

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
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(EC-15)

March 14, 2016

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Anthony Farnesi (ASI), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Madhu Katti (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (Statewide Senate), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large)

Members excused: Joseph I. Castro (Ex-officio) and Lynnette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Guests: Venita Baker, Marianne Jackson (Student Affairs), and Christine Thibodeux (Advancement)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:04pm in HML 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC removing item #5 (MFA in Creative Writing) from the agenda

MSC approving the agenda as amended

2.) Approval of the Minutes of February 29, 2016

MSC approving the Minutes of February 29, 2016

3.) Communications and announcements

a. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate)

Noted that Statewide Senate Chair Steve Filling gave a great presentation to the CSU Board of Trustees about faculty rights and shared governance. Also noted that many people talked to the

Board about the need to settle with the California Faculty Association and avert a strike.

b. Anthony Farnesi (ASI)

ASI recently sent 11 students to Sacramento for a workshop on lobbying and how to advocate for the CSU, and then they went to advocate with their elected state officials. They also went to a conference hosted by the California State Student Association (CSSA) where the upcoming CFA strike was discussed. CSSA decided not to take a position on the strike. Senator Kensing (Statewide Senate) asked if most students appeared to come in with their minds made up or were they persuaded to not support the strike. Farnesi felt it was the former. Vice Chair Holyoke noted that both of our local ASI presidential candidates were supporting CFA. Chair Ayotte noted that Tony Pope from the *Collegian* contacted him about it, but he is not going to offer an opinion so as to not be seen as persuading students one way or the other.

On Wednesday ASI expects to pass a resolution opposing changes to APM 231 regarding changes to the class drop deadline. The USU Board may also oppose it.

c. Chair Ayotte

Noted that he has asked President Castro to do a draft budget presentation at the March 28 meeting of the Academic Senate, and the president has agreed to do it.

d. Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large)

Last Thursday Psychological Services held its Depression Screening Day and saw about 119 students during the screening process. Certain students were identified for further counseling.

e. Vice President Castadio (Advancement, participated by conference call)

Noted that we have had two failed searches for a new AVP for Advancement Development. She is therefore appointing an Interim

AVP for a 12-month period and will talk to President Castro about what to do next, including the possibility of asking President Castro to use his APM 320 right to appoint the Interim AVP to the permanent position. Questions were asked about the candidate's background and fit for the position. Concerns were expressed about simply appointing an interim MPP to the permanent position, and Chair Ayotte noted that President Castro has signaled that he is not likely to approve such requests.

VP Castadio indicated that a search firm had been retained and had made over 1,000 calls, and she had made several calls herself, but preconceptions about Fresno were hurting the candidate pool. There had been one applicant in the first search and three in the second.

VP Castadio was happy to answer more direct questions about the search, but only in executive session.

The Executive Committee entered executive session at 3:32pm

The Executive Committee returned from executive session at 3:42pm

f. Action items

- i. Memo dated March 4, 2016, from Brian Tsukimura, Chair University Personnel Committee, to Kevin Ayotte Chair Academic Senate re: APM 311 Policy on Teaching Associates. Memo has been received.

The small change of adding “comprehensive examinations” to the list of culminating experiences is the result of an accidental omission when the Personnel Committee first took up the policy.

MSC amending the policy by striking “, and completes” in Section IV, paragraph 3, subsection b and inserting in its place “at least”.

MSC placing this on the Consent Calendar of the agenda of the next meeting of the Academic Senate.

- ii. Nominees – search committees. Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, and Chief Financial Officer.

These will be handled in executive session.

- 4.) APM 205 – Policy on Undergraduate Advising. Second reading.

Chair Jackson (Student Affairs) summarized the new changes made to the policy since the last meeting of the Senate Executive Committee on the subject.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) expressed concern that double-majors were not being included in the document and moved to have mentions of double majors and minors added in Section II,A, and Section II, A, 5. Anthony Farnesi (ASI) suggested adding certificates as well. The motion was seconded but then withdrawn.

MSC referring the policy back to the Senate Student Affairs Committee so they could decide the best places to include references to double-majors, minors, and certificates.

- 5.) Executive Session with the Provost

Provost Zelezny called in at 4:15pm to share her intention to appoint Sandra Witte as Dean of the Jordan College of Agriculture and re-appoint Scott Moore to a second year as Interim Dean of Continuing and Global Education and receive feedback from the Executive Committee

The Senate Executive Committee entered executive session at approximately 4:15pm

The Senate Executive Committee returned from executive session at 5:37pm

MSC recommending Kathryn Forbes (Women’s Studies), Ben Boone (Music), Anil Shrestha (Plant Science), Ulrike Müller (Biology), and Juan Carlos Gonzalez (Educational Research) to the Provost for the Provost’s Awards Selection Committee.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 5:38pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 3:00pm on Monday, April 4, 2016.

Submitted by:  
Thomas Holyoke  
Vice Chair  
Academic Senate

Approved by:  
Kevin Ayotte  
Chair  
Academic Senate