing (about 1.000 students), after having received reminders in the last two weeks about testing requirements. Employees who are not testing will also have card privileges taken away today. Reports of positive cases are stabilizing.

The call center is helping with follow-up and communication. Chair Hall and AVP Schmidtke are working on reminders to send out to faculty about reporting, testing requirements etc. A flu and booster vaccination clinic is being organized for employees in November. Students can get flu shots at the Student Health and Counseling Center.

Questions:

**Senator Holyoke** inquired about penalties for employees who are not certifying or testing, and as such violating the rules and putting campus safety at risk.

**VP Adishian-Astone** explained that we were provided with a general framework on this from the Chancellor’s office and that it concerns a progressive system. Focus is on reminders about certification first, and then progressive discipline in respect of the CBA.

**AVP Schmidtke** added that a lot of faculty who are not complying seem not to have attested to the fact that they are not on campus. They seem to have assumed that because they are teaching online, they do not have to attest. He also emphasized that we want to minimize disruption on students with disciplinary action, *e.g.* taking an instructor out of class has consequences for students.

**Senator Walter** asked about consequences for faculty who are not masking properly and about masking expectations for spring.

**AVP Schmidtke** explained that faculty who are not masking properly will be reminded of the policy and if they continue to not mask up properly, a counseling memo could be sent, followed by a reprimand. Masking expectations in spring depend on guidance from the county department of public health.

**VP Adishian-Astone** added that much of this depends on the local instead of statewide situation and that we might not know about masking in spring until after the holidays.

**Senator Maldonado** wanted to know if the data we have on positive cases allows us to see a trend in cases.

**VP Adishian-Astone** confirmed that data is available on the number of positive cases per week.

**Chair Hall** added that **VP Adishian-Astone**’s PowerPoints will be shared with the senators (on senate website).

**Senator Moreman** questioned the idea of punitive action and urges administration to look for other ways to get people to comply with the requirements and to refresh the message around COVID-19 prevention. There could be more positive and consistent messaging to persuade people to do the right thing.

**VP Adishian-Astone** explained that there is a culture of education and incentivation (*e.g.*, gift cards for students who are vaccinated). There will be a vaccination clinic on campus. There have been multiple messages and individual outreach to avoid disciplinary action. We helped out staff who do not have access to a computer to complete self-certification. We care and try not to be punitive, but we need to adhere to the policy of the university.

**AVP Schmidtke** added that 300 emails have been sent out to faculty to remind them of the requirements. Some faculty responded that they do not read the emails the university sent out. There are obstacles to communication if people are not opening their emails.

**Senator Panagopoulos** added that the self-certification form does not allow to indicate that someone is vaccinated as well as not coming to campus, so someone not coming on campus cannot share their vaccination status in this form.

**AVP Schmidtke** explained that when someone is vaccinated, they do not have to get tested, so it does not matter whether they come on campus or not, and will not face action.

**Senator DeJordy** asked about the process for requesting a schedule change now.

**Provost Fu** explained that it is the same process as in spring 2021. If a department Chair thinks a request for change is eligible, then they can work with their Dean and the Provost.

**AVP Schmidtke** reminded the senate that if there is a medical or family reason for the request for a schedule change, they should go to HR for accommodation.

1. Senator Installation.

Welcoming senator James Pitts (Criminology)

1. New Business.

None

1. APM 206 Amended Memo.

**Chair Hall** explained that sections IIA and IIIB in APM 206 are relaxed for spring 2022, implying, for instance, that there is no need for a certificate and training from CFE for teaching virtually. APM 206 will not be relaxed beyond that. This means, for instance, that an in-person course allows no more than 20 percent online teaching.

**Senator Hernandez** asked whether 20 percent online includes synchronous and asynchronous delivery.

**Chair Hall** responded that faculty are allowed up to 20 percent online course delivery, and that we wanted to clarify that if one exceeds 20 percent online, that cannot be called an in-person course, because that is not what students will be expecting when they sign up for it. Whether the online delivery is synchronous or asynchronous, in-person means being physically in the classroom 80 percent of scheduled class time. This concerns interfacing with students, not course work.

**Senator Ram** added that APM 206 uses the term ‘classroom course’ and that students see a class room and meeting time, but not the designation of in-person.

**Dean Muscat** confirmed that that is correct.

**Senator DeJordy** summarized that it is about relaxing the QLT training requirement, not the definition of the course modality.

**Senator Jenkins** suggested that we use the same terminology as in APM 206 and what students see, which is ‘class room course’, not ‘in-person course’.

**Senator Ram** offered an amendment to the amended memo on APM 206.

While flexible interpretation allows for some courses to be offered in a virtual or hybrid mode with Department/College approval, it does not change the definition of an in-person “classroom course” as per APM 206, which requires at least 80% of content to be delivered in the physical classroom.

**Senator Hernandez** expressed support for Senator Ram’s amendment.

**Senator Tawfik** mentioned that this amendment addresses the issue of possibly having people teach 99 percent of their in-person course online, but it does not address the issue of how students see how much of a hybrid course is online. If students sign up, do they see whether a course is blended?

**Chair Hall** responded that they do.

**Senator Tawfik** added that some hybrid courses are 99 percent online and students do not know this when they sign up. We need to more clearly indicate to students what specific course modalities entail, so that students know whether they need to be in Fresno for a course or not.

**Senator Lachs** added that for a hybrid course with, for instance, 50 percent in-person and 50 percent online, no room is associated with it in the schedule and students need to be given clear information on when they need to be on campus.

**Chair Hall** responded that that is a procedural problem and not part of APM 206. The focus here is on addressing a potential egregious misinterpretation of in-person course modality.

**Senator Maldonado** expressed support for the amendment by Senator Ram to the amended memo. He added that virtual synchronous courses could also have a percentage of asynchronous activity, which could confuse students, and could be affected by this relaxation as well.

Motion to extend time

MSC

**Senator Panagopoulos** expressed concern for students who have in-person and virtual courses in the same semester and struggle to find space on campus to attend their virtual classes.

**Chair Hall** mentioned that the Provost is also concerned about this. With this memo students will at least know when they have class on campus.

**Senator Dyer** agreed that there are issues on how online content is indicated to students when they enroll in a course, but that this cannot be solved with this memo. She added that ASI President Jackson is asking faculty to include dates of in-person meetings in their syllabus to allow students to plan accordingly once the semester starts. The amended memo on the floor today does not solve all of the problems, but some.

Vote to accept the amendment suggested by Senator Ram on APM 206 Amended Memo

Approved

Vote to approve APM 206 Amended Memo as amended on the floor:

Approved

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:25p.m.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be November 8, 2021, via Zoom video conferencing.

Submitted by Approved by

Tinneke Van Camp Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate