

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
Fresno, California 93740-8023
Telephone: 278-2743

Fax: 278-5745
(EC-3)

September 29, 2014

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Michael Jenkins (at-large), Loretta Kensinger (State-wide), Moses Menchaca (ASI), Melanie Ram (university-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (at-large), Lynn Williams (ex-officio), Provost Lynette Zelezny (ex-officio).

Members excused: President Joseph Castro (ex-officio), Madhusudan Katti (at-large)

Visitors: Venita Baker, Robert Maldonado (Chair, University Budget Committee)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:06pm in HML 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC to approve the agenda

2.) Approval of the minutes of September 15, 2014

MSC to approve the minutes of September 15, 2014

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) Provost Zelezny

The chairs of the departments in the Jordan College of Agriculture, Science, and Technology (JCAST) told Provost Zelezny that they want an interim dean appointed soon so that person's appointment would overlap with outgoing Dean Charles Boyer (who is leaving in January 2015). They asked that the job description emphasize an ability to

make connections to Central Valley agricultural industry, and that the new dean will be a specialist in water policy.

Because of the specialized nature of the job description, JCAST chairs unanimously asked the Provost to employ a professional search firm to help find quality candidates. Several committee members expressed skepticism about the use of search firms. The Provost explained that search firms come from a list developed by the Chancellor's Office and tend to charge between \$40,000 and \$50,000 per search, though in some cases (like this one) where the position is very specialized, she could find a firm not on the Chancellor's list. The point of using a search firm, she emphasized, was that it attracted a large pool of qualified candidates and would help ensure the diversity of the candidate pool.

Chair Ayotte suggested that JCAST should pay for the search firm rather than have the provost's office do so with carry-forward funds. The provost noted that search firms have been used in the past for dean searches and were paid for by the provost's office.

The provost asked if the last Café Academy was successful and was told that it was a great success with the best attendance yet.

- b.) Email dated September 23, 2014, from Lynette Zelezny, Provost, to Kevin Ayotte regarding the call for faculty to serve on the search committee for the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. A call for three full time, tenured faculty members with the rank of Professor will be sent.

There was discussion over whether the Executive Committee should make the final appointments or if it should be done by ballot. MSC to approve selection by the Executive Committee with Senator Kensinger voting "nay" and Senators Ram and Raya-Fernandez abstaining.

- c.) Email dated August 11, 2014, from Mike Bowen, chair of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), to Kevin Ayotte regarding COIA's

2014-15 agenda and the participation of the Academic Senate at California State University, Fresno. It was decided that Dr. David Kinnunen, the university's representative on COIA, should come and discuss the issue with the Executive Committee at a future meeting.

- d.) Update from Chair Ayotte regarding the removal of trees at Cedar and Barstow. It was reported that the Campus Planning Committee consulted with a certified arborist before deciding the trees had to be removed. The Arboretum Committee was also consulted and agreed that the trees had to go. New trees will replace the old near the spot where the old trees are to be removed.

It was also reported that the Campus Planning Committee has done a good job in regards to saving water used for irrigation. If anybody sees water being wasted, please contact Robert Boyd at facilities management.

- e.) Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) reported that the Statewide Academic Senate still wants feedback from local senates regarding the Student Success Fee Task Force, which does not currently have any faculty members on it. Provost Zelezny reported that President Castro spoke with Chancellor White about this and requested faculty representation.
- f.) ASI President Menchaca reported that all Academic Senate committees now have students appointed to them. We should let him know if the student representative of any committee fails to attend on a regular basis.
- g.) Senator Jenkins (at-large) reported that he was the only member of the Executive Committee to attend the consultation meeting with the committee searching for a new athletics director, and this is not the first time this has happened. So we have a better idea as to who from the committee can attend such meetings, all meetings will now be set up in advance using Zimbra meeting-maker.

4.) Executive Committee request to Vice President Matson

Vice Chair Holyoke had drafted a memo to VP Cynthia Matson requesting clarification on several points she had made in her recent presentation to the Academic Senate regarding the AY 2014-15 budget.

There was considerable discussion regarding the questions to be asked in the memo, including clarification of the requests being made.

Additional questions were suggested

by committee members and University Budget Committee Chair Maldonado. The memo will request Vice President Matson to provide answers to the questions in person to the Academic Senate at a future meeting date.

MSC to approve sending the memo subject to the provision that Vice Chair Holyoke redraft the request to incorporate everyone's comments.

UBC Chair Maldonado recommended that in the future Vice President Matson give budget presentations to the Academic Senate early in the spring semester.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:30pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Executive Committee will be on Monday, October 13, 2014.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate