

THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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April 2, 2018

Members excused: D. Cady, J. Miele, J. Mullooly, M. Ram, T. Wilson, C. Yun

Members absent: P. Adams, N. Akhavan, M. Golden, D. Lewis, P.L. Martinez (ASI), K. Mcbee, B. Ong, M. Raheem, E. Waldman

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:03pm in HML 2206.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of March 19, 2018

MSC approving the Minutes of March 19, 2018 as amended, with 1 abstention

3.) Communications and announcements

Chair Holyoke

Announced that President Castro has signed the new university constitution, which changes the terms of the chair and vice chair to 2 years among other modifications

Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies)

Announced that there are still spots available for faculty to travel to Sacramento to lobby for additional funding to the CSU in the coming days.

Markel Quarles (Office of the President)

Announced the upcoming Student Success Summit and encouraged all senators to attend.

Senator Sullivan (Sociology)

Announced the upcoming Asia in Fresno: A Symposium on Campus & Community Partnerships event and encouraged all senators to attend.

4.) New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

5.) Budget update

President Castro introduced the presentation. The governor's current budget is more than \$100 million below the CSU's request. President Castro will be visiting Sacramento to testify before the Assembly Budget Committee in the coming days to advocate for revisions to the proposed budget. Faculty compensation and infrastructure expenses have been particularly rising in recent years. These growing benefits and infrastructure costs will be particularly challenging areas in years to come.

Vice President Astone was introduced and showed a number of slides related to the updated budget situation. Approximately 75% of the current budget is currently going to salaries and benefits. In 2017-2018, \$3.4 million was received as part of Graduate Initiative 2025 and this money was split between Academic and Student Affairs. Benefit costs are estimated about more than \$78 million for the 2017-2018 academic year. In 2017-2018, \$10 million has been spent for building modernization among other projects.

Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) asked how much of these building costs could be reduced in the coming year. Vice President Astone stated that most of the projects could not be deferred because the money has come from specific funding sources that are tied to the projects themselves.

Vice President Astone presented slides demonstrating that the governor's proposed budget is approximately \$171 million below the CSU's request. Options to increase the CSU's revenue include public-private partnerships and increasing philanthropic donations to the CSU system. Expenditure options include deferring hiring for faculty and support staff, adjusting institutional financial aid and foregoing budget investment in the

Graduation Initiative. Longer-term strategies could include adjustment to retirement packages and other reductions in long-term expenditures. A 1% reduction would mean reducing the budget by roughly \$2.891 million, a 2% reduction \$5.7 million and 3% cuts would be \$8.6 million.

Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) asked whether the line-item allocation for Executive denotes the President's Office. Vice President Astone confirmed that this is the case. The Senator asked for clarification as to what Advancement does within the context of the university. Vice President Astone answered that this includes Development, University Communication and other related offices.

Vice President Astone showed a slide breaking out the 2017-18 Level A budget allocation totaling \$131 million. Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) asked about the expenditure denoted for Gender Equity and Dues. Vice President Astone answered that this expenditure is related to Title IX compliance in Athletics.

President Castro stated that it is hoped that when the new central plant comes online, the current line item expenditure of \$7.3 million for energy costs will be reduced.

Chair Holyoke asked whether it would be possible to add solar panels to existing parking lots to further reduce energy costs. Vice President Astone answered that the administration is examining this option, but the payback can be slow on solar investment.

Senator Karr (Music) asked whether recent salary increases included in the collective bargaining agreement might be affected by the numbers presented. Vice President Astone stated that the increases would be funded, but there would have to be other budget reductions to cover them.

Chair Holyoke asked what the timeline for critical decision making will be if the governor does not revise the budget in May. President Castro stated that the process has already begun and further information is expected that will allow more precise planning to take place. Chair Holyoke asked if searches might be cancelled as the result. President Castro stated that this option is under consideration.

Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology) asked how Auxiliaries and the Foundation might be affected by the budget situation. Vice President Astone stated that they would not be affected because there is no state

allocation given to them. However, Foundation or Auxiliary funds might be considered to help shore up certain areas of the budget.

Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) asked how the CSU system is talking about distributing the cuts that may be on the way, or whether the cuts would simply be shared equally across the board. Vice President Astone stated that the reduction is currently set at 1% across the entire system, allocated proportionally based on the percent of the budget each campus receives. Fresno State receives roughly 4% of the overall CSU budget, and will therefore take 4% of the overall 1% cut. President Castro added that CSU presidents are discussing this issue further

Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) asked what President Castro expects to tell the Legislature during his upcoming testimony in Sacramento. President Castro stated that he will be discussing how the cuts impact the campus specifically in the area of the Graduation Initiative, along with other aspects of the cuts that require ongoing investment rather than one-time money.

Senator Karr (Music) asked about the specific cuts or changes being discussed might affect retirement and health care. Vice President Astone stated that there may be informative comparisons being made with the UC and other systems, but there are no specifics about possible action available at this time.

Chair Holyoke asked whether reductions to costs associated with Athletics might be an option. President Castro stated that he hoped private giving might be increased from the current level of \$4-6 million a year to cover the costs associated with Athletics.

Senator Dangi (Geography and City and Regional Planning) asked whether there would be continued discussions with the Senate about possible reductions. In addition, the Senator asked whether it might also be possible to obtain non-state sources of funding for infrastructure and other projects. The President stated that consultation would certainly continue, and that the campus is exploring options for potential sources of non-state money already and will continue to do so.

Senator Tawfik (Civil & Geomatics Engineering) asked about the reduction in the operating budget from 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. Vice President Astone stated that some of the money from the operating budget had been moved to salaries and benefits, but did not have specifics on the reduction.

In concluding remarks, Chair Holyoke encouraged senators to contact their state legislators to ask for a larger budget allocation.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:09pm. The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on Monday, April 16, 2018.

Submitted by
Bradley Hart
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by
Thomas Holyoke
Chair
Academic Senate