

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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January 23, 2017

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

Members excused: Joseph Castro (Ex-officio) and Michael Jenkins (At-large)

Guests: Deborah Adishian-Astone (VP of Administrative Services), Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Aaron Birkholz (ISDS), Priscilla Chaffe-Stengel (ISDS), Ojoung Kwon (ISDS), and Sunanthan Prime (ISDS)

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 December 5, 2016

Approval of the Minutes of December 5, 2016

3.) Communications and announcements

a. Provost Zelezny

On February 27 staff from the California Department of Finance will be on campus asking us some possibly tough questions about our 4-year graduation rate. The Provost feels that our best strategy is to talk about our great success stories.

February 28 will be the student success summit and the keynote speaker will be Professor Laura Rendon of the University of Texas, San Antonio, who will talk about putting cultural competence into our pedagogy.

Announced the appointment of Dr. Bernadette Muscat, Associate Dean of the College of Social Science, to also be a special assistant to the Provost responsible for overseeing the restructuring of the Educational Testing Center. Senator Ram (University-wide) asked several questions about the current state of the testing center, who is able to actually use it, and what Dr. Muscat will be doing with it. The Provost explained that Dr. Muscat is essentially restructuring it from the ground up. Chair Ayotte noted that he will be sending out to the faculty the data used by the task force studying the center last year to reach their decision.

The Provost also announced that Dr. Mitzi Lowe, Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, will be overseeing changes in the classification of Unit 11 employees (graduate teaching assistants) as they become hourly employees.

Vice Chair Holyoke asked if these appointments were in addition to the duties of Dr. Muscat and Dr. Lowe as associate deans. Yes, they are. Senator Raya-Fernandez (At-large) asked if they will receive additional compensation. Yes, they will.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) thanked the administration for sending the public announcements that information about students will not be shared with any government agencies coming to campus regarding student immigration status. She then asked how staff in sensitive offices will be trained to deal with government agents who do show up with subpoenas. The Provost indicated that staff in sensitive positions are getting additional training in terms of what can be legally asked for and what can be withheld under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Senator Kensinger also asked if the President had considered the part of the resolution from the College of Social Sciences calling on the campus to allow DACA students to stay in campus housing over break. The Provost said the issue has been discussed and the President will be sending an answer soon to the College.

b. Action Items

1.) Email dated January 14, 2017, from Thomas Holyoke, Vice Chair Academic Senate, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: Comments on Statewide Senate Report on Quantitative Reasoning. Email has been received.

Dr. Chaffe-Stengel and other faculty from the Department of Information Systems and Decision Sciences (ISDS) explained the resolution passed by the Craig School of Business opposing the recommendation by a report of the Statewide Academic Senate that the state no longer require students to complete intermediate algebra. They argued that this is risky because students may be unable to complete college level math courses and thus may be pushed into majors with few or no math requirements (non-STEM majors). She also noted that these students may be barred from graduate level work since graduate exams require intermediate algebra.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) asked whether the state might be doing this because of concerns about graduation and access to the CSU. The Provost felt it might be because relaxing math requirements was being pushed by the federal government as a matter of access and social justice.

The Provost, who had received additional feedback on the report from the Academic Affairs Leadership Team, will combine all of the concerns about the report and run them by the Senate Executive Committee. Once approved she will send the comments on behalf of the University to the Chancellor's Office.

2.) Memo dated November 21, 2016, from Brian Tsukimura, Chair Senate Personnel Committee, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: (APM 114) Policy on Faculty Consultation and Voting and (APM 125) Policy on Department Chairs. Memo has been received.

MSC approving these items for the next agenda of the Academic Senate (1 nay vote).

3.) Email dated January 18, 2017, from Kim Cubre, Assistant to the VP for University Advancement, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: AVP Development / University Advancement Search. Email has been received.

A call for service to full time tenured faculty will be sent.

4.) Memo dated January 21, 2016, from Orlando Leon, Chief Information Officer, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: Faculty representation for the Deputy CIO search. Memo has been received.

A call for service to full time tenured faculty will be sent.

5.) Nominees received for faculty representation on the search committee for the AVP of International Affairs and AVP for Water and Sustainability.

These nominations will be handled in executive session.

4.) APM 320 – Policy on Administrative Appointments. First reading.

Vice President Astone introduced the heavily revised policy, explaining the deletions and changes. Much of the old language had been deleted to streamline the policy's procedures. MPP titles had also been updated and clarity provided regarding lines of authority

Since much of the material in the old policy had been removed because it is also in the human resources hiring guide, President Ryan (ASI) asked if that guide should be referenced in the policy. It currently is not. Vice President Astone said it would be.

Vice Chair Holyoke expressed concern over so much material being deleted, noting that even language in the old policy that was duplicative of the hiring manual was worth keeping because it was a statement of policy and values and could not be as easily changed as the hiring manual. Others agreed and it was generally agreed that material on the responsibilities of search committees, the role of the EEO, the need for full search committees to approve vacancy announcements, and the

importance of a diverse pool of candidates would be kept in some form as VP Astone writes a new draft of the policy.

Chair Ayotte requested more explicit language that it is the Senate Executive Committee that will select faculty to serve on committees rather than the full Academic Senate.

Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) argued that FERPing faculty be allowed to serve. Since nobody was sure why they were forbidden, Chair Ayotte looked through the Collective Bargaining Agreement and other policies for an explanation. No explanation was found, so it was agreed that FERPing faculty could participate, though concern was expressed about too many FERPers serving on a committee to hire somebody they would not have to serve under.

Vice Chair Holyoke expressed concern about changes in the way staff are appointed to search committees, presidential appointments rather than the old random selection approach. VP Astone and the Provost both noted that the random selection approach rarely worked. Senator Kensinger (At-large) suggested that staff who are to serve under the to-be-hired MPP should get priority when appointments are considered to a hiring committee.

Senator Ram (University-wide) expressed concern about the President's and the Provost's authority to appoint additional people to committees, which had at times been interpreted to mean appointing faculty outside of Executive Committee control and who might not otherwise meet qualifications for search committees. A wide-ranging debate started on this subject, ending with a general agreement that in the section on the general requirements of search committees it will be made clear that only the Executive Committee can appoint faculty and all faculty on a search committee must meet the full time tenured requirement. However, language regarding exceptions with the approval of the Executive Committee would also be placed in the policy.

Chair Ayotte also expressed concern about faculty on AVP search committees in Academic Affairs needing to be full professors because this made it harder to recruit faculty to serve. It was generally agreed that full time tenured faculty of both full and associate levels should be eligible for all AVP searches except, perhaps, the search for the AVP of Faculty Affairs.

Senator Kensinger expressed concern about the President's power to generally expand the size of search committees by appointing additional people, which might mean presidential appointees could out-vote faculty and staff.

VP Astone agreed to rework the language and come back to the Senate Executive Committee in the future with a new draft taking all of these concerns and recommendations into account.

5.) Nominations for AVP search committees

The Senate Executive Committee entered executive session at 5:06pm
The Senate Executive Committee returned from executive session at 5:12pm

MSC appointing Vang Vang (Library) to the search committee for the AVP of International Affairs.

MSC appointing Thomas Holyoke (Political Science) and William Wright (Civil and Geomatics Engineering) to the search committee for the AVP of Water and Sustainability.

Vice Chair Holyoke and Senator Ram were not present for these votes.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 5:15pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, February 6, 2017.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate