THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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January 29, 2024

Members present: Raymond Hall (Chair), Amber Crowell (Vice Chair), Jennifer Miele (At-Large), Xuanning Fu (Provost), Aaron Stillmaker (University-wide), Lisa Bryant (At-Large), Susan Schlievert (Statewide), Jim Schmidtke (AVP of Faculty Affairs), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-Large)

Members excused: Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval (President), Karen Carrillo (ASI rep)

Guests: Amanda Saucedo-Torres (Academic Senate/Provost’s Office) Bernadette Muscat (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Nichole Walsh (Chair of AP&P)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hall at 3:01 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

**Chair Hall** moved to put Item 13 as a C&A

*MSC*

1. Approval of the Minutes of 12.04.23.

*MSC*

1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from Provost Fu: Wish faculty and staff a Happy New Year and hope for the best. President is in Long Beach for 3-year review, will return tomorrow. Updates from Academic Affairs: WASC reaccreditation process kicked off. Theme-based reaccreditation proposal submitted in December. Theme is Flagship of the Valley with two sub-themes: nurturing next generation of leaders (student success and growth) and excellence in service and research (University’s strengths outside of education). Revision of themes came from feedback, including feedback from VP of WASC. Confident we will receive formal approval of theme-based reaccreditation proposal. WASC committee made up a plan for 9 subcommittees. Next step will be calls for service, all subcommittees will have faculty representation. Subcommittee chairs will either be administrations or faculty released to work on WASC. This is currently just a proposal. Plan is to complete report by December, review in Spring 2025. Second update is about dean searches. Second search for Dean of Library has begun. Slow start, deadline likely extended to get more applicants. Two new dean searches will start this semester: Dean of CHHS and Dean of DRGS. Continue current structure of having a Dean of DRGS because of financial instability and financial challenges on other campuses that have a VP of Research. Will be consulting with others to decide whether to use search firm for Dean of DRGS, but search for Dean of CHHS will use a search firm.

**Chair Hall** clarified that two WASC subthemes are nurturing next generation of leaders and cultivating service, leadership, and research.

**L. Bryant:** Will the two dean searches start in the fall, or ASAP?

**Provost Fu:** Search committee will take until end of February to set up, search firm will make things take longer. If we are lucky, the searches can start in March. Hope is to start search before faculty go off contract, use summer to receive applications.

**L. Bryant**: There will be faculty interested in going to open forums for Dean of DRGS.

**Provost Fu**: We will not have open forums over the summer.

**Chair Hall**: Call for service for Dean of DRGS will go out ASAP.

Communications from Chair Hall: Faculty call for service for AVP of Development brought in no nominations. We need to send out the call again tomorrow to see if we have responses by next week.

**Action Items**

1. Memo dated November 29, 2023, from Srinivasa Konduru, Chair of the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Transmittal Memo for New Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree in Asian American and Asian Studies. Memo has been received.

Suggestion: Put on consent calendar.

1. Memo dated December 12, 2023, from Srinivasa Konduru, Chair of the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Transmittal Memo for New Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree in Wine Business. Memo has been received.

Suggestion: Put on consent calendar.

**A. Stillmaker**: Is there a difference between this and agribusiness major?

**Chair Hall**: If the dean and curriculum committee of that college determine they need this, we trust their judgment. Senate could pull this on the floor to discuss.

1. Email dated December 18, 2023, from Terrance Tumey, Director of Athletics, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Faculty Appointments to Search Committee – Senior Associate Athletic Director. Email has been received.

Suggestion: Send out call for service.

1. Email dated January 16, 2024, from Diana M. Ralls,

Chief of Staff, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Potential visit from Trustee Larry Adamson will be visiting Fresno State campus on Friday February 23, 2024.Email has been received.

**Chair Hall:** Unavailable that day, but are other members of the EC interested. Will connect interested members with D. Ralls.

Suggestion: S. Schlievert, L. Bryant, R. Raya-Fernandez, and A. Stillmaker volunteer to meet with the trustee.

1. Memo dated January 16, 2024, from Jim Schmidtke, Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs Office to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of Academic Senate re: Transmittal Memo for APM 303 (Policy on Nepotism) needs to be updated to remove the previous Associate Vice President Office of Faculty Affairs to the Current Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs, Jim Schmidtke. Memo has been received.

Suggestions: Make the revision and put on consent calendar, remove from agenda.

1. Email dated January 14, 2024, from Dr. Darlene Yee-Melichar, Faculty Trustee, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of Academic Senate re: Third Faculty Trustee Report. Email has been received.

Chair Hall: Trustee is the only one who is former CSU Faculty.

Suggestions: Information only, EC will review the report.

1. Email dated January 23, 2024, from Reem Osman, Administrative Support Specialist, CSU Office of the Chancellor, to Amanda Sauceda-Torres, Office of the Academic Senate re: January 2024 ASCSU resolutions. Email has been received.

Suggestions: Information only, review resolutions.

H. Email dated January 28,2024 from Dr. Xuanning Fu, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of Academic Senate re: Academic Affairs to launch Dean searches- Dean of College and Health and Human Services & Dean of Research and Graduate Studies this semester. Email has been received.

Suggestions: Call for service for Dean of DRGS.

**Chair Hall**: Chancellor’s office is taking issue with how units are counted when students who have taken dual enrollment enter the CSU. There is a call for task force from statewide senate.

**S. Schlievert**: At ASCSU, strong opinions about whether there should be a single GE pathway or not. Task force is compromise, but chancellor is strongly in favor of single GE pathway. Both arguments will be presented to the board next week.

**Chair Hall**: All CSUs have already approved single GE pathway, but campuses might need regional specific GE. But chancellor wants systemwide identical GE pathway. At least 12 campuses have resolution against it. Some trustees do not even seem familiar with the GE requirements. The EC should note that we may have to revisit our GE again.

**S. Schlievert**: The vote is in March.

**Chair Hall**: A dean missed an RTP deadline, which means according to APM all files must go to UBRT. The APM requires this when there is an absence of recommendation, so do we interpret this scenario as an absence of a recommendation.

**J. Schmidtke**: This has happened for two files before due to confusion with timing during COVID.

**Chair Hall**: It seems like decision should go in favor of faculty, as this is unfair to UBRT and the faculty under review.

**J. Schmidtke**: Want to consult the EC before making a unilateral decision about this.

**Chair Hall**: Proposal would be to accept these as if turned in on time and not interpret these as an absence of recommendation. These faculty shouldn’t have to be scrutinized by UBRT.

**L. Bryant**: What is the date to advance files to UBRT? It seems like the files will be advanced to UBRT before next Senate meeting. Given that this is a tech issue, we should interpret this as there not being an absence of recommendation.

**R. Raya-Fernandez**: Can EC submit a memo clarifying the circumstances for the exception to the APM.

**Chair Hall**: It is in the record of this meeting, and the Provost has communicated with the dean. Memo may not be necessary as a punitive measure.

**R. Raya-Fernandez**: It would be important to document, since it’s 15 faculty.

**Chair Hall**: Since there was not an absence of recommendation but rather a late recommendation due to timestamp, we will interpret it as there not being an absence of recommendation. We do not feel that the faculty should be subjected to another level of review if they were not required to.

*The EC approves allowing the RTP files to go through normal review process*

**Provost Fu**: Thank you for vote to support faculty. The tardiness was due to the dean’s lack of understanding of the firm deadline due to software timestamp. Dean expressed regret and apology. I will work with deans to make sure this does not happen again. Agree that these files do not need to go to UBRT. It will make the process longer and increase UBRT workload.

**Chair Hall** asked **AVP Schmidtke** for clarification on faculty reporting absences. Some campuses do not have reporting systems.

**AVP Schmidtke**: All of the campuses will be required to report. Other campuses have different data collection methods, but Fresno State is relying on self-report.

**J. Miele**: Where does it say we have to report an absence?

**L. Bryant**: It’s in the CBA.

**Vice Chair Crowell**: What is Faculty Affairs doing with the student reports?

**AVP Schmidtke**: We will verify with faculty on Friday if a student reported that class was cancelled.

**Chair Hall**: So if a faculty doesn’t contradict a student report, their pay will be docked? That isn’t relying on self-reporting. What of faculty who were sick?

**AVP Schmidkte**: A doctor’s note is needed.

**L. Bryant**: Do faculty who weren’t teaching on Monday have to report?

**AVP Schmidtke**: Probably not because they didn’t have assigned duties that day.

**L. Bryant**: They don’t get paid for prep time, only class time.

**AVP Schmidtke**: They do, but it hasn’t been resolved. CO is going to get back to us.

**L. Bryant**: Has a cost benefit analysis been done on the man hours required to determine how pay should be docked?

**AVP Schmidtke**: That hasn’t been done.

**L. Bryant**: What do chairs tell part time faculty?

**AVP Schmidtke**: If they had no assigned duties, they don’t report.

1. New Business

*None*

1. Priority Registration – Information item.

Chair Hall: L. Yager is not here, but will be invited to next meeting to discuss this. Will also discuss when we get to APM 406.

1. APM 510 – Research Misconduct (Honor Code) Updates and Revisions. Second Reading.

**N. Walsh**: Reading from O. Vega’s notes. Intention was to focus on research misconduct but also address issues that could hold faculty back. Committee had no issue with A. Stillmaker’s amendment.

**L. Bryant**: Maintaining a list might fall on the department chair. How far in advance should journal be on the list so that faculty know not to submit there? It will be difficult to maintain a list if there are a lot of disciplinary subfields. Maybe maintain a list of acceptable publishers. There should be language about the “pop-up” journals that are predatory.

**J. Miele**: How much do we need to mandate what each department/school should be doing? It’s good to have a definition of deceptive and language that library can give guidance, but don’t know if we want to get specific about what each department should do. Maybe instead allow department to maintain policy or procedure.

**Chair Hall**: Agree that there could be a policy or procedure.

**Vice Chair Crowell**: Sociology has at least 50 subfields, maintaining a list would be impossible. But having a policy or procedure would make it easier.

**A. Stillmaker**: Agree that a policy or procedure makes sense for other disciplines.

*Item C.1.e edited to clarify policies and procedures.*

**Chair Hall**: APM will be sent to AP&P to fix the document.

*Unanimous vote to send APM 510 to Senate.*

1. APM 311 – Policy on Teaching Associates.

**Chair Hall**: Main issue is FAFSA requirement that does not allow tuition waivers for non-resident students. But not requiring FAFSA would reduce revenue from out of state tuition.

**Vice Chair Crowell**: Personnel unsure why this language was added

**L. Bryant**: It was likely when FAFSA rules changed. Can language be added about being eligible to apply for FAFSA?

**Vice Chair Crowell**: This was the recommendation that Personnel got.

**Chair Hall**: AVP Schmidtke, are you aware of any problems with budget related to tuition waivers?

**AVP Schmidtke**: Unaware of any.

**Chair Hall**: Believe it should stay struck. It would be good to hear from ASI President. We will invite D. Low for second reading. We will call this first reading.

1. APM 203 – BA/BS in Interdisciplinary Studies (formerly Special Majors), Updates and Revisions.

**Chair Hall**: This policy means that anything that is not already an approved BA/BS program must be called Interdisciplinary Studies. No more special majors.

**Dean Muscat**: The choice is to either have Interdisciplinary Studies or nothing at all.

**Chair Hall**: Is this new from the CO?

**Dean Muscat**: Not entirely new. We have always had special majors and always indicated that we don’t have program review or SOAP, but this year CO said you cannot have a degree with no program review or SOAP. CO said we could continue doing special majors, but with singular name and with program review and SOAP. Call went out for department chair for IS. It will be housed under undergraduate studies. Have started working with D. Fraleigh about what the SOAP would look like. Spoke to Chairs Council and Deans about this, along with feedback by AP&P.

**Chair Hall:** The name will help with students who need a special major but deparmtnet wants to make it clear that they did not earn a degree in the department’s program.

**Vice Chair Crowell**: The name was a concern for faculty, but it’s also a concern that special majors get created without a determined curriculum.

**Chair Hall**: This is a first reading.

1. APM 505 – Conflict of Interest (Substantive Revisions)

**Chair Hall**: This will be a first reading. We will need N. Walsh to go over edits. Procedure was removed and replaced with URL to procedure. Changes were made to be in compliance with law.

**L. Bryant**: Can we accept formatting changes before this goes to the floor?

**Chair Hall**: We will send committees guidelines on what should be redlined. Formatting changes can be accepted.

1. APM 406 – New Policy Priority and Early Registration.

**Chair Hall**: We need to hear from L. Yager on how this is going. Seems like a good idea to have a committee over this, but EC should also be informed on a regular basis.

1. Faculty Evaluation Storage.

**Chair Hall**: APM says student ratings should be housed with Academic Senate. No more issues with paper copies, but we need somebody with technical knowledge to interface with the student ratings software. We have file cabinets and DVDS with student ratings for faculty who still need their old forms accessed for WPAF. Senate has a responsibility to oversee the data.

Adjourned: 4:55 PM