

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
Fresno, California 93740-8014
Telephone: 278-2743

Fax: 278-5745
(EC-13)

April 9, 2018

Members present: Thomas Holyoke (Chair), Bradley Hart (Vice Chair), Susan Schlievert (State-wide), Loretta Kensinger (At-Large), Melanie Ram (At-large), Lynnette Zelezny (ex officio), Rebecca Raya Fernandez (At-large), Jennier Miele (At-large)

Members excused: Blake Zante (Ex officio), Joseph Castro (Ex officio), Kevin Ayotte (Ex officio)

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Brian Tsukimura (Personnel Committee), Debbie Adishian-Astone, Dean Scott Moore (Continuing & Global Education)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 3:05 pm in Library 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of April 2, 2018

MSC approving the Minutes of April 2, 2018

3.) Communications and announcements

Provost Zelezny

The Provost updated the Executive Committee on the AVP for Water and Sustainability search. A candidate will be on campus on Monday and will be introduced to the Senate.

The Provost also updated the committee on the AVP for OIE search. An offer has been made, but the candidate declined due to personal reasons.

The search will remain open and be re-posted over the summer. Dean Fu has agreed to remain in the interim role until December.

The Provost also announced the recent passage of an ASI resolution supporting the expansion of online, hybrid and night classes.

The Provost additionally announced the appointment of Diane Volpp to the International Faculty Task Force chaired by Senator Miele.

Chair Holyoke

Announced that President Castro has asked Chair Holyoke and former Chair Ayotte to co-author an opinion piece in The Fresno Bee regarding the balance of spending between athletics and academics at Fresno State.

a. Action Items

- i. Email dated April 2, 2018, from Jim Schmidtke, Chair University Budget Committee to Daniel Bernard, Executive Director Division of Continuing and Global Education re: Online Degree in Liberal Studies. Email has been received.

Referred to Executive Committee agenda.

- ii. Email dated April 2, 2018, from Ellen J. Klute, Associate Registrar to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Recommendations for Record Adjustment Committee. Email has been received.

The vice chair will send a call.

- iii. Nominee — Veterans and Military Service Committee

Referred to executive session.

4.) APM 320 Policy on the Composition of Search Committees for Designated Administrative Positions. Personnel Committee. Second Reading.

Vice President Astone and Chair Tsukimura were recognized.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) asked about Item G under Section 1-x (now section 1-h), specifically the assignment of retreat rights into a department that may not have had a chance to meet the candidate in advance of their appointment. The Provost stated that this takes place periodically already, and that documentation is sent to the department chair and tenured faculty to discuss the assignment of retreat rights. In some cases, a phone interview is conducted with the candidate before a recommendation is given by the faculty.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) asked if there would be way to add back language stating that a meeting with faculty should ideally be scheduled during a campus visit. Vice President Astone stated that the section on the campus visit had been removed to separate procedures from policy, and also asked Personnel Chair Tsukimura to develop language related to retreat rights policy for the final version of the document. The Provost stated that retreat rights often come up in negotiations, but it is not always clear what the most appropriate department to hold those retreat rights would be.

Vice President Astone stated that following the previous discussion, the search committee has been given back the power of electing the committee chair. However, Vice President Astone suggested creating an exception for searches on which the hiring manager sits on the committee, in which case they would be able to reserve the ability to be the chair.

Vice President Astone also suggested that the Director of Athletics search process be widened to include not just State employees but also those of Axillaries, specifically the Athletics Corporation and the Bulldog Foundation.

3-g. and 4-d were revised to both end with “selected by the president.” to remove redundancy. Section 3.g. will read: “One (1) full-time permanent staff member selected by the President” Section 4.d. will also now read: “One (1) permanent staff member selected by the President”

Senator Kensinger raised a question about section VI.-4 and suggested including the language “chosen from names solicited by a call for service from the Academic Assembly” to ensure that faculty are given a chance to apply for the appointment.

Moving APM 320 to the Senate agenda was approved unanimously by the committee.

5.) Report on Proposed M/I Graduation Requirement.

Chair Holyoke reminded the committee that this report was commissioned in response to Executive Order 1100. The basic recommendation is creating a 3 unit campus requirement outside of GE. The report also recommends that departments that wish to double count MI in their own major with newly-created courses be able to do so, provided they can prove to the undergraduate curriculum committee that the course faculty are trained specifically in M/I and the course meets university standards. Courses already approved for M/I may be double counted at a department’s discretion. The department will need to develop a policy for each course.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) suggested adding the phrase “with department approval” to list items 1 and 2 on the second page to indicate that departments must approve double counting within their majors. Chair Holyoke stated that the committee was also suggesting a moratorium on adding new courses to the M/I section.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) stated that it would be important to reiterate to students in the coming year that student will still be obligated to take M/I in the coming year before a new policy fully comes into effect. Chair Holyoke stated that the intention is that in the coming year, M/I would continue to function as normal, and no department would be allowed to move new courses into M/I for at least a year. A new M/I policy will be developed in the coming academic year. Chair Holyoke reiterated that departments would have to explicitly authorize double counting of their existing M/I courses toward major requirements.

Senator Ram (At-large) asked about the time-line for developing a new overall policy, and suggested clarifying that this would be done in Phase 2 of the M/I action plan listed in the policy.

The executive committee voted to present the task force report to the full Senate.

6.) Academic Senate Bylaws – Reapprove Changes

Chair Holyoke stated that several changes had to be made to the Senate bylaws to conform with the final version passed by the Senate. On p. 5, amendments on the floor of the senate were made to ensure that the chair and vice chair receive signatures from at least three colleges rather than two. Chair Holyoke also stated that one proposed change is also to change the Academic Technology Committee back to a subcommittee of AP&P from a free-standing committee, and therefore that section has been removed from the document entirely.

The committee voted to approve the bylaws for consideration by the Senate.

7.) Online Degree in Liberal Studies

This item was referred from the Action Items. Dean Scott Moore (CGE) was recognized to discuss the proposal. The proposal is a program that would allow a student who has a very narrow definition of eligibility to complete a liberal arts degree online. The student must have left for a minimum of 3 years, at which point the student would be contacted. A maximum of 50 units would be offered, along with a roadmap to allow the student to graduate in 2 years with a minimum of 25 units the student would need to complete. The degree would be housed in Arts & Humanities, but has been approved by the curriculum committees of all 4 colleges involved.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) asked why the maximum unit count was set at a maximum of 70, with only 12 units required previously. Dean Moore stated that to qualify for this program a student would have to leave Fresno State for a minimum of 3 years. This number was set after consultation with OIE about the length of time at which former students were statistically unlikely to return. OIE reported that the statistics indicated that 98% of students who leave for 3 years do not return.

Senator Raya Fernandez (At-large) asked whether consideration had been given to the possibility that some students who had been out of the university for a long period may have lost fundamental knowledge of the field, or be out of date in their knowledge. Dean Moore clarified that undergraduate degree units are granted indefinitely, so a returning student could still count their previous units without being forced to repeat them.

Senator Raya Fernandez (At-large) asked what options students enrolling in this degree would have for additional assistance from instructors since they would not physically be on campus. Dean Moore stated that the Center for Faculty Excellence had been consulted on this question and practices had been developed to make sure that the online students are treated fairly. Studies have shown that the most successful students in online courses are those who do best in face-to-face classes, and therefore the students qualifying for this program are statistically likely to do well.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) asked what procedures would be established for adding new courses to the curriculum. Dean Moore stated that CGE does not offer any unique courses, only courses that exist already and have been approved through the normal approval process. Departments wanting to add courses would need to add them through the College of Arts & Humanities curriculum committee.

Senator Ram (At-large) asked why the minimum unit count was set at 25 units. Dean Moore stated that the minimum definition of a major in the Education Code is 24 units, and this curriculum requires 25 units due to a 4-unit writing requirement. In the coming months, the first invitation-only cohort of 40 students would be selected and formed as a test run for the full program before it opens to the public. CGE will also be watching for student attrition within courses.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) suggested that when the letter goes out to prospective students they are also encouraged to contact their former departments to see what might be arranged to finish their original majors.

The committee voted to refer the proposal to the Academic Senate.

8.) Executive Session

The Executive Committee entered executive session at 4:45 p.m.

The Executive Committee exited executive session at 4:46 p.m.

The following faculty member was appointed to the Veterans and Military Services Committee:

Janice Sanders

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:46pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, April 23, 2018.

Submitted by:
Bradley Hart
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Thomas Holyoke
Chair
Academic Senate