

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
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(AS-12)

April 4, 2011

Members Absent: V. Biondo, A. Dinscore (excused), A. Espinoza, S. Figlioli, R. Fire, D. Frazier, G. Gechter, D. Herring (excused), A. Jassim, T. Johnson, k. Kurtural (excused), S. Liu (excused), B. Lyons, D. Magoc (excused), K. McCoy (excused), R. Rai, P. Ramirez, S. Reeves (excused), W. Rice, P. San Martin (excused), S. Schlievert (excused), H.O. Schweizer, D. Sharma (excused), D. Smith, P. Trueblood (excused), M. Vungkhanching (excused), C. Won, M. Zoghi

A meeting of the Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Caldwell at 4:12 p.m. in the Library Auditorium, Room 2206.

1. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda.
2. Approval. MSC to approve the Minutes of 3/21/11 as amended to Item 3.B. Senator L. Kensinger (Women's Studies) requested that the Minutes of 3/21/11 (Item 3.B) be amended to reflect that senators had questions and concerns about the Division of Graduate Studies change in practice to eliminate the option to register for Zero Units through Global and Continuing Education and replace it with 1-6 units per GS299C.
3. Communications and Announcements.  
  
There were no Communications and Announcements.
4. New Business.  
  
There was no New Business.
5. Consent Calendar

- A. Discontinuation of the Environmental Sciences Joint Program with University of California Riverside–Dennis Nef Associate Vice President and Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

The item was approved by consent.

6. Plan for Excellence IV–Strategic Planning Committee.

MSC to adopt the item for discussion.

Senator M. Botwin (Psychology) provided an overview to the document and responded to senators’ questions and concerns.

President Welty explained that the document is intended to guide the university over the next three to five years and requested the Academic Senate endorse the Plan for Excellence IV.

Chair Caldwell announced that any discussion and recommendations from the Academic Senate will be sent to the Strategic Planning Committee for review.

Senators asked several questions and voiced concerns for the document. Senators’ concerns included the following:

- Theme 2 strategies should include assigned time for faculty.
- Theme 3, Bullet #1 (p. 4) – concern is for the budget to support such “investment”.
- Theme 3, Bullet #2 (p. 4) – concern is for how these activities will be funded.
- Concern is for faculty workload
- Concern for the university’s focus on liberal arts education and caution not to become a vocational institution.
- Concern for Theme 1’s emphasis on technology and innovation. There is need for traditional teaching methods which should be encouraged and recognized in the Plan for Excellence.

- Theme 1 Bullet #5, there is concern that faculty innovation may be blocked.
- Theme 7 Bullet #9, the Plan for Excellence should include a commitment to gender equity.
- There was surprise that the word “agriculture” does not appear in the Plan for Excellence.

The Plan for Excellence IV–Strategic Planning Committee will return to the agenda of the next Academic Senate meeting for second reading.

7. Proposed Policy for Undergraduate Majors and Minors–Student Affairs.

MSC to adopt the item for discussion.

At-Large Senator T. Holyoke (Political Science) introduced Dr. D. Nef, Associate Vice President and Dean of Undergraduate Studies to discuss the impetus for the proposed policy and answer senators’ questions.

Senators’ questions and concerns regarding the proposed policy included the following:

- Would like to see statistics related to the problem(s) leading to the document.
- Concern is for high unit majors such as nursing and engineering.
- Concern is for students finding their passion (i.e., their ‘right’ major).
- Why the magic number of 144 units?
- Regarding the units limit, concern is for the policy’s limitation on second majors.
- Concern is for faculty workload, in general and specific. Particularly, the proposed policy will require faculty to write a plan demonstrating that the second major or minor can be completed within 144 units for all students.

- How many students have a third major?
- How does the proposed policy affect certificate programs?
- Concern for the impact this policy may have on programs that rely on second majors.
- What are the mechanisms for students to become aware of the policy and to receive the proper advising?
- Concern that this policy sends a dampening message to students that they cannot get a second major.
- Reminder that it is important to put a positive spin on the second major for students.

Dean Nef's responses to senators' questions included the following:

- Discussion of the 'super senior' issue and efforts to graduate students over the past few semesters.
- 160 students have been identified as 'super seniors'.
- The limitation of 144 units was adapted from CSU Long Beach's policy.
- High unit majors do not seem like much of a problem or to be impacted.
- There is no readily available information on the number of students with a third major.
- The proposed policy does not apply to certificate programs.
- Students will be informed of the policy through email, direct advising services, reminders and other mechanisms. Much of this will be directed to students with a high number of units completed.

The Proposed Policy for Undergraduate Majors and Minors–Student Affairs will return to the agenda of the next Academic Senate meeting for second reading.

8. Policy on Office and Consultation Hours (APM 338)–Revised–Academic Policy & Planning.

MSC to adopt the item for discussion.

Senators O. Schweizer and R. Raya-Fernandez (Health and Psychological Services) described the main changes, and their rational, to the policy.

Senators asked several questions and discussed the policy change.

Senator D. Lewis (Kinesiology) recommended an amendment to the policy to include the definitions of office hours and consultations hours found in F. Schreiber's email (2/17/11) to Michael Caldwell regarding the revision of APM 338.

The Policy on Office and Consultation Hours (APM 338)–Revised–Academic Policy & Planning will return to the agenda of the next Academic Senate meeting for second reading.

9. Policy on the Scholarly Advancement of Learning and Teaching (APM 357)–Faculty Development Committee.

The item will return to the agenda of the next Academic Senate meeting.

MSC to adjourn at 5:31 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate will be April 11, 2011.

An Agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Submitted by:

Dawn Lewis  
Vice Chair  
Academic Senate

Approved by:

Michael Caldwell  
Chair  
Academic Senate