

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
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(AS-8)

February 6, 2012 (AMENDED)

Members Excused: K. Ayotte, L. Hauser, M. Lowe, D. Steele, M. Vungkhanching

Members Absent: D. Austin, K. Balint, V. Biondo, A. Dinscore, S. Farnesi (Student), D. Harshavardhan, T. Johnson, S. Lin, R. Rai, S. Reeves, N. Spiro, C. Won, D. Zhang

A special meeting of the Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Caldwell at 4:05 p.m. in the Satellite Student Union.

1. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda.
2. Approval. MSC to approve the Minutes of 1/30/12.
3. Communications and Announcements.
  - A. President Welty gave an update on the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 budgets. A \$100 million State budget reduction is expected for the CSU for 2012-2013 which would lead to a \$5.5 million reduction for California State University, Fresno. President Welty also disclosed that if the State tax initiative does not pass in November, an immediate \$200 million cut to the CSU is anticipated where \$10+ million is expected for the Fresno State 2013-2014 budget.
4. Revised Recommendations by the Academic Affairs Budget Advisory Task Force (AABATF) Discussion.

A lengthy discussion of the AABATF revised recommendations was held. The following is a summary of the main questions and comments regarding the document.

University-wide Senator T. Holyoke began the discussion with a reminder of APM 113 (Policy on Academic Organization) and 114 (Policy on Faculty Consultation and Voting).

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Senator S. Fulop (Linguistics) asked the purpose of this special meeting to discuss the AABATF revised recommendations.

Chair Caldwell replied the purpose of this special meeting is to ask questions and make comments regarding the task force's recommendations.

Senator Fulop responded he was surprised by the 2,000 WTU of unreimbursed assigned time and supported the recommendation to consider examination of this practice.

Senator C. Henson (English) asked if the AABATF members were present and why the task force only considered cuts at or below the college level. Dr. D. Nef, Co-chair of AABATF, responded that was the task force's charge. Six members of the task force were present and stood to signify their presence (D. Nef, M. Caldwell, D. Lewis, R. Zechman, R. Harper and M. Zoghi).

Senator Henson asked if the task force was given access to the entire university budget. Dr. Nef replied no, the task force was tasked with examining only the Academic Affairs budget.

L. Alexander asked if the task force considered the carry forward funds? Dr. Nef restated the task force's charge was to examine the base-budget.

A discussion regarding carry forward funds continued. Provost Covino described how budget line items received a 10% cut and how carry forward funds grew during the time of fiscal health. Carry forward funds were described as "one-time monies" to assist in areas in need of support. Provost Covino also identified a \$5.5 million carry forward that is reserved for student research and scholarship, funding faculty research and creative activities, and the Jordan College of Agriculture Science and Technology (JCAST).

Senators and visitors were reminded of the Provost Forum, February 16, 2012, 11:00 am, Satellite Student Union.

Senator L. Williams (Agriculture Economics) asked what is the total budget for Academic Affairs? Provost Covino replied it is \$78 million for the 2012-2013 academic year.

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Several senators expressed concern that there was a 10% budget cut but a \$5 million carry forward remains. A recommendation to look more broadly than the Academic Affairs budget should be considered.

Statewide Senator J. Amaral questioned that task force's ability to make recommendation without really knowing the recurring costs. Dr. Nef replied that the largest recurring costs are personnel and equipment.

Questions regarding high failure rate courses were asked. Dr. Nef replied that data regarding high failure rate courses has been available and explained how course redesign that reduces student failure rate can produce significant cost savings.

Questions regarding the task force's original recommendations to review undergraduate options with fewer than 160 majors and graduate options with fewer than 50 majors were asked. Chair Caldwell responded that the task force's revised recommendations states that all options should be reviewed according to the criteria identified in the document.

Senator L. Clune (History) questioned the task force's recommendation to relocate the Department of Economics to the Craig School of Business and voiced opposition to the move.

Dr. K. Forbes (Women's Studies) voiced concern for the task force's misconceptions regarding how the cost of majors is calculated, particularly for small programs such as Women's Studies. Chair Caldwell asked Dr. Forbes to identify the misconceptions. Dr. Forbes replied that many small majors are cost effective because most of their curriculum is in General Education.

Senator M. Ram (Political Science) asked whether the task force had an addendum of the *numbers* to include with its recommendations. Dr. Nef replied that there is no such addendum.

Senator H. Chapman (Modern & Classical Languages & Literature) asked which deans' offices might be merged and how much would be saved through the mergers. Chair Caldwell replied that this recommendation will be sent to the Academic Policy and Planning (AP&P) committee for review.

Senator H. Schweizer (Criminology) reminded senators and visitors that criticism should be directed to the governor's budget and allocation decisions for the CSU.

Senator J. Slagter (Women's Studies) asked whether the Economics faculty's salaries increase if they move to the Craig School of Business. Dean R. Harper replied that is not likely.

Senator Slagter asked why "potential for employment" is included in the criteria for reviewing degree options. Chair Caldwell replied that the value and vitality of degree options should not be determined using a single criterion. Instead, degree options should be examined using a comprehensive/broad set of criteria; which was the aim of the task force's recommendation.

Senator Chapman asked the task force if they would want to see the budget issues solved in some way other than from the Academic Affairs budget. Dr. Nef replied, "yes" and expanded on his reply.

At this time, no senator asked questions or provided additional comment. Chair Caldwell then opened the floor to visitors to ask questions without having to be recognized by a senator.

Senator Holyoke reminded the Senate that Fresno State is liberal arts university as stated in the University's plan for excellence. Further, all of our programs are capable of providing the skills to make students employable, i.e., to reason, think and write.

Dr. C. Bernthal (English) asked which task force recommendations were not budget driven. Dean Harper replied that everything was budget driven but not solely budget driven and referenced that task force's charge and the University's strategic plan.

Dr. Bernthal wanted to hear more about Biology 10 and other high failure rate courses. Dean Zechman replied that task force identified no other specific courses with high failure rates. Dr. Nef followed that Academic Affairs sends a list of high failure rate courses to the deans.

Dr. Bernthal asked if members of the task force were concerned that the Budget Committee was not involved in the task force. Provost Covino replied that Dr. J. Constable, Chair of the University Budget Committee, was a member of the task force.

Dr. R. Hall (Physics) asked whether the data used by the task force will be available. Chair Caldwell responded that the budget data reviewed by the task force was partially provided by the deans, some who asked that data remained confidential.

Dr. R. Motameni (Chair, Marketing Dept.) commented that in the Craig School of Business, all of the department chairs are aware of the budget and it is transparent.

The Senate adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate will be announced.

An Agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Submitted by:  
Dawn Lewis  
Vice Chair  
Academic Senate

Approved by:  
Michael Caldwell  
Chair  
Academic Senate