

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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October 17, 2016

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Loretta Kensinger (At-large), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), and Tim Ryan (ASI)

Members excused: Otto Benavides (Statewide Senate), Joseph I. Castro (Ex-officio), Michael Jenkins (At-large), and Lynnette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Guests: Venita Baker, Vince Biondo (GE Chair), and Dennis Nef (Vice Provost)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:07pm in HML 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of October 3, 2016

Friendly amendment made to the minutes

Approval of the Minutes of October 3, 2016, as amended

3.) Communications and announcements

a. Vice Provost Nef

Presented the updated strategic plan for the Division of Academic Affairs based on feedback from the Senate Executive Committee.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) expressed concern about the language defining Goal #2 regarding the apparent need for a “redesign” of

the GE curriculum. She wanted to know if this is what WASC wanted us to do. Vice Provost Nef noted that Fresno State has not revisited its GE curriculum since 1990, even though there have been several CSU Executive Orders regarding GE issued since then. When WASC reviewed us in 2005 they indicated that we needed to start assessing GE courses, which we did. In the last WASC visit they indicated that they felt our GE assessment strategy was unsustainable. Nef did indicate that WASC's documents did not indicate that they wanted us to review anything more than GE assessment. However, he felt that it still needed to be fully looked at since it has been such a long time since it was last reviewed.

Senator Ram (University-wide) noted that there seems to be an assumption in the strategic plan that GE automatically needs to be redesigned. Chair Ayotte felt that the language could perhaps be interpreted as a call to bring greater coherence to the GE program. Vice Chair Holyoke argued that the GE curriculum could be redesigned so that no department or college needed an exemption from the curriculum requirements, though Senator Kensinger noted that this might not be possible given legislative mandates setting caps on the overall number of credits a student can take and the number of credits needed to earn some degrees.

b. Senator Ram (University-wide)

Noted that the Office of Faculty Affairs is providing guidelines on its website to help faculty and administrators review tenure and promotion files based on APM 321 and the Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission. APM 321 and the Report were eliminated from the APM last year and it is inappropriate to review files based on these criteria. Vice Provost Nef said that he would take this concern to the Provost.

c. Senator Kensinger (At-large)

Announced that this Wednesday is Take Back the Night, beginning at the Free Speech Area at 5:00pm.

d. President Ryan (ASI)

Announced that there will be a Freedom of Speech Forum about the First Amendment on November 1 from 12:30 to 2:30. There will be a keynote address by Dr. Tina Botts (Philosophy), an expert on the First Amendment, and a panel moderated by President Ryan and Chair Ayotte.

e. Action items

- i. Memo dated October 10, 2016, from Jody Hironaka-Juteau, Dean, College of Health and Human Services to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: Department name change request. Memo has been received.

This is a request from the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies to change its name to Communicative Sciences and Deaf Studies. Chair Ayotte noted that the Department of Communication was not consulted about the name change, and the name change might create a little confusion regarding the purposes of the two departments. The Communication Department will be having a department meeting in the near future, so Chair Ayotte will email Dr. Steven Skelton, Chair of CDDS, to see if he wants to send a memo to Communication to clarify matters, or if Chair Ayotte himself should bring up the issue for discussion at that department meeting.

- ii. Email dated October 16, 2016, from Paula Castadio, Vice President for University Advancement to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: Faculty Representation on Director of Advancement Operations Search Committee. Email has been received.

A call for service will be sent.

- iii. Nominees for the Athletics Advisory Committee, the Technology Steering Committee, and the University Student Union Board.

These will be handled in executive session.

4.) GE Task Force Election

Vice Provost Nef said that the Provost is requesting the Academic Senate to arrange for faculty representation on the GE Task Force created by the strategic plan of the Division of Academic Affairs.

There was a great deal of discussion about the composition of the task force in terms of faculty representation. The Senate Executive Committee recommended that a call be sent for one faculty member from each college (to be selected by the Executive Committee) under the assumption that Vince Biondo (GE Chair), Loretta Kensinger (Women's Studies), Bernadette Muscat (Associate Dean, COSS), and Honora Chapman (Associate Dean, CAH) will also be appointed to the task force. In the interest of pushing applying faculty members to submit statements of eligibility, the call for service will be amended slightly to say that faculty applicants "should" submit such statements. In addition, the boxes on the petition form indicating whether or not the statement will be submitted will be deleted. Vice Chair Holyoke should clear this Nominations / Elections Committee Chair Mower before sending the call. The call will be sent once the Academic Senate has received a formal request from the Provost.

5.) APM 311 Policy on Teaching Associates. First Reading.

Chair Ayotte explained that the Division of Graduate Studies appears to be adding an additional piece of criteria to qualify for a graduate tuition waiver. Specifically, they want graduate students to be enrolled in 6 units of thesis work to qualify, which could exclude many graduate students. The Executive Committee of the College of Arts and Humanities has requested that Chair Ayotte to speak to Dean Marshall about this.

Furthermore, the CAH Executive Committee believes that the requirement in APM 311 that graduate students applying for a waiver be ineligible for a State University Grant (SUG) will actually disqualify many of the graduate students who need the financial support the most.

MSC referring APM 311 to the Graduate Committee to consider striking VI, 1, d. and VI, 7, d regarding the SUG disqualification.

6.) Exemption from the M/I Requirement

Chair Ayotte explained to Chair Biondo (GE Committee) that the Craig School has had at least two years to provide evidence that their M/I course is providing appropriate instruction for students in compliance with GE policy.

Chair Biondo indicated that this had been a big topic in the GE committee last year, and they felt that the best compromise was to amend GE policy to allow departments to offer their own upper level GE courses that their majors could take for both GE and major credit. Members of the Senate Executive Committee indicated that this was not a change they supported and it really had nothing to do with the Craig School's responsibility to comply with current policy by providing the assessment data or sacrifice their exemption.

Chair Biondo explained that his committee has had a lot of difficulty agreeing on what the M/I requirement means, which makes it hard to decide what to do about policy changes and course approvals. Chair Ayotte indicated that if a department had a problem with requiring too many credits to let students also take all of their GE courses before hitting the unit cap, that department should apply to the Chancellor's Office for an exemption, not try to get their courses double counted.

Chair Biondo indicated that the Craig School may have sent their assessment data to former Chair Crosbie. He will check into it.

7.) Committee nominations

Senate Executive Committee entered executive session at 4:36pm.
Senate Executive Committee returned from executive session at 4:54pm.

MSC approving the appointment of Dr. Jennifer Watson (Educational Leadership) to the Athletics Advisory Council.

MSC approving the appointment of Professor Faith Sidlow (Media, Communication, and Journalism) to the Technology Steering Committee.

MSC approving the appointment of Dr. Serena Johnson (Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies) to the University Student Union Board.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:57pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, October 31, 2016.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate