

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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November 24, 2014

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), President Joseph Castro (Ex-officio), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Madhusudan Katti (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (Statewide), Moses Menchaca (ASI), Melanie Ram (At-large), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), Lynn Williams (Ex-officio), Provost Lynette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Visitors: Venita Baker, AVP Michael Caldwell (Faculty Affairs), Peter Fortuna, Vicki Taylor, Brian Tsukimura (Chair, Personnel Committee)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:08pm in HML 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the minutes of November 17, 2014

MSC approving the minutes of November 17, 2014

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) President Castro

Noted that we have a new Director of Athletics, Jim Bartko formerly of the University of Oregon. He has experience with faculty governance and wishes to engage faculty more in athletics, as well as improve the fundraising by athletics so that it no longer need rely on the university.

The Student Cupboard program launched in the old Farm Market building to help combat the problem of student food insecurity on the campus.

The search for a Chief Information Officer is going to launch in January, but the search firm being retained by the university is coming to campus on December 17. The president's office is interesting in knowing whether the Senate Executive Committee is interested in meeting with people from the search firm that day. The committee is interested.

b.) Provost Zelezny

Noted that Dr. Steven Blumenshine from the Department of Biology is heading the search for an interim dean for the College of Science and Mathematics to temporarily replace Dean Susan Elrod, who took an 18-month leave of absence to be interim provost at California State University, Chico. The provost noted that faculty in the college are feeling very insecure with the frequent changes in their leadership over the last few years, as well as the dissolution of their college proposed a couple of years ago. Some concern was expressed over the appropriateness of Dean Elrod taking such a leave of absence to be interim provost of another university.

The provost is starting to put together the search for a new Dean of the Jordan College of Agriculture, Science, and Technology, which will launch in late January or early February. Reflecting the concerns expressed by the Executive Committee in the November 10, 2014, meeting, only two industry people will be appointed to the search committee rather than three. There will be several open houses with area industry people for the search committee and candidates.

c.) Chair Ayotte reported that Vice President Matson's office has nearly finished a written response to the Executive Committee's inquiry regarding the budget.

- 4.) Vicki Taylor of Administrative Services and Peter Fortuna of Technology Services gave a short presentation regarding the use of Box.com, a cloud-based system for distributing documents that Executive Committee can use in its effort to go paper-less.

- 5.) Nominees for 2014-2017 Faculty Trustee

The Statewide Academic Senate is requesting all campuses to implement a procedure to recruit nominees to be considered for the Faculty Trustee position on the CSU Board of Trustees from 2014 to 2017. Each campus academic senate will solicit faculty interest and forward qualifying individuals to the Statewide Academic Senate for consideration.

There was considerable debate over what method we should employ to solicit faculty interest, as well as debate over what procedures we were allowed to use since the directions from the Statewide Senate were not very clear.

The Executive Committee decided to issue a call to the faculty and faculty members interested in being considered will have to obtain the signatures of at least 30 faculty members from at least two colleges to be considered eligible (they must also be tenured faculty). The deadline for submission is expected to be January 9, 2015. There was some confusion over whether Statewide Senate requires 50 signatures or whether we are permitted to set our own standard at 30. Chair Ayotte will contact Statewide Senate to clear up this matter before the call is issued.

- 6.) Request by the Senate Personnel Committee to have APM 367, 370, and 393 removed from the APM because they have been superseded by executive orders from the Chancellor's Office.

Committee members were deeply upset about policies crafted by the Academic Senate being overturned by executive orders from the Chancellor, and Senator Kensinger noted that even in these circumstances there is often some flexibility in how the order is to be implemented that require administration consultation with the Academic

Senate, even if it is just about how to put a committee together and staff it with faculty.

Chair Tsukimura felt that these three policies really needed to be removed from the APM for liability reasons since faculty might read them instead of the executive orders that superseded them and, consequently, take the wrong actions. Executive Committee members felt it was necessary to then draft general language for the APM over how to implement executive orders on this campus, stating that the administration must make the Academic Senate aware of all such executive orders and that, whenever and where ever possible, the administration must consult with the faculty on how best to implement the executive order. Vice Chair Holyoke was tasked with drafting this language, though it will be sent to the Academic Policy and Planning Committee for consideration before it is brought to the Senate for approval.

MSC forwarding the recommendations for removal from the APM to the Academic Senate.

- 7.) Request by the Senate Personnel Committee to remove APM 321 and 358 from the APM since they are just reports and not policy.

Chair Tsukimura noted that reports are not policy and these two items really do not belong in the APM. APM 358 is a report on the Triad Teaching Improvement Program, and nobody appears to know what this means or what it was. APM 321 is the Report of the Faculty Scholar Blue Ribbon Committee discussing the Boyer Model, which was supposed to guide the evaluation of teaching for tenure and promotion. Concern was expressed by Executive Committee members that probationary plans were ignoring the report, and there was some concern whether it was a good idea to remove the report from the APM. Nonetheless, it was decided to advance the question to the Academic Senate.

MSC forwarding the recommendations from the removal of APM 358 and 321 from the APM to the Academic Senate.

Chair Tsukimura also requested guidance from the Executive Committee regarding APM 357, the Policy on the Center for Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL). The Senate sub-committee overseeing CETL no longer exists (and had not met since 2008), and CETL has been transformed into CSALT. In light of these developments, is APM 357 still necessary? The Executive Committee decided it was, but needs to be modified to extend Academic Senate oversight to CSALT (and TILT which is within CSALT). It was recommended that the Senate Personnel Committee draft amendments to APM 357 to ensure faculty oversight of CSALT.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on January 26, 2015.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate