

THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
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October 10, 2016

Members excused: N. Akhavan, I. Basurto, B. Buckner, N. Delich, D. Helsel, L. Kensinger, A. McKeith, W. Skuban, J. Therkelsen, G. Thatcher

Members absent: L. Cornelio, T. Elarabi, J. Giglio, M. Jenkins, D. Lewis, M. Raheem

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:05pm in HML 2206.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of September 26, 2016

MSC approving the Minutes of September 26, 2016

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) Provost Zelezny

Noted that the colleges have now received their budgets, which include a bit more than last year in order to make sure that all new faculty salaries are fully and permanently funded. She is also making available an additional \$1 million for the purchase of instructional equipment. Calls for proposals on what to buy will come from the college deans.

Tonight the political historian Doris Kearns Goodwin will be speaking at the Save Mart Center at 6:30. The event is open to the public and is free.

Save the date of November 1, from 12:30 to 2:30. In the North Gym, #118, there will be a forum on free speech and the First Amendment. The event is partially sponsored by ASI and a panel at the event will be moderated by Chair Ayotte.

b.) Senator Raya-Fernandez (University-wide)

Counseling and Psychological Services is hosting a program called Let's Talk. Masters and doctoral level students in counseling will be available at University Courtyard, Sycamore 130, to meet with students who need to talk but do not want to make formal appointments. Students may just drop-in and talk to these counseling students. Serious cases will be referred over to Counseling and Psychological Services.

c.) President Ryan (ASI)

Spoke about the resolution ASI recently passed regarding the grade due date. He feels that ASI and the Academic Senate are not all that far apart on this and need to work together to find a date that works for both faculty and students. Once a date is set that does not harm students in terms of registration, financial aid, and other needs, that date needs to be communicated to students. He will bring copies of the resolution to the next meeting of the Academic Senate.

d.) Chair Ayotte

Talked about the proposed new student union and faculty development center. He noted that the sessions held regarding this proposal last year were not well attended, so he asked individual senators to ask the faculty in their departments what they would like to see in the proposed faculty center. That information should then be emailed to him so it can be passed on to the committee that is working with a consultant on the proposed new building. The faculty center at this point is proposed to be about 10,000 square feet and will be paid for by philanthropic gifts to the university. The student union portion of

the building may be paid, all or partially, by student fees, which students will vote on in the spring.

e.) CIO Leon

Presented the draft strategic plan for the Technology Services division and noted how it was consistent with the larger strategic plan for the university.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) noted that he receives outstanding support service from Technology Services.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) asked whether technology services on the campus is going to become more centralized in the years to come. CIO Leon responded that whatever happens with this division, faculty will be involved in helping to define its direction.

Senator Müller (Biology) noted that the centralizing of technology services has created stress among many IT staff. What is being done to address their concerns? CIO Leon responded that he is trying to provide as many opportunities for feedback from his staff as possible, including having open office hours where staff can come to him with problems, or go to other senior IT staff if they do not feel comfortable coming to him. He also noted that there is an on-line feedback form that IT staff can use to express concerns.

Senator Hall (Physics) asked if faculty could also have access to the online feedback form as it is becoming hard to know whom to contact to resolve technology issues.

Senator Der Mugrdechian (Armenian Studies) noted that most faculty interact with Technology Services through the Help Desk, but this is becoming more difficult. You have to work through a computerized set of menus before you even get to speak to a real person.

4.) Installation of new senators

New senators installed:

Alan Canton

Department of Marketing and Logistics

Sam Lankford
Department of Recreation Administration

Jennifer Miele
Department of Finance and Business Law

Sunantha T. Prime
Department of Information Systems and Decision Sciences

Bhupinder Singh
Department of Physical Therapy

Limor Toren-Immerman
Department of Music

It was also noted that Susan Schlievert (Curriculum & Instruction) was recently elected to be the new statewide senator.

5.) New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

6.) Resolution on creation of an ad hoc task force to study faculty workload reduction. Second reading.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) offered an amendment adding a new “resolved” to the resolution. The motion was seconded.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) spoke in favor of the amendment but also expressed concern that the proposed task force was not large enough, that it would be better if there were members on the task force from all of the colleges.

Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) offered a friendly amendment replacing “unique” with “different.” It was accepted.

Senator Fulop (Linguistics) noted that just teaching at Fresno State is a full time job and that the real question here is how to fairly manage research with a 12 WTU teaching load.

Senator Gilewicz (English) argued that this amendment will push the proposed task force to more explicitly consider varying teaching loads and conditions across the campus.

Senator Maldonado expressed concern about the task force being able to come up with any general recommendation since there is so much variation in faculty workloads. Senator Forgacs (Mathematics) agreed, but felt that the amendment offered here would push the task force to systematically examine these differences across the campus.

Chair Ayotte suggested that language requiring the task force to “collect broad input” should be put into the resolution somewhere to get a better sense from the whole campus community about the workload problem.

Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology) noted that lecturers have different research requirements, or none at all. Senator Fulop noted that the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) actually says that full time lecturers have research requirements, but this requirement is intentionally ignored.

Senator Botwin offered a friendly amendment adding “scholarship and creative activities” after “research” in the amendment. Senator Ram (University-wide) then added “service” to the same sentence.

Senator Henson (English) argued that there should be a new resolved earlier in the resolution requiring the task force to collect information on research, scholarship, and creative activities from the different colleges. Senator Fulop felt it should remain in the proposed new “resolved”.

Senator Alexandrou noted that “advising” is part of “service” and so should be removed from the amendment as long as “service” remains. Chair Ayotte said that advising actually falls under “teaching” in the CBA.

Senator Botwin’s amendment was passed as amended.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) argued that the last resolved was wrong to direct the Senate Executive Committee to figure out what to do after the resolution is passed since this is

not that committee's role. He moved to strike this last resolve. The motion as seconded.

Senator Mullooly (Anthropology) moved to amend the last resolved by merely striking all words after "Senate at large" to require the Academic Senate to decide what to do with this resolution (once passed) rather than refer it to the executive committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

Senator William's motion to strike all of the last "resolved" was voted on and failed.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:16pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on October 24, 2016.

Submitted by
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate