

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

December 5, 2016

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), Tim Ryan (ASI), and Lynette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Members excused: Otto Benavides (Statewide Senate), Joseph Castro (Ex-officio), and Loretta Kensinger (At-large)

Guests: Venita Baker and Dennis Nef (Vice Provost)

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

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of November 28, 2016

Approval of the Minutes of November 28, 2016

3.) Communications and announcements

a. Provost Zelezny

Reported that she recently attended a meeting of CSU provosts where they talked about the Statewide Senate's Quantitative Reasoning Report, which we have already distributed to the faculty for feedback. A few faculty members are expressing some discomfort with the report's content, as well as the timing of the request for feedback because an unofficial version of the report was released earlier in the year. Faculty comments will come to Vice Chair Holyoke, who will summarize them and pass them on to the Provost, who will combine them with comments from the

administration and send it all on to the Statewide Senate. The Provost also noted that the Statewide Senate recently released a report on Ethnic Studies that we also need to take a look at.

The California State Department of Finance is going to be visiting Fresno State in the spring as part of a tour of all CSU campuses. They may have some tough questions for us regarding the four-year graduation rate goals set by the governor.

The Provost thanked us for the feedback she received on the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. She will be having a kick-off meeting with the task force leaders before the semester is over. Senator Ram (University-wide) asked how long each task force is supposed to go before issuing a final report. The Provost answered that the current task forces are only authorized for a year, but may be renewed for another year if needed.

Vice Chair Holyoke recommended that President Castro and Vice President Astone address the Academic Senate in the near future about the funding behind the proposed new student union / faculty center and why the money cannot be used for alternative buildings, such as a classroom building. The Provost said that was a good idea and the President would probably agree to do so.

b. Senator Raya-Fernandez (At-large)

Explained a proposed change in the policy at the Student Health and Counseling Center regarding the issuing of letters allowing students to withdraw from classes for medical or counseling reasons. In the past students have been coming at the last moment to request such letters, but now they will only be given letters if the Center already has been seeing them. Also, there will be a five day turn-around period for the letters rather than giving them out on the same day, so students should not come for these letters at the last minute.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked if this new policy could be placed on the Center's website. Senator Raya-Fernandez said she would recommend it. The Provost asked how often faculty are referring students to the Center to obtain these letters. Apparently it is fairly often. Chair Ayotte recommended that the Center

contact the Registrar's Office to make sure that this change in policy does not interfere with any of the Registrar's policies regarding student registration and withdrawal from classes. He also recommended that Senator Raya-Fernandez draft a message regarding the change in policy that he could send to all faculty members.

c. Tim Ryan (ASI)

Noted that the ASI Student Senate passed the same resolution on diversity that the Academic Senate passed at its last meeting.

He also noted that students applying for research grants through the Division of Research and Graduate Studies are having problems because their faculty mentors are not getting their own recommendation letters uploaded on time (or at all). This could put student grant applications in jeopardy. The Provost said that she would talk to Dean Marshall on their behalf.

d. Chair Ayotte

Noted that Senator Kensiger had asked him to report back on whether other CSU campuses were passing resolutions in response to the election of Donald Trump, especially if any are passing resolutions calling on their leadership to designate themselves as sanctuary campuses. Other campuses are talking about it, but no other campus has taken action, though CSU Dominguez Hills may do so in the near future.

e. Action Items

- i. Memo dated December 1, 2016, from James Mullooly, Chair of AP&P, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: APM 241 (Interim Policy on Course Syllabi and Grading). Memo has been received.

Since this makes only tiny, non-substantive changes to the policy, and otherwise makes it permanent rather than interim, it was decided to place this on the consent calendar of the first spring meeting of the Academic Senate.

4.) APM 110 – Policy on Ancillary Units. Second reading.

Senator Kensinger (At-large), who was excused, wanted to add some new language giving the Academic Senate more oversight of ancillary units, but since this was conceptually noncontroversial, it was decided that she would be able to do this when the policy came before the full Academic Senate.

MSC approving revised APM 110 for the Academic Senate.

5.) Nominations for Title IX Coordinator Search Committee

The Senate Executive Committee entered executive session at 3:43pm
The Senate Executive Committee returned from executive session at 3:48pm

MSC appointing Yoshiko Takahashi (Criminology) and John McMillen (Kinesiology) to the Title IX Coordinator Search Committee.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 3:49pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, January 23, 2016.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate