

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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October 3, 2016

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Otto Benavides (Statewide Senate), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (At-large), Melanie Ram (University-wide), and Tim Ryan (ASI)

Members excused: Joseph I. Castro (Ex-officio), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), and Lynnette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Guests: Venita Baker, Paul Crosbie (Biology), Melissa Jordine (Assessment Director), Gyanesh Lama (IDEA Liaison), Jim Mullooly (AP&P), and Brandon Sepulvada (ASI VP of Finance)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:07pm in HML 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC adding the approval of the Minutes of August 29, 2016

MSC approving the agenda as amended

2.) Approval of the Minutes of August 29, 2016

Friendly amendment made to the minutes

Approval of the Minutes of August 29, 2016, as amended

Approval of the Minutes of September 19, 2016

MSC approving the Minutes of September 19, 2016

3.) Communications and announcements

a. Chair Ayotte

Noted that he recently had a conversation with CIO Leon, who had chaired the unsuccessful search for a new CFO last summer. When we had called for a faculty member to serve over the summer, we had suggested that there would be financial compensation, under the assumption that we would be appointing a faculty member with a 9-10 month contract. The appointment, however, went to a faculty member from the library who had a twelve month appointment. There is now some dispute over whether this faculty member will receive extra compensation. We need to be more careful about how we phrase this in future calls for summer service.

b. Action items

- i. Email dated September 7, 2016, from Monica Rivera, Personnel Committee member to Thomas Holyoke, Vice Chair Academic Senate re: IDEA Committee Member. Email has been received.

It was decided that this was a moot issue since Dr. Lama has already requested representation on the IDEA task force from the Personnel Committee.

- ii. Email dated September 26, 2016, from Vince Biondo, Chair General Education Committee to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: GE Task Force Election. Email has been received.

There was some confusion after reading the memo as to who is actually going to be on the GE task force, or even whose task force this is. It was decided that we wait until the Provost is present to discuss this item further. Senator Ram (University-wide) also noted that we are still waiting for the Provost to provide us information on what WASC is actually asking for.

- iii. Email dated September 28, 2016, from Tim Ryan, ASI President to Venita Baker, Academic Senate Office re: ASI

Resolution on Grading Deadline Extension. Email has been received.

President Ryan (ASI) discussed the resolution. This came out of a discussion he had with Provost Zelezny and Vice Provost Nef. ASI is concerned about the Academic Senate's request to have the grade due date be 10 business days after the last final exam. They feel this may be harmful to some students and would like to find a compromise. Currently the due date is December 22, six days after the last final exam.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) noted that it used to be the case that the grade due date was well into January. Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) remembered this as well. Senator Kensinger added that the resolution passed by the Academic Senate merely calls for the formation of a task force to work out problems and find the latest date possible without harming students. Chair Ayotte wondered if the potential harm laid out in the ASI resolution might not be all that likely to happen.

President Ryan responded that he was optimistic a solution could be worked out.

4.) APM 215: GE Assessment. Second reading.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) asked for clarification of "artifact," wanting to make it clear that it did not necessarily mean "exam." She also noted that in the past, assessment and the revision of SOAPs have been linked, but this seems less so now. Dr. Jordine responded that data from a department's GE assessment could be made available to that department for purposes of self-evaluation if it wanted. Senator Kensinger also expressed concern over the composition of the GE assessment committee, wondering whether its members would be qualified to assess GE classes in most areas. This was a concern shared by most members of the Senate Executive Committee. Dr. Jordine responded that all members of the committee would have some experience with the area being assessed that year, or would be well trained by faculty with that experience. She also explained that faculty teaching, or having taught, courses in the area of GE to be assessed would be training all members of the assessment committee so they would know how to assess the

materials submitted. Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) expressed serious skepticism about this, noting that he was not qualified to assess anything outside his own specific field of expertise, even when using a rubric created by an expert.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked why any rubric would need to be created that was different from the stated learning outcomes for each GE area. A more specific rubric might have to ask for something other than what the learning outcomes were requiring students to learn. Dr. Jordine noted that some learning outcomes were very broad and this made it hard to assess. Nonetheless, she indicated that the rubric would not diverge from the stated learning outcomes.

Senator Kensinger expressed concern that assessment results might be used in a department's program review, and thus used to further standardize GE courses. She and Chair Ayotte noted that this frequently happens at the university, with faculty being told at one point in time not to worry about standardization, only to find it being forced on them later. Dr. Jordine noted that GE assessment would not be used in program reviews.

President Ryan (ASI) asked how student compliance would be enforced. Was it a graduation requirement? Dr. Jordine said it might appear as a simple "met/unmet" indicator on a DARS. She also noted that the Blackboard Resource Center and eDiscovery would be training students in how to comply with the requirement.

Senator Kensinger asked if students trying to enroll in upper level GE courses might be blocked from registering if all lower level requirements had not yet been met. Perhaps some kind of registration hold might be used.

Vice Chair Holyoke asked for the inclusion of language making it clear that the GE assessment committee could not interfere in how faculty members ran their classes and developed their curriculum. However, he recommended that the proposed policy be referred back to the GE Committee with his suggestion, along with other suggestions. He agreed to compile a list of suggested amendments for the GE Committee from members of the Senate Executive Committee.

MSC approving the re-referral of APM 215 back to the GE Committee with instructions to seriously consider amendments that will be sent to them from the Executive Committee.

5.) APM 303 Policy on Nepotism

This item is postponed until Vice President Astone can be present.

6.) IDEA Task Force Charge

Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) expressed concern over the search for a vendor to provide student ratings, arguing that IDEA had been forced on the university and it does a poor job evaluating what faculty members actually do in the classroom.

Senator Ram (University-wide) argued that the task force should solicit faculty to find out how they feel about IDEA.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) wanted the task force to make sure it selected a vendor that can strictly comply with the requirements on student ratings laid out in APM 322. She also wants the task force to consider the possibility of developing and administering student ratings “in-house” at Fresno State.

Chair Ayotte recommended that Dr. Lama draft a charge for the task force. He will help, and then that draft will be sent to all members of the Senate Executive Committee for review and comment.

MSC approving Dr. Lama’s request to draft a charge for the IDEA task force with Chair Ayotte’s help. The charge will be approved electronically by the Executive Committee.

7.) Electronic Ballots for Accessibility

Chair Mullooly (AP&P) recommended that we use Qualtrics to develop an online ballot system as this was a high quality system that was accessibly to faculty with special needs. Such a system is already being used effectively in the College of Social Science.

It was agreed that he should develop this along with Chair Mower (Nominations and Elections Committee) and staff at the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:58pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, October 17, 2016.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate