THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-01)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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September 12, 2022

Members excused: L. Jakobs

Members absent: L. Brillante, B. Munoz, B. Noel Smith, A. Panagopoulos, B. Yang

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Hall at 4:04 p.m. in Library room 2206 and via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

*MSC*

1. Approval of the Minutes of 5/2/22.

**Senator Bryant** wanted to know whether the memo in response to Title IX resolutions, mentioned in the minutes for the Senate meeting on May 2 has been received.

**Chair Hall** responded that he has not seen it, so he will follow up on it.

*Approval of the minutes:*

*MSC*

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from Chair Hall

Senators are encouraged to participate in Senate meetings in person, but a hyflex option is offered. This modality was discussed and approved in the executive committee of the Senate. We will be using iClicker for polling and voting to accommodate zoom and in-person attendants. We have been offered free student iClicker accounts. Other systems would have been expensive. Chair Hall appreciates everyone’s patience as we use this new modality.

He also mentioned that the President could not attend today’s meeting.

Communications from Provost Fu:

Provost Fu informed the Senate that the new Dean of COSS, Dean Lowham, has joined our campus, and that we will be welcoming the new Dean of JCAST, Dean St. Hilaire, later this week. He added that two searches will be launched in Academic Affairs, for Vice Provost and for AVP of Institutional Effectiveness.

He referred to this year’s budget as the best budget we have had in five years, allowing for an increase in professional development money for faculty from $500 to $1,000 this year. RSCA grant funding will hopefully also be guaranteed for the coming three years.

*Questions for the Provost:*

**Senator Stillmaker** inquired what the $1,000 professional development money can be used for.

**Provost Fu** responded that this can go to conference attendance and travel.

**Senator Fulop** was glad to hear that the budget is looking good and wondered whether this may result in lowering the mandated minimum enrollment for undergraduate classes to run, which is currently still high, at 13 enrolled students.

**Provost Fu** responded that he believes the recommended number was 10 in the past. He will follow up on this. A guiding principle in this is student success, program needs and faculty/student ratio. He added that a new budget model is being used for allocation to Colleges and Schools. Funding to Colleges and Schools is not fixed in terms of personnel. If an additional class is approved, for instance, the funding is there for part-time faculty and will be added to initial allocation.

Communications from statewide Senator Schlievert about ASCSU plenary meetings September 8-9, 2022

Memo about this was shared on the Senate documents page.

Senator Schlievert summarized it and referred to a communication at ASCSU by Interim Chancellor Koester, CSU Board of Trustees Chair Fong, and CSU Board of Trustees Vice Chair Clark about the CSU/State Compact, with the aim of increasing access to CSUs, improving student success, increasing affordability of CSU education, increasing collaboration, supporting workforce, and increasing access to online courses. EVC Alva provided a communication about five key questions for our campuses, *e.g.* on whether students find their way to us, do they feel they belong, how are people in the system doing?

There was a communication about the need for both compliance and care in the context of Title IX issues. There were a number of first reading resolutions, e.g., on remote teaching, gender inclusive language, student fees and what percentage is spent on athletics. Finally, there was also a discussion on AB928, on a uniform transfer GE curriculum to CSUs and UCs, which is an ongoing discussion. Senates are asked for feedback.

*Questions:*

**Senator Smith** wanted to know whether feedback to AB928 will be sought collectively or will come from subcommittees.

**Senator Schlievert** responded that a consensus will be sought.

**Chair Hall** added that it is not clear how feedback will be collected and that the feedback portal currently available is not operational. He will follow up on this.

**Chair Hall** asked by how many units GE would be reduced following AB928.

**Senator Schlievert** responded that it would concern 5 units. Some campuses like this reduction, others do not, but it has to be the same for the 23 campuses.

**Chair Hall** mentioned that we should start educating ourselves on AB928.

***Senator Dyer*** *recognized Dr. Dawn Lewis.*

*No opposition.*

**Dr. Lewis** suggested that AB928 could have implications for opening up transfers of student athletes to Fresno State.

**Senator Schlievert** responded that the purpose is to facilitate transfers from community colleges to CSUs.

**Senator Maldonado** expressed concern about the UC’s control over area A3.

**Senator Schlievert** responded that the UCs have also made compromises.

**Chair Hall** suggested that our GE area E will potentially be most impacted, so we need to keep an eye on this.

**Senator Jenkins** highlighted the urgency for feedback, given that, if the various campuses do not come to a consensus on a uniform transfer GE curriculum, executives in the systems will decide. We need to make sure that feedback gets back to ASCSU.

1. Consent Calendar.
   1. MS in Biology Application Requirements Change.

**Senator Moreman** mentioned that we did not see the actual proposal, only the memo.

**Chair Hall** will consult with the relevant committee and send this back to the executive committee.

1. New Business.

**Senator Pinzón-Perez** wanted to inform the Senate about a workshop on equity disparities in education she attended that was organized by OIE and CFE, and suggested to have this presented to the Senate as well.

**Chair Hall** suggested to consider this as a communication and invited Senator Pinzón-Perez to send him more details about this.

1. APM 301 – Policy on Tenure-Track Appointments.

**Dr. Low (Chair Personnel Committee)** explained that a footnote was added to clarify the term ‘insufficient’ to allow for a search member from outside a department to hire diverse faculty. Suggested changes in the APM also concern justification for not granting an interview, as per the new CBA. There is also new language from the new CBA regarding appointments outside of a formal search (new section XV). Finally, gender-neutral pronouns were added.

