

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-9)

November 16, 2015

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair),  
Joseph I. Castro (Ex-officio), Michael Jenkins (At-large),  
Madhu Katti (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (State-wide),  
Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez  
(At-large)

Members excused: Abigail Hudson (ASI), Lynette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Guests: Venita Baker, Daniel Bernard (Continuing and Global  
Education), Frank Lamas (VP of Student Affairs), Alison  
Mandaville (English)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:06pm in HML 2106.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of November 9, 2015

MSC tabling the Minutes of November 9, 2015

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) Senator Jenkins (At-large)

Noted that he and ASI President Hudson met with the candidate for the AVP of Human Resources position this morning, and that that he and other members of the Senate Executive Committee met with Paula Castadio (VP for Advancement) and Vice Provost Nef to discuss honorary doctoral degree recommendations.

b.) Senator Katti (At-large)

Noted that he had been asking the technology people at the university for years to introduce Eduroam at Fresno State, a free wifi system for faculty from other universities. Other universities offer this for all visiting faculty. The other day he discovered that Eduroam had appeared at Fresno State with announcement at all and wondered what was going on.

President Castro noted that this was something new that CIO Leon was bringing to the campus, along with other changes in technology. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) suggested that we invite CIO Leon to a meeting so he could tell us about all of his changes.

c.) President Castro

Noted that very soon we will be hearing about Equity II. Fresno State is putting \$504,000 into the program to boost the salaries and benefits of faculty who did not qualify for Equity I or are still well below their college averages. Lecturers serving more than ten years may also qualify. Noted that he wanted to make the announcement with CFA chapter president Diane Blair, but she was reluctant to do so.

In the near future he wants to talk more to the Academic Senate about tenure density, and perhaps suggest even higher targets than had been previously discussed.

Noted that there will be a faculty and staff forum on Thursday at 10:00am in the North Gym.

He also said that the university is further refining its emergency communication procedures in light of the recent shooting threat, especially in terms of letting faculty and staff know what to do during a threat. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted that she was just at a conference where some campuses said they were thinking about banning the phone app Yik Yak. She was not advocating that we should do that, but wondered if the administration should at least discuss it. She also noted that when it came to deciding whether to excuse students, this was the exclusive decision of each faculty

member. Chair Ayotte noted that he knew professors at other campuses who were leading experts in emergency communications, and he could ask them for advice before the administration contracted with expensive consultants. Senator Raya-Fernandez (At-large) noted that she had just been at a conference on behavioral intervention and threat assessment where people were talking about these same things.

- d.) Presentation by Alison Mandaville (English) and Daniel Bernard (CGE) about a possible on-line Liberal Arts degree.

Presented a proposal for considering the creation of an on-line Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree for undergraduate students who had completed most of their coursework but had dropped out, and stayed out for at least three years. There currently appear to be about 3,000 to 5,000 students who would qualify for this degree program.

Vice Chair Holyoke asked whether enough resources were available for faculty to create the on-line classes needed for this degree program.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) was concerned that Continuing and Global Education was running this program rather than the colleges, requiring them to get an Arts and Humanities degree when they had originally started to complete degrees in other fields. She also noted that getting a CGE degree would cost students a lot more than getting a regular degree. Expressed a general concern about the privatization of education at Fresno State through CGE, and we should put forth more effort to bring the students back to Fresno State before three years have passed.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked about the challenges faced by students coming back to the university that might prevent them from getting their degrees in their original home departments. Dr. Mandaville noted that many students just cannot easily come back because of life circumstances (jobs, family, etc.). She also noted that there were potential problems of students coming back under a variety of different catalog requirements.

e.) Action items

- 1.) Memo dated November 10, 2015, from Brian Tsukimura, Chair University Personnel Committee, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair of the Academic Senate re: APM 320 Policy on Administrative Appointments. Memo has been received.

This item is to be held until further input has been received from the President's Cabinet and the Academic Policy and Planning Committee. Until then we will presume that all administrative searches require a call for faculty to serve on the search committees.

- 4) Appointment of the Executive Director of Student Affairs Administration.

Dr. Lamas (VP of Student Affairs) requested the Senate Executive Committee's support for extending Dr. Janell Marillo's interim appointment for another six months while he prepares to do a search for the permanent executive director. He noted that this position was created as part of a general re-organization of Student Affairs and is not an uncommon position at other universities, and he noted that Dr. Marillo herself is very accomplished and capable of doing the job until a permanent person is hired. He also noted that he has been having problems conducting successful searches, with the searches for a new Registrar and Director of Financial Services failing this year.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted the importance of national searches for MPP positions, pointing out that it helps the credibility of the person hired, including local people hired, if they competed in a national search.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 3:58pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 3:00pm on Monday, November 23, 2015.

Submitted by:  
Thomas Holyoke  
Vice Chair  
Academic Senate

Approved by:  
Kevin Ayotte  
Chair  
Academic Senate