

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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(EC-5)

October 19, 2015

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Abigail Hudson (ASI), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Madhu Katti (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (State-wide), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), Lynette Zelezny

Members absent: Joseph I. Castro (Ex-officio) and Michael Jenkins (At-large)

Guests: Venita Baker, John Beynon, and James Mullooley

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:08pm in HML 3212

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC removing agenda item #7 (new APM language on preferred names) from the agenda

MSC approving the agenda as amended

2.) Approval of the Minutes of October 12, 2015

MSC approving the Minutes of October 12, 2015

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) Provost Zelezny

Apologized for the message sent on Thursday, October 8, asking faculty to excuse Muslim students from class without clear explanation. She said it was the result of very bad coordination and

steps are being taken in terms of message procedure to make sure it does not happen again.

Vice Chair Holyoke pointed out that the message had been requested by Muslim students in the Saudi Student Association.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted that the message was confusing, suggesting to faculty that they had to excuse students. She also wanted to know if there even was a procedure in the administration for deciding when a potential threat was serious enough to excuse any students. She also noted that we should be concentrating on making students feel safe on campus.

Senator Ram (University-wide) noted that the message should also indicate whether students had been informed and indicate what students had been told.

The provost indicated again that procedures are being carefully checked to stop the problem from happening in the future. The President's Commission on Human Relations and Equity is meeting with students and faculty about the matter.

In other matters, the provost noted that she recently met with faculty and staff from the College of Science and Math about the ongoing dean's search and more information should be coming soon.

WASC is coming this evening and will be on campus for a few days. She thanked all of the students, staff, and faculty involved in getting us ready for WASC.

b.) Senator Kensinger (Statewide Academic Senate)

This Wednesday is the Take Back the Night march, starting at the Free Speech Area.

c.) ASI President Hudson

Asked about Academic Senate oversight of faculty committees at the university. She is in the process of posting committee information on the ASI website. Chair Ayotte provided an overview of the Academic Senate's role in committees at the university.

4.) Executive session

The Senate Executive Committee entered executive session at 3:33pm.

The Senate Executive Committee returned from executive session at 3:38pm.

MSC appointing Bhupinder Singh (Physical Therapy) and Qiao-Hong Chen (Chemistry) to the Grants and Research Advisory Committee.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 3:40pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 3:00pm on Monday, October 26, 2015.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate