

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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August 29, 2016

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Otto Benavides (Statewide Senate), Joseph I. Castro (Ex-officio), Loretta Kensinger (At-large), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), Tim Ryan (ASI), and Lynnette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Members excused: Michael Jenkins (At-large)

Guests: Deborah Adishian-Astone (VP of Administration), Venita Baker, Vincent Biondo (GE Committee), Xuanning Fu (Undergraduate Affairs), Robert Guinn (Technology Services), Orlando Leon (CIO), and James Mullooly (AP&P Committee)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:08pm in HML 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of May 9, 2016

MSC approving the Minutes of May 9, 2016

Approval of the Minutes of July 28, 2016

A friendly amendment was offered

MSC approving the Minutes of July 28, 2016, as amended

3.) Communications and announcements

a. Introductions of committee members and guests

b. President Castro

Announced that *Washington Monthly's* ranking of the best universities in the nation overall has ranked Fresno State at 25, a major jump up from last year.

The search for a new Chief Financial Officer ended without an offer being made. There will be a new search at some time in the future, but in the meantime he will make a decision regarding an interim appointment.

Noted author Doris Kearns Goodwin will be speaking on the campus on October 10. He wants to involve the Academic Senate in promoting the event. The event will be in the Save Mart Center and is free to the public.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) asked for more information regarding the ranking in *Washington Monthly*, in particular she wanted to know why this ranking is better than the ranking of *U.S. News and World Report*. The latter focuses mostly on standardized test scores and institution reputation, but the former's ranking takes into account student service learning, tuition, and student mobility, which are our strengths.

c. Provost Zelezny

Provided copies of *Mindset* by Carol Dweck to the Senate Executive Committee, noting that the academic leadership team read this book over the summer.

This year there will be a search for a new Dean of the College of Science and Math with an appointment hopefully made by the end of this semester.

There will also be a search for a new Associate Vice President for Water and Sustainability, which follows a recommendation made by the President's Task Force on Water.

There will also be searches for a new Director of the Lyles Center for Entrepreneurship and for a new Director of International Student Service Programs (which used to be an AVP position).

There will be a search for a new AVP of Faculty Affairs in the spring semester. The Provost would also like to offer an additional interim year to Scott Moore, the Interim Dean of Continuing and Global Education.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked for clarification about the change in title for the Director of International Student Service Programs. The Provost felt the AVP level was no longer necessary and did not want to increase the total number of AVPs. She also noted that the new AVP for Water and Sustainability has money already earmarked for it.

The Provost shared a draft strategic plan for Academic Affairs. Senator Kensinger (At-large) expressed concern over the second item which is a proposed task force to review our General Education program. Senator Kensinger expressed concern that this was apparently being driven by WASC but so far faculty could not find any mention of GE reform in the WASC documents, just a request to improve GE assessment. The Provost indicated that WASC felt our GE program was “unruly” and needed to be looked at carefully.

Vice Chair Holyoke expressed concern that the task force was being chaired by associate deans when GE is primarily an issue of curriculum and therefore ought to be under the control of the faculty. He also noted that opening up GE might lead to a really contentious fight because one college’s benefit often comes at the expense of other colleges. The Provost suggested that GE Committee Chair Biondo could serve as a co-chair and that faculty would be on the task force. She also indicated that the final decision on changes to the curriculum would remain under faculty control since the Academic Senate would have to approve it. Senator Kensinger wondered if every college should have a representative on the task force.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked if we could see the documents where WASC expressed concern about our GE program

and asked that it be looked at. The Provost said she would look into it.

Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) noted that in general the Academic Affairs strategic plan does not draw any connection between teaching / curriculum and facilities, noting that many classrooms have severe technical problems with their electronic equipment. The Provost said she would keep that in mind.

Senator Ram asked for clarification as to what the purpose of goal #1 was and felt that it did not align well with all of the explanation given for it in the rest of the document. Specifically, goal #1 emphasized student community service and study abroad, but the rest of the language suggested something more general. The Provost agreed and promised to modify that part of the document.

d. Other items

Vice Chair Holyoke noted that inquiries had been made as to whether full time lecturers could serve as Statewide Senator. The Statewide Senate rules do not forbid it, and he did not see anything in our own constitution and APM that forbade it. Senators Benavides and Kensinger noted that senators from other CSU campuses are lecturers, though each campus gets to decide for itself whether lecturers can serve. It was agreed that since full time lecturers are part of the Academic Assembly, they can run for the position of Statewide Senator.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked if the Office of Faculty Affairs will be posting deadlines for applying for promotion any time soon. The Provost said she will be meeting with AVP Sanchez tomorrow and will discuss this with him.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) expressed concerns she and others have with the new change of major form. Specifically, she was concerned that all changes of major now required the approval of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and that faculty must now count up the number of course units students have taken, need to take, as well as the student's cumulative GPA. This is time consuming and often the information cannot be easily found. She was also concerned that the form was changed without any kind of

consultation. Dean Fu explained that his signature was only needed if the change of major meant the student would need to exceed 144 credit units. He also thought that information on credit hours taken and needed, and GPA, would be handled by advisors in the advising centers. Senator Kensinger expressed concern over the 144 credit cap, noting that it dissuaded students from double-majoring, and made it hard for students to switch majors if they found a more inspiring subject.

e. Action items

- i. Email dated May 6, 2016, from Debbie Adishian-Astone, Vice President for Administration, to Dr. Kevin Ayotte, Academic Senate Chair re: APM 303 Policy on Nepotism. Email has been received.

This will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Senate Executive Committee. Chair Ayotte wants to discuss it in terms of the larger relationship between administrative policies and the Academic Policy Manual.

- ii. Email dated May 18, 2016, from Diana M. Ralls, Chief of Staff, to Kevin J. Ayotte, Academic Senate Chair and Thomas Holyoke, Academic Senate Vice Chair re: Executive Order 1104 – Campus Reporting of Fiscal Improprieties. Email has been received.

This will be on the next agenda of the Senate Executive Committee.

- iii. Email dated June 2, 2016, from Kathleen Scott, Director of Administrative Operations and Organizational Excellence, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: B-54 Interim Policy on Financial Accountability and Control. Email has been received.

This will be on the next agenda of the Senate Executive Committee.

- iv. Memo dated August 16, 2016, from Joseph I. Castro, President to: Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re:

Faculty Appointment to the University Student Union Board of Directors. Memo has been received.

A call for service will be sent.

- v. Email dated August 12, 2016, from Debbie Adishian-Astone, Vice President for Administration, to Dr. Kevin Ayotte, Academic Senate Chair re: Manager of Transportation and Parking Services. Email has been received.

Vice President Astone noted that when Tom Gaffney recently resigned as manager that she considered changing the position so that the manager would report to her rather than to Police Chief Huerta, which would require a change in the hiring procedure under APM 320. She has since changed her mind and the manager will continue to report to Chief Huerta.

- vi. Email dated August 9, 2016, from Debbie Adishian-Astone, Executive Director California State University, Fresno Association, Inc., to Dr. Kevin Ayotte, Academic Senate Chair re: Academic Senate Appointment – Food Service Advisory Committee. Email has been received.

A call for service will be sent.

4.) New APM Policy on Preferred Names. Second reading.

AP&P Chair Mullooly, Vice President Astone, and Robert Guinn (Technology Services) summarized the proposed new policy and all of the actions that were taken over the summer to make it possible, including the synchronizing of various services across campus so a name change can be done quickly and simply. Chair Ayotte noted that this policy essentially approves work already being done.

Senator Raya-Fernandez (At-large) asked what happens to consistency in a student's records when they change their name while they are here, such as half way through their degree program. Since students are identified by their ID number and last name, and these do not change, this should not be a problem.

AP&P Chair Mullooly noted that while some students might abuse this by changing their names to something obscene, this would be caught and the student asked to reconsider by Dean Coons in Student Affairs.

Vice Chair Holyoke expressed several concerns about the language in the policy, especially the last sentence in the first paragraph which identifies particular groups this policy is specifically intended to help. Senator Ram (University-wide) agreed and noted some other inconsistent or redundant language in the document. Chair Ayotte and Senator Kensinger (At-large) felt the language identifying specific groups was needed because it needs to be clear that we are dealing with a serious discrimination problem.

MSC deleting “diverse and affirming” from the second sentence of the third paragraph (Kensinger abstaining).

MSC deleting the sentence “The university will recognize an individual’s preferred name wherever a legal name is not necessary” from the third paragraph.

MSC amend the second sentence of the second paragraph by changing “importantly” to “important” and changing “take on an Anglicized” to “change their”.

MSC amending point 1 under sub-section A by changing “Fresno State University” to “California State University, Fresno.”

There was more discussion over whether to change the last sentence of the first paragraph.

MSC approving the policy for inclusion on the agenda of the Academic Senate.

5.) Amendment to GE Policies, Upper Division GE. First reading.

GE Committee Chair Biondo introduced the proposal.

Vice Chair Holyoke asked if faculty in the colleges seeking to double count upper division GE courses were qualified to teach them.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) noted that the Craig School is now in violation of its exemption from the M/I requirement because it has failed to show any assessment of its replacement course. She also argued that the double counting of courses for a major and for GE did not make sense because the whole point of GE is to get students to take many courses outside of their departments.

Senator Ram (University-wide) noted that many majors already have exemptions from upper level GE. We need to know more about the existing exemptions, as well as the upper level GE bottleneck courses since the GE Committee suggested this was part of the reason the double counting was needed as a solution.

Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies) noted that in 2013 the Chancellor's Office began pushing all campuses to make it possible for students to graduate with 120 units. For majors requiring more than 60 units, the inability to double count GE courses left them in a bind. Chair Ayotte noted that some majors have accreditation reasons why they have to take so many units, but felt that most of these majors already have exemptions so any additional change made now would only affect a very small number of students. He expressed concern that double counting courses like this, as well as the exemptions, under-cut the whole purpose of GE in a liberal arts university. If there is a bottleneck problem, then he argued that the solution was to hire more faculty to teach more upper-level GE courses.

This will return to the next agenda of the Senate Executive Committee.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 5:03pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, September 19, 2016.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate