

THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
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November 7, 2016

Members excused: O. Benavides, L. Bryant, N. Delich, L. Hao, M. Jenkins, J. Miele, R. Raya-Fernandez, G. Thatcher, J. Therkelsen, W. Wu

Members absent: B. Buckner, A. Canton, L. Cornelio, T. Elarabi, S. Fulop, J. Giglio, M. Golden, A. Hammons, L. Kensinger, C. Perez, M. Raheem, B. Singh, J. Smith-Warshaw,

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:08pm in HML 2206.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of October 24, 2016

Friendly amendments were adopted

MSC approving the Minutes of October 24, 2016, as amended

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) Susan Schlievert (Statewide Senator)

Expressed Statewide Senate Chair Miller's thanks for the nice visit she had at Fresno State last October.

She noted that the Statewide Senate voted on a resolution to help expedite the transfer of students from community colleges. It also

voted to better coordinate the transfer of grades from community colleges to CSU campuses. It also voted to create a task force to study GE programs on the 23 campuses.

The Statewide Senate also had a heated discussion about increased funding for the CSU and a possible student tuition hike.

The Senate also had a first reading of a resolution on the definition of academic freedom.

The senate wants campus senates to consider creating private, secure lactation rooms. Any comments on this item, or any other, should be emailed to Senator Schlievert at [susansc@csufresno.edu](mailto:susansc@csufresno.edu).

b.) Chair Ayotte

Noted that Statewide Senate Chair Miller had been very impressed with the collegiality of our academic senate. Normally she only visits campus senates when there are governance problems.

4.) New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

5.) APM 205 – Policy on Undergraduate Student Academic Advising. Second reading.

Chair Jackson (Student Affairs Committee) discussed the changes made to the document since it was last before the Academic Senate earlier in the semester. They were mostly small except for the new section on college / school advising responsibilities.

MSC approving changes to APM 205.

6.) New Preferred Names Policy. Second reading.

Chair Mullooly (AP&P Committee) discussed the proposed new policy. He noted that the Division of Student Affairs and the Information and Technology Division are already implementing this new policy. Campus software has already been re-programed to allow students to select new first names.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) offered an amendment to change the name of the policy, which was then itself amended by Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) to read “Policy on Student and Employee Preferred Names”. The amendment was seconded and passed as amended.

Senator Durette (Art and Design) felt the proposed policy needed language to stop potential abuse by students. Chair Mullooly noted that the IT division is already checking the new names to make sure they are not abusive. Vice Chair Holyoke and President Ryan (ASI) noted that the policy’s third paragraph has language that says an abuse of this policy is a violation of the Honor Code.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) asked if there was comparable language for email names. No, there is not beyond the Honor Code. Chair Mullooly noted that AP&P is taking up the Honor Code as well.

Senator Maldonado moved to amend the third paragraph by striking “and cannot be an attempt at misrepresentation and fraud” from the first sentence, which was seconded.

Senator Henson (English) asked who is actually making decisions as to whether a new name violates the Honor Code. Should faculty be doing it? Chair Mullooly brought IT division staff to AP&P meetings to discuss this. They decided it was better to let IT staff quietly handle a problem rather than drag a student before a faculty committee. Chair Ayotte noted that this was also discussed in the Senate Executive Committee and it was felt that this was an implementation issue where we needed to trust IT to make the right decisions, but we should also keep an eye on what IT is deciding.

Senator Durette asked if there might be problems with digital records getting out of sync. Chair Mullooly felt this should not be a problem because all of the university’s digital records are linked, so the change of names should be immediately reflected across the board.

Senator Maldonado wondered if we can even make judgements about abuse and fraud when it comes to preferred first names.

Senator Garcia (Nursing) argued that there is value in keeping the current enforcement mechanism with the Honor Code.

Senator Toren-Immerman (Music) asked how anybody could know what name is appropriate. Who defines it? Chair Mullooly noted that AP&P discussed this issue quite a bit, and they are not sure what more could be done beyond the language now in the proposed policy. They feel that the IT Division staff understand the spirit of the policy and can be trusted.

Senator Akhavan (Educational Research & Administration) felt that figuring out how to make these decisions was really something for administrative regulation, not policy. Senator Williams felt it was more of an advising matter. Chair Ayotte noted that paragraph one of the proposed policy makes clear what the intent of the policy is and IT can use this as a guide.

Approval of Senator Maldonado's amendment.

Senator Gilewicz (English) offered an amendment to the first paragraph to make the name of the policy there consistent with the new name of the policy. It was seconded and approved.

Senator Maldonado asked if his records list the student under his/her old name, and they come asking for a letter of recommendation under their new name, how will he know who the student really is? Can he search a database for it? President Ryan reminded everyone that this is only an informal change of the first name, so all legal records retain the original name.

Senator Ram (University-wide) argued that most of these concerns are probably not really all that big, and the student could just say who they are. She did argue that students should be informed what all of the possible implications of changing their name might be.

MSC approving the new policy.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 4:49pm.

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

Submitted by

Approved by

Thomas Holyoke  
Vice Chair  
Academic Senate

Kevin Ayotte  
Chair  
Academic Senate