**Senator Bryant** wanted to know whether the addition of probationary appointments outside of formal searches (recommendation of probationary tenure track appointment for lecturer who has been offered a tenure track position elsewhere) comes from the new CBA.

**Low** responded that it comes straight from the new CBA.

**Senator Bryant** wondered whether the Personnel Committee discussed adding a timeline to ensure that the President turns such requests around quickly to ensure that we do not lose that person.

**Low** suggested that the Senate create an amendment to that point.

**Chair Hall** reminded the Senate that such an amendment can also be made in second reading.

**Low** wanted to know what kind of timeline could be envisioned.

**Senator Bryant** offered that 72 hours might work.

**Schmidtke (interim AVP Academic Affairs)** added that it could depend on specifics and that 72 hours might be tight. He also highlighted that such an appointment can only be made when there is no regular search ongoing.

**Schmidtke** further explained that APM 301 did not include all the protected categories, so he asked the Personnel Committee to make changes accordingly.

**Senator Moreman** noted that the choice to use a URL in the policy (in footnote 14) to this point is potentially problematic. It would be better to include a list of categories, given that the URL may become dysfunctional.

**Low** responded that protected classes change regularly. By including the URL in a footnote, they wanted to preempt not having to keep amending the policy if a new class is added.

**Chair Hall** suggested to refer to the relevant state document instead of the URL in the footnote, which could be done in second reading.

**Senator Moreman** highlighted that a few instances of replacing ‘he’ or ‘she’ with a gender-neutral pronoun were missed and he wanted to know why the committee did not use ‘he/she/they’, but ‘they’ as gender neutral. ‘They’ represents non-binary individuals.

**Low** is amenable to change this. The intention was to include everyone.

**Chair Hall** invited senators to send suggestions to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate for second reading.

**Senator Smith** had a question about footnote 4 on p.1: what if there is not enough program faculty available for a search in a particular program within a department?

**Schmidtke** suggested that this footnote can be deleted.

**Low** agreed.

**Senator DeJordy** instead suggested that adding ‘program’ in a subsequent section on sufficiency (III.5.) could take care of insufficiency within a program.

**Low** agreed.

**Senator DeJordy** offered to add ‘or program’ in III.5. on p.2.

**Low** accepted this as a friendly amendment.

*Added on the floor:*

*‘When the department has insufficient full-time tenured and/or probationary members available to form a committee*’ becomes ‘*When the department or program has insufficient full-time tenured and/or probationary members available to form a committee’*

**Chair Hall** reminded the Senate that this is a first reading item and that more amendments can be made in second reading.

1. APM 231 – Student Withdrawal Policy update.

**Senator Dyer** explained that proposed changes to the APM concern taking out the stringent definition of serious and compelling reasons, to facilitate department chairs to sign off on drop requests after census date. While looking at the APM, Dean Muscat and Laura Yager (Registrar’s Office) suggested additional changes, *e.g.* no longer requiring in-person signatures, and allowing the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Dean of Graduate Studies to take a decision when instructor and chair disagree on a drop request.

**Chair Hall** invited Laura Yager to explain the new online process for drop requests.

**Yager** explained that a new online workflow process was implemented in summer to allow students to request drops online and to streamline the process. Requests are automatically routed to the instructor and chair. If there is a disagreement about a request, it is routed to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Students have to attach documentation to support their request for a drop after census date, as has always been outlined in the policy.

**Dean Muscat (Dean of Undergraduate Studies)** added that drop request from graduate students would be routed to the Dean for Graduate Studies should there be disagreement.

**Chair Hall** mentioned that a streamlined process better serves our students and that the APM needs to be brought in line with this.

**Senator Mullooly (Chair of AP&P)** explained that AP&P had looked at an earlier draft for an amended APM 231, brought it to the executive committee of the Senate following which it was placed on the Senate agenda. It seems today’s draft is different. He reminded the body that the executive committee of the Senate does not write policy, so this new draft should have been sent to AP&P again.

**Chair Hall** will look back in the archives and will revisit the path this draft has taken. If no objection, he will leave it on the floor for consideration during this first reading.

**Senator Stillmaker** expressed concern about not providing students with clear guidelines about what is a serious and compelling reason to drop after census date. If it is not clear what constitutes a valid reason to drop a course, some students, who have a valid reason, might not apply.

**Chair Hall** suggested to work on an amendment.

**Senator Stillmaker** responded that it would also be helpful if examples could be provided by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies on the relevant webpage.

**Dean Muscat** took note of this.

**Senator Maldonado** offered that there are examples on p.2 in the redlined APM of what is a serious and compelling reason.

**Yager** shared a link to a slide deck on the new online process in the chat.

**Chair Hall** will make sure this is posted on the Senate webpage as well in preparation for second reading.

**Senator Moreman** expressed concern about confidentiality of documentation that needs to be provided to support a drop request after census date. Is the site through which students have to do this secure?

**Yager** responded that this is submitted through the online student center and documentation is only seen by approvers of the request.

**Senator Moreman** suggested that this needs to be HIPAA approved.

**Chair Hall** added that proposed changes in the APM will result in less eyes on those documents to secure privacy.

*The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15p.m.*

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The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be September 26, 2022.

Submitted by Approved by

Tinneke Van Camp Ray Hall

Vice Chair Chair

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