

THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
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November 21, 2016

Members excused: M. Giliwicz, D. Helsel, S. Lankford, R. Maldonado, A. McKeith, M. Schettler, G. Thatcher, J. Therkelsen

Members absent: N. Akhavan, B. Buckner, A. Canton, L. Cornelio, J. Giglio, M. Golden, C. Langer, B. Singh, E. Waldman, L. Williams, T. Wilson

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:06pm in HML 2206.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of November 7, 2016

MSC approving the Minutes of November 7, 2016

3.) Communications and announcements

a. President Castro

The Academic Senate sang “Happy Birthday” to President Castro.

He expressed his appreciation for everything faculty and staff are doing to help students deal with the outcome of the recent presidential election. He has experienced student shock and fear himself.

He noted that we have been on a rocky road with the football team and the firing of Coach DeRuyter. Attendance had been falling badly at games and this is hurting the university in terms of

finance. Many athletes are also suffering in their academic work. We still need to pay DeRuyter \$3 million, but as much of that as possible will be done with private money. Private money will also figure prominently in the pay of the new coach. Coach Tedford was hired after an over two hour interview, most of which was about academics rather than about football.

The CSU Board of Trustees has approved an FY2017-18 budget request of \$5.4 billion, which is about \$343 million more than last year. If it is fully funded by the legislature, there will be no student tuition increase. If it is not fully funded, there may be a tuition increase. Still, the state is running a surplus at the moment so it is a good time to ask for more money. New money can support salary increases, benefits, and student success initiatives.

Senator Hall (Physics) asked about the moratorium on the University Testing Center (UTC) because we have not yet heard whether it is going to reopen or stay closed. The faculty of the College of Science and Math used it frequently. If it is going to reopen in the fall of 2017, then we need to be working on getting it ready in the spring. President Castro said he has just received the report of the consultant studying this and would read it over the weekend. He also noted some of the problems students had with UTC. Senator Ram (University-wide) asked if he could release the comments from the student survey because this might help everyone understand what students' concerns were as well as other pros and cons. President Castro agreed to do so.

b. Provost Zelezny

Announced that the search committee for a new Dean of the College of Science and Math has ended with recommendations made to her and she is in negotiations.

She announced that she has been appointed to the CSU-wide task force on tenure-density. She is also pushing the deans to get their hires done successfully.

She noted that she meets with the junior faculty on a regular basis, and that one concern is insufficient office space for meeting

with students. The proposed Faculty Development Center might be able to alleviate this problem with more meeting rooms. She also emphasized that some faculty thought we were choosing to build this Center instead of building classrooms, but these are two separate issues. The Center will be funded with private money, while classrooms are funded with state money. She also wants faculty who are both supportive and opposed to a faculty center to take a field trip with her to see the faculty center at CSU Stanislaus to see the possibilities.

She also thanked faculty for working with students upset about the presidential election.

Senator Sanmartin (Modern and Classical Languages) asked about the grading deadline for this semester. Has anything changed? Vice Provost Nef said that Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies) and President Ryan (ASI) are working with the Registrar on this. A new date might be December 30.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked for clarification as to whether we could not also use private money to build more classrooms or if classrooms could be included in the new student union building. The Provost replied that including classrooms in the Faculty Development Center had not been proposed but is something that could be considered.

Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) noted that there are a lot of searches going on right now and it is a lot of work. Could the administration provide relief, especially in terms of time release? She also noted that searches are becoming very paperwork intensive.

Senator Müller (Biology) noted that this is her fourth year chairing a search committee. It is really hard and the rules are becoming more and more difficult to comply with, and are often absurd. The Provost said she will think about this.

- 4.) New business – There was no new business for the Academic Senate
- 5.) Consent Calendar

- a. Nomination / appointment to the Student Affairs Committee
- b. Department name change request for the proposed Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Sciences.

The consent calendar was approved by unanimous consent

6.) Proposed resolution on multiculturalism and diversity

Vice Chair Holyoke introduced the resolution

Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) moved two amendments. One was a new "Resolved" calling on the administration to resist efforts of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to conduct enforcement on the campus, and the other was a "Resolved" calling on the administration to have a process where requests from federal agents for information on students could be resisted and refused. The motion was seconded.

Senator Fulop (Linguistics) noted that university police have already announced that they will not work with ICE officials, so what else can we ask them to do? Senator Kensinger replied that the symbolism of the Academic Senate calling for the refusal was itself important, and in any case matters could change.

The amendments were approved to the resolution.

MSC approving the resolution unanimously.

7.) APM 215 – GE Policy. First reading.

Dr. Jordine (Director of Assessment) presented the new policy, noting that it had the approval of Chair Biondo (GE Committee) and his committee.

She noted that this is just a change in assessment procedure, not a change to the GE policy itself beyond adding the new Section E on assessment. The proposed new policy would free departments from conducting and reporting on their own GE assessments.

This new approach was in response to concerns from WASC that we have systematic weaknesses in our current GE assessment approach, but she also noted that this approach was not developed by WASC but by faculty, though it will satisfy WASC's concerns.

In the new approach, students will be required to upload their GE assignments to the Pathbright ePortfolio system and a GE assessment committee will randomly select several of them for each area of assessment done that year to review. Faculty are essentially not involved at all unless they are elected to the new GE Assessment Committee, which will be a sub-committee of the GE Committee elected under regular Academic Senate procedures.

Senator Fulop (Linguistics) explained his department's assessment system for their major and Dr. Jordine said the proposed policy would not interfere with it.

Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) noted that student reflections are good learning tools, so why only five over the entire course of their time at Fresno State for GE assessment? Dr. Jordine said that they felt anything more would overburden the students.

The item will return for a second reading.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:16pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on December 5, 2016.

Submitted by
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate