

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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(EC-8)

November 9, 2015

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Abigail Hudson (ASI), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Madhu Katti (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (State-wide), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), Lynette Zelezny

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

Guests: Venita Baker

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:06pm in HML 2106.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of November 2, 2015

MSC approving the Minutes of November 2, 2015

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) Provost Zelezny

She is moving forward with the search for a new Dean of the College of Science and Math, and has appointed three faculty members to the search committee along with a dean and an EEO.

She also spoke with Vice President of Student Affairs Lamas about our concerns with the wait time at Student Psychological Services. VP Lamas told her, and separately told Chair Ayotte and ASI President Hudson, that everything was under control there and there was no wait list.

Senator Raya-Fernandez (At-large) explained that there was a waiting period of about 3 to 4 weeks for actual appointments, but the initial consultation between students and somebody at Psychological Services ranged from immediately to 2 to 3 days. The committee decided to discuss this further in executive session.

The Senate Executive Committee entered executive session at 3:13pm.

The Senate Executive Committee returned from executive session at 3:18pm.

b.) Senator Kensinger (Statewide Academic Senate)

Asked where we were on figuring out the distribution of release time for faculty with overload work assignments, following up on Senator Ram's question from last week. The provost said that she was going to work with AVP Sanchez (Faculty Affairs) to make the form available and worry about the money for the release time later.

Senator Kensinger then gave a report from the meeting of the CSU Statewide Academic Senate. She noted that the president of the California Faculty Association reported that the vote of the faculty to take action over the pay increase dispute passed with 94% voting in the affirmative, and this was especially significant because 80% of all the CFA members had voted.

She also noted that a number of important resolutions had been passed by the Statewide Senate.

One resolution that received a lot of attention called for the repeal of the executive order mandating background checks for all new hires, including all new faculty, which overrode local university policies (including our policy which excluded many new faculty from background checks when they were not working with underage populations). The Statewide Senate asked for a task force to be created to review the executive order.

Another resolution called for a retired faculty member to be added to the Board of Trustees.

Another resolution supported the Chancellor's budget request, but insisted on more money to be placed into the faculty compensation pool than the 2% increase asked for by the chancellor.

Another resolution called for open campus presidential searches.

Other resolutions were also described.

c.) Vice Chair Holyoke

Asked the provost about a rumor that had come from a College of Social Science chairs' meeting that the provost would prioritize joint department hires. The provost said that this was not true.

d.) Senator Ram (University-wide)

Noted that the College of Social Science has put together a study abroad committee and wants to link it to university-wide efforts to promote study abroad, but she has not seen any announcements about next week's events. The provost said she would look into it.

e.) President Hudson (ASI)

Expressed unhappiness that the Board of Trustees was pulling discussion of its newly proposed Sustainable Financial Model (which includes a 2% student tuition increase over the next ten years) from the agenda, after the California Students Association had made hotel arrangements for lots of students to Long Beach to comment on it. She fears that this may be a delaying tactic by the Board of Trustees to defuse student anger over the proposal, thought the Board of Trustees says it is just to further edit the proposal.

f.) Action items

- 1.) Letter dated November 3, 2015, from Dr. Frank R. Lamas, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, to the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate re: Appointment of the Executive Director of Student Affairs Administration. Letter has been received.

The Executive Committee expressed concern over VP Lamas's suggestion that Interim Executive Director Janell Morillo be appointed to the permanent position without a search. It was not clear exactly what section of APM 320 this fell under, but it was decided to invite VP Lamas to a meeting of the committee to discuss the issue further.

- 2.) Memo dated November 2, 2015, from Paula Castadio, Vice President for University Advancement, to Dr. Kevin Ayotte, Academic Senate Chair re: CSU Honorary Degree – ad hoc subcommittee. Memo has been received.

VP Castadio needs faculty members to be appointed to this subcommittee quickly because of a November 20 deadline and there is no regular process for doing so. It was decided that we would follow past practice and appointment members of the Senate Executive Committee to serve with Provost Zelezny and VP Castadio. Vice Chair Holyoke, Senator Jenkins, Senator Katti, and Senator Raya-Fernandez were appointed.

- 3.) Email dated November 4, 2015, from Chris Langer, Library Senator re: Academic Senate Resolution in Support of AB 798, the College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015. Email has been received.

Essentially Vang Vang, an instructional technology librarian, wants the Academic Senate to pass the resolution she forwarded to us (through Senator Langer) in support of AB 798. Vice Chair Holyoke will contact Senator Langer about simply introducing this in the Academic Senate.

- 4.) Memo dated November 5, 2015 from Venita Baker, Academic Senate Office Coordinator, to Kevin Ayotte, Academic Senate Chair re: Faculty Liaison / Student Evaluations of Faculty. Memo has been received.

Dr. Samuel Omolayo had been in this three-year appointment helping the faculty understand the IDEA student ratings forms, but it expired. A call will be sent for a new faculty member to serve.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 3:58pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 3:00pm on Monday,
November 16, 2015.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate