

THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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May 9, 2016

Members excused: I. Basurto, O. Benavides, N. Delich, B. DerMugredechian, M. Golden, R. Hall, L. Herzig, M. Jenkins, H. Marshall, A. McKeith, P. Sanmartin, J. Therkelsen, M. Thompson

Members absent: L. Cornelio, J. Giglio, M. Raheem, J. Taylor, R. Thornton

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:07pm in HML 2206.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of May 2, 2016

Friendly amendments were offered

MSC approving the Minutes of May 2, 2016, as amended

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) Provost Zelezny

Announced that Andrew Fiala (Philosophy) has been appointed as Ethicist in Residence at the Lyles Center for Entrepreneurship.

b.) Senator Williams (Agricultural Business)

Reminded us that this academic year started with a shooting at a community college in his home town, and a threatened shooting at Fresno State. We should thank Chief Huerta and his officers for keeping the campus safe.

c.) Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate)

Acknowledged Jan Slagter (Women's Studies), the staff of the Rape Crisis Center, and Women's Studies students for a successful fundraiser last week which raised over \$10,000 to support student internships at the Center.

d.) Senator Bryant (Political Science)

Announced that tomorrow is the voter registration deadline and anybody who needs to register can do so at a table outside of the Bucket sponsored by ASI, the Department of Political Science, and the Maddy Institute.

e.) Chair Ayotte

Announced that Lisa Bryant (Political Science) and Melissa Golden (Chemistry) have been elected as university-wide senators.

Thanked President Abigail Hudson (ASI) and Vice President for Finance Anthony Farnesi (ASI) for their active participation in Academic Senate deliberations this year. He also thanked administrators, especially President Castro and Provost Zelezny, for being so willing to consult with faculty, especially when they did not have to. Faculty at most CSU campuses cannot say this. Thanked Madhu Katti (Biology) for serving as a University-wide senator and member of the Senate Executive Committee and wished him well in his new position at North Carolina State University.

Thanked the member of the Academic Senate for their service.

f.) CIO Leon

Reminded senators that sometime before June of 2017 Zimbra will be going away. There is a campus-wide committee, including four faculty members, who are working to assess student, faculty, and staff

opinion and that will report to him regarding the preferred replacement system. It has come down to either Google or Office 365. The other CSUs primarily use one or the other. There will be an open forum this Wednesday and Thursday from 10 to 11am in HML 2206 where faculty, staff, and students can come hear information and give their opinions on which system we should adopt. He acknowledged that there is likely to be a disagreement over which we should use. Brad Barker from Technology Services noted that there will also be an opportunity to give input on-line as well as at the forums.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) said that she wanted a system better able to block spam and that worked equally well on PCs and Macs.

Senator Wilson (Computer Sciences) argued that the committee needed to take into account the fact that the majority of students and faculty are already using Google. He also felt that both systems would work equally well on PCs and Macs.

Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology) asked about the costs of the two systems. CIO Leon said he had not looked closely at that yet.

Senator Kensinger said that the committee should work closely with the team deciding whether the campus will continue using Blackboard or some other system as our on-line platform. CIO Leon said he would, and also said we need to make sure the new system works well with Grades First.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked if all old email will survive the transfer, as well as the folders they are being stored in. Brad Baker said that should be fine, though faculty may want to delete older email messages.

Senator Fulop (Linguistics) recalled the transfer over to Zimbra years ago and how bad of an experience that was. Hopefully this change will be better.

4.) Consent calendar

- a. Approval of the re-appointment of Leslie Weiser (SSP-AR) to the Senate Student Affairs Committee.

- b. Approval of the BS in City and Regional Planning Degree in the Department of Geography.

Interim Dean DenBeste (Social Sciences), Segun Ogunjemiyo (Geography), and Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies) described the new degree program. They noted that within a 100-mile radius nobody is offering this degree, but local governments and organizations are asking for it. They feel that the coming of high speed rail to the Central Valley will increase demand for good regional planning.

Senator Wilson (Computer Sciences) asked if this will require the hiring of new faculty. Dean DenBeste noted that they had tried to hire an additional person for this program this year, but that search failed. They feel they can go forward with current faculty and a few specialists from the community added as part-time lecturers.

Senator Müller (Biology) asked why this was a Bachelors of Science degree rather than a Bachelors of Arts degree, and wanted to know where the “science” was in the course offerings. It was explained that the majority of planning degrees are BS degrees, and practitioners need to know science.

The consent calendar was approved by unanimous consent.

5.) New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

6.) Resolution on creation of an ad hoc task force to study faculty workload reduction. First reading.

Senator Karr (Music) introduced the resolution he had written.

Senator Ram (University-wide) noted that APM 337 (Faculty Workloads: Policies and Procedures) was referred by the Academic Senate last year to the Senate Personnel Committee so that workload issues would be addressed. What happened to it?

Personnel Committee Chair Tsukimura said that they are working on faculty workload issues. The issue is so large and broad that they did not know where to start, so they started by surveying department chairs about their workloads.

Senator Forcags (Mathematics) noted that the collective bargaining agreement says that research is part of a faculty member's workload, so research should be reflected in the task force composition. He wondered if the chair of the Research Subcommittee should also be on the proposed task force.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) felt that the task force also needs to have on it somebody familiar with the collective bargaining agreement, perhaps a faculty member from the executive board of the California Faculty Association.

Senator Bryant (University-wide) felt the task force should include both tenure-track and tenured faculty, whose workloads are different.

Senator Müller (Biology) wanted the task force to be inclusive as possible, and to have a clear time-line as to when it would report back to the Academic Senate.

Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology) complimented Personnel Chair Tsukimura on how hard he and the committee worked this year. He feels that a larger task force would have a harder time meeting and agreeing on recommendations. He also fears that the task force may end up duplicating the work of the Personnel Committee next year.

Senator Ram said that the issue of faculty workload was so big that the task force might compliment the Personnel Committee as they could work on different aspects of the problem.

Senator Akhavan (Educational Research and Administration) wondered if the task force should simply do a report on the problem of faculty workload to help inform the Academic Senate on what the problems are that are in need of solutions.

Senator Karr argued that the Personnel Committee is a reactive body with a heavy workload. He wants the task force to proactively go figure out what the workload problems are and make recommendations as to what Personnel might do to solve

the problem. He doubts that any more money is coming to Fresno State from the state to compensate faculty for being over-worked, so we need to find other forms of relief, ideally dealing with the 4-4 teaching load. He noted that some large GE courses have only one grading assistant to help the faculty member, and some have none at all. This creates an impossible situation for the instructor since every GE course also has a writing requirement. He also felt we did not need to worry about a time-line until the task force was actually established.

Friendly amendment accepted requiring the task force's report to be referred to the Senate Executive Committee rather than the Personnel Committee after being presented to the Academic Senate.

Senator Akhavan felt that a time-line would make the task force more powerful.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) noted that the CBA says that research is part of the teaching workload, not a separate work requirement. He would like to have this further clarified.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) said that creating a task force creates even more work for some faculty members. Perhaps there should be a GE Committee member on the task force as well. He wondered if a task force was even necessary. Why not let the Personnel Committee do all of this?

Senator Akhavan felt that it should be up to the Academic Senate rather than the Executive Committee to decide what to do with the final report from the task force.

Senator Maldonado defended the idea of an independent task force. It would bring in more opinions and points of view.

Senator Kensinger suggested that Senator Karr make some revisions to his resolution over the summer. Senator Karr noted that he will be on sabbatical in the fall, but if senators would email him their suggestions, he would make some changes the Academic Senate could consider in the fall.

This item will return for a second reading in the fall semester.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:04pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be in the fall semester of 2016.

Submitted by
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate