

THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
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(AS-4)

October 24, 2016

Members excused: N. Akhavan, I. Basurto, L. Bryant, P. Garcia, A. McKeith, J. Mullooly

Members absent: B. Buckner, A. Canton, L. Cornelio, B. Dermugrdechian, T. Elarabi, S. Fulop, J. Giglio, D. Lewis

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:05pm in HML 2206.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of October 10, 2016

A friendly amendment was adopted

MSC approving the Minutes of October 10, 2016, as amended

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) Provost Zelezny

Noted that the President's Cabinet and the Academic Affairs Leadership Team recently attended a day-long training session with the National Coalition Building Institute to learn better ways to deal with diversity and sensitivity.

Invited everyone to the First Amendment forum on November 1 from 12:30 to 2:30. Bring your classes.

Handed out a draft of the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. She noted that it emphasizes course access for students, as well as opportunities to conduct research and study abroad. Noted that the GE task force will have many faculty on it in addition to Loretta Kensinger (Women's Studies) and Melissa Jordine (History).

Senator Forgacs (Mathematics) noticed that there were no "themes" indicated for Goal #3 related to research. He argued that we need to figure out where we want to go as a university in terms of research. The Provost indicated that she was open to including language here about future directions in research.

Vice Chair Holyoke asked about the \$3.1 million cost of buying out the contract of football coach DeRuyter, expressing hope that no state money will be used for this. Chair Ayotte noted that he has spoken to President Castro about this and the president suggested that there are contingency funds that could perhaps be used.

Senator Müller (Biology) expressed concern about Goal #3 in the strategic plan where it talks about rewarding faculty "participation" in bringing in grant money. She argued that faculty earn this money through their hard work, far more than mere participation. She further noted that the strategic plan was too student-focused and not supportive of research-oriented faculty.

Senator Wakabayashi (Earth and Environmental Science) noted that research awards brought in by faculty have direct and indirect benefits for the university, including providing opportunities for students to engage in research. He also felt that it would be better to measure faculty research in terms of product, like published articles, rather than inputs like grants. Senator Ram (University-wide) felt that a focus on grants was biased towards faculty in the natural sciences where there was grant money to be had.

Senator Durette (Art and Design) asked if the task forces being formed by the strategic plan will be creating the metrics used to assess whether the goals have been met, and, if so, faculty concerns should be directed towards them. Senator Ram added that the task forces should be made aware that the language here does not strictly bind them. The Provost agreed.

b.) Senator Otto Benavides (Statewide Senate)

Noted that he had been appointed by the Statewide Senate to represent them at a recent meeting of the California State Student Association. At that meeting the students discussed a letter from the Chancellor suggesting there might be a tuition increase in the fall semester of 2017. The CSSA sent a letter back to the Chancellor opposing this. He also noted that some students are concerned that the tuition increase was proposed to offset the cost of recent faculty salary increases, and these students want us to know that they support our raises even though they oppose tuition increases.

He also noted that he has been appointed to a statewide task force on intellectual property.

c.) Senator Williams (Agricultural Business)

Offered praise for Coach DeRuyter, noting that he did his best and this is a difficult time for him and his staff. Vice Chair Holyoke indicated that his criticism was not about the coach, but about state money being used to heavily subsidize the athletics program when there were classroom and faculty needs.

Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) asked that Chair Ayotte convey to President Castro our concern regarding the use of state money for paying off the coach's contract. Chair Ayotte said the message would be delivered.

d.) Christine Miller (Chair, Statewide Senate)

She is visiting all of the campus senates. She noted that many serve food at senate meetings.

The statewide executive committee has three priorities this year:

- 1.) Push for more shared governance
- 2.) Faculty advocacy
- 3.) Improve statewide senate relations with campus senates

She noted that she represents CSU faculty at national and international conferences, and at a recent one she read a report by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* on shared governance titled “Shared Governance: Is ‘OK’ Good Enough?” The report emphasizes the benefits of divided power from shared governance, and the benefits of many different opinions in developing strategy, but wonders if “ok” really is good enough for us. We really need “audacious goals” for better promoting shared governance in the CSU system.

She described several conversations at the statewide level over quantitative reasoning for students and general education. She noted that all campuses are currently being required to survey their GE programs and send that information to the CSU Executive Vice Chancellor so we can know more about how GE works on all campuses. The statewide senate is also working on intellectual property and academic freedom issues. She also expressed her concern about unreasonable, impractical four-year graduation goals.

Vice Chair Holyoke expressed concern about too much policy being made at the system level that usurped the authority of individual campuses and academic senates.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) noted that this is the first time that he could remember a statewide senate chair coming to Fresno State. Then he noted that problems with tenure density is hurting shared governance because we do not have enough people to staff committees. Dr. Miller noted that the system has a task force on this, which Provost Zelezny is on. Senator Botwin also argued that we need to embrace the idea of having part-time students who work full time. Otherwise they end up at for-profit colleges.

Senator Müller (Biology) said that she believes there is empirical evidence that faculty engagement in shared governance is highly motivating, and that compensates for the extra work of service.

Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) expressed her appreciation of Dr. Miller’s “reframing” of graduation rates, noting that students need time to explore their interests as they find a major, and even consider double majors.

4.) New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

- 5.) Resolution on creation of an ad hoc task force to study faculty workload reduction. Second reading.

Senator Henson (English) felt that the first “Resolved” gives the task force a lot of flexibility to explore many workload issues. We should pass it now so that it can coordinate its work with the Academic Affairs task forces.

Senator Forgacs (Mathematics) moved an amendment offering a new “Resolved” emphasizing research as something the task force should explore. It was seconded. Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) expressed concern that the amendment emphasized research over teaching and service. She fears this might push the university to offer more course releases to research faculty and push off more students on everyone else. Senator Forgacs responded that research is not even in the APM, while teaching and service are, so this is more about parity. Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) agreed that research is the issue that needs to be examined more than teaching and service, and is not being fairly considered in faculty workload formulas.

Senator Müller (Biology) asked if the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) actually requires research. If so, then it should be recognized in the APM because it is a high impact practice on teaching.

Senator Gilewicz (English) wondered if we should explain in the proposed “Resolved” why we need to highlight research. It is not in our governing documents, and the task force should be aware of that.

Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology) also noted that research is not in the APM, and if we do put it in there it may also need to be formally evaluated in some manner. He also noted that research grants to provide faculty some compensation in terms of workload because classes can be bought out. Vice Chair Holyoke noted that many faculty do research in areas where there are no grants to buy out time.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked for an explanation of the last sentence of the proposed “Resolved” which aligns research with

the university's strategic goals. Senator Forgacs explained that this helps us think about research in terms of where we want to go as a university.

Senator Botwin wondered about the practicality of asking the task force to take on the new responsibility in the proposed new "Resolved."

The amendment adding the proposed "Resolved" was passed.

Senator Tawfik (Civil & Geomatics Engineering) asked how much actual time corresponds to 3 WTUs. He noted that in his department, faculty who want to do a study not supported by the department essentially have to do it as an overload. We should take this into account.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) noted that we are increasing the workload of task force members to study workload problems.

Senator Henson argued that faculty need to take charge of their workload or others will do it for them.

MSC calling the question.

MSC approving the resolution (1-nay).

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:22pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on November 7, 2016.

Submitted by
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate