THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-05)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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November 8, 2021

Members excused: W. Wise

Members absent: L. Brillante, D. Jackson, M. Jenkins, B. Mason, G. Parra, J. winder

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 10/25/21.

MSC

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from President Jiménez-Sandoval:

An application was submitted and accepted for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Task Force for the post-secondary value commission. We are one of 15 universities across the USA to hold this designation. The President thanked the Provost for putting together a strong application.

After consultation with the county health department and campus task force, we will be able to continue face-to-face instruction after Thanksgiving. According to the county health department, we are in a strong position with high vaccination rates.

There are COVID-19 booster and flu shot clinics on campus this week, spearheaded by VP Adishian-Astone, who made the connection with UCSF.

*Questions for the President:*

**Senator Walter** heard that the COVID-19 booster site last week was well attended and had long wait lines. More clinics might be needed to accommodate the demand for the booster.

**VP Adishian-Astone** explained that the clinics do not require appointments, because of the need for flexibility and accessibility, which, however, makes it hard to assess the demand. The provider, UCSF, is adapting to the demand, and if more dates are needed, VP Adishian-Astone will reach out to them again.

Communications from Provost Fu:

Candidates for the COSS Dean search will be coming on campus this week and next week for interviews. Candidates for the Dean of Undergraduate Studies search will also be on campus next week. Faculty are encouraged to attend the candidate forums.

An application was submitted for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities for the transformation accelerator program to improve diverse student success. Few universities are accepted. The kick-off meeting will be on Nov 15. More details will be announced later.

*Questions for the Provost:*

**Senator Walter** mentioned that faculty are experiencing bottle necks in the procedure for international travel and need more consistent information.

**Provost Fu** responded that we are still using the same request forms and that CGE double checks destinations for international travel for safety and eligibility. All countries listed as category 4 by the US department cannot be approved. He suggested to reach out to him if there were more specific questions.

**Senator Schlievert** provided an update on the statewide senate:

* Updates from Chancellor Castro, EVC Avila, and AVC Ryan Storm.
* Resolutions passed:
  + AS-3505-21/APEP
  + Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) support CSU System GE Review Processes and Implementation Standards for Area F (Ethnic Studies) community college submissions.
  + AS-3503-21/APEP
  + Acknowledgement of changes to math requirements in IB--international baccalaureate programs.
  + AS-3507-21/APEP
  + Support for the “CSU education deans' statement in support of culturally sustaining, equity driven, and justice focused pedagogies
  + AS-3500-21/FA
  + The ASCSU strongly urge the Chancellor’s Office to continue the suspension throughout the CSU system of mandatory student evaluations and mandatory peer observations of teaching implemented in Spring 2020 to the 2021-2022 Academic Year (AY); faculty to opt in to peer observations of instruction and to student evaluations of teaching during the AY 2021-2022 and this will not adversely affect personnel decisions
  + AS-3509-21/FGA/FA
  + ASCSU support CSU campus requests for WASC WSCUC continued authorization for remote and hybrid instruction as needed through spring and/or summer terms beginning between January 1, 2022 and July 31, 2022 due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic (most campuses have done this.)
  + AS-3512-21/AA
  + Commendation for assistant vice chancellor (AV) Marquita Grenot-Scheyer (retirement)

**Provost Fu** explained that WSCUC stands for WASC Senior College and University Commission, and concerns accreditation specifically for higher education.

1. New Business.

None

1. Budget Presentation – Vice President Adishian-Astone

**VP Adishian-Astone** will share the PowerPoint presentation with Chair Hall to distribute to the senators. See PWP for details.

Provost Fu and Dr. Hasson are working with the Deans on budget model alignment.

**Provost Fu** explained that they are learning how to improve budgeting for Academic Affairs. Overall Academic Affairs was in the black. The Provost is thankful that carryforward was not swept. This academic year money will be transferred in advance of the end of the fiscal year to cover college-level deficits if Academic Affairs as a whole is not in deficit. Academic Affairs has moved to a new budget model for academic colleges and schools. With the new budget model, the deficit will be lower at the end of this fiscal year for the three colleges that were in the red. We are currently in the pilot phase of the new budget model, which can be improved. The aim is to allow multi-year planning for financial health and smart program growth.

*Questions:*

**Senator Holyoke** appreciated that there is a new Academic Affairs budget model but it seems to rearrange the same amount of money to colleges. Deficits exist because the budget model is at Level A not receiving 100 percent of the money it needs to operate. To deal with deficits, Academic Affairs should be fully funded at Level A.

**VP Adishian-Astone** responded that Academic Affairs is getting the allocation it needs to cover overall expenditures through level A. There is a surplus balance. Additional GI 2025 funding will also be coming to Academic Affairs, that is not in their budget right now. Hence it is a matter of Level B allocation to colleges and schools to align with needs and expenditures.

**Senator Maldonado** had a question about SUG [State University Grants], which is money that can only be used for student assistance, but also counts against what the State thinks we need to operate. Does the five percent redistribution reduction affect financial aid for students?

**VP Adishian-Astone** responded that that was based on the calculation by the Chancellor’s Office regarding SUG allocations, and there was a similar reduction last year. We typically have a balance in our SUG account, and this year we will have an additional 1.8 million one-time funds of financial assistance. That reduction should not detrimentally affect our SUG and support we provide to our students.

**Senator Maldonado** asked about the restoration of the general fund, which concerns about 9 million. It would seem that 8.75 million of that 9 million went to the tuition reserve. How is that decision made and why is that money not more generally distributed?

**VP Adishian-Astone** explained that from the restoration of the general fund a portion ran through the tuition reserve, and a portion was restored to each divisional area. The divisional areas got 50 percent instead of 100 percent restoration. Part of the challenge was that the tuition reserve did not have enough funding to cover the allocations that we typically make every year.

**Pam Lewis** added that we needed to maintain the tuition reserve due to additional reductions.

**Senator Polegato** asked about funding for tech support, particularly to cover for an increased need for data storage (e.g., due to lecture recordings).

**Provost Fu** explained that in the Academic Affairs budget model there are line items for equipment and upgrade. There was also HEERF and CARES funding for technology to account for remote teaching.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** suggested to ask Robert Guinn (interim VP for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer) to look into this. He was not aware that we had a storage problem.

**Chair Hall** invited senators to email him about these particular concerns too.

**Senator DeJordy** wanted to know how Level B allocation is done to academic schools and colleges. What variables are used, does it depend on graduation numbers, enrollment numbers, for instance? How are appropriate operations being encouraged?

**Provost Fu** responded that the three colleges that were in the red are large GE colleges, and they were in the red most likely because they have always been teaching over their target. Each college is given an FTS target, and we need to ensure over-target compensation.

**Senator Miele** agreed that it would be helpful if we could get details of the new budget model for Level B allocation.

**Chair Hall** responded that he will try to find time for a discussion of the Level B model in the senate.

**Senator Walter** mentioned that it is great that there is good financial support for GI 2025, both through permanent and one-time funding, even if specific allocations still have to be decided. She is requesting a follow-up on how these funds will be spent since student success is paramount to our work.

**VP Adishian-Astone** responded that that is possible. Priorities are set by the Chancellor, and she is happy to share this allocation with the senate when decided.

**Provost Fu** added that allocation could include increasing tenure density and hiring more advisors. The one-time money can be used to add sections of courses that students need to graduate.

**Senator Maldonado** mentioned that there was 87 million in the permanent benefits pool and 84 million in expenditures. Is the remaining 3 million used as a cushion?

**VP Adishian-Astone** responded that it will stay in the permanent benefits pool to help to cover for new employees that are being recruited.

**Senator Maldonado** wanted to know where the one million to offset Academic Affairs deficit will come from.

**VP Adishian-Astone** responded that that will be coming from GI 2025 or carryforward balance. She is working with the Provost on this because it needs to come from Academic Affairs.

**Senator Maldonado** asked whether we have a tuition adjustment because we did not hit our target or is there another reason for that?

**VP Adishian-Astone** explained that the Chancellor’s Office factors in an adjustment if we do not hit our projected target.

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** added that this deals with international students as well.

**VP Adishian-Astone** mentioned that our enrollment is strong but that tuition calculation is indeed affected by both resident and international students.

**VP Adishian-Astone** mentioned that she is happy to follow up if there are questions that could not be addressed in this meeting.

**Chair Hall** mentioned that senators can email him if they have more questions about the budget.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:18p.m.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be November 22, 2021, via Zoom video conferencing.

Submitted by Approved by

Tinneke Van Camp Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate