

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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(EC-11)

February 27, 2017

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

Members excused: Joseph Castro (Ex-officio) and Loretta Kensinger (At-large)

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:09pm in HML 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of February 6, 2017

MSC approving the Minutes of February 6, 2017

3.) Communications and announcements

a. Provost Zelezny

Thanked the six faculty members (Ayotte, Benavides, Cummins, Holyoke, Jenkins, and Maldonado) who met with representatives from the California Department of Finance this morning to discuss graduation rates and related student success issues.

Noted that the Student Success Summit is tomorrow and thanked Chair Ayotte and President Ryan (ASI) for their work in setting it up.

She announced three new MPP searches, all of which will begin this semester but will not be completed until the fall semester of 2017. They are Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Dean of the Madden Library, and AVP for Faculty Affairs.

b. Otto Benavides (Statewide Senator)

Noted that the Statewide Academic Senate recently hosted a successful academic conference at Sonoma State University. Chair Ayotte also participated in this conference.

c. Action Items

- i. Memo dated February 13, 2017, from the Student Ratings of Instruction Task Force to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: Student Ratings of Instruction Survey Online. Memo has been received.

The survey of faculty regarding student ratings has been deployed. No action is required.

- ii. Memo dated February 7, 2017, from Timothy Skeen, Chair of the University Graduate Committee to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: APM 311 Teaching Associate Fee Waivers.

The executive committee of the College of Arts and Humanities asked the Graduate Committee to look at APM 311 and the qualifications for receiving a tuition waiver. If a student receives a SUG they are not eligible for a waiver, but SUGs often do not cover enough of a graduate student's expenses. Also, they want the committee to consider whether international students could be eligible to receive a waiver. Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) noted that most international students, as a condition of their H1 visas, are forbidden from working while in the United States. The Provost noted that they are also ineligible to receive SUGs, though there are other possible forms of support the administration is exploring.

MSC referring this issue back to the Graduate Committee, recommending that they consult with Interim AVP Lam and Dean Marshall about supporting graduate students.

- iii. Emails from Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate; Jody Hironaka-Juteau, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services; Xuanning Fu, Dean of Undergraduate Studies re: GE task force. Emails have been received.

These confirm that the Senate Executive Committee approves the appointment of Dr. Steve Rocca of Jordan College to the GE Task Force.

- iv. Email dated February 23, 2017, from Robert Maldonado, Chair Budget Committee to Thomas Holyoke Vice Chair Academic Senate re: Liberal Studies Department Proposal. Email has been received.

Added to the agenda of the Executive Committee, provided that evidence can be found that the proposal also went to the Undergraduate Curriculum Subcommittee. Chair Ayotte will check.

- v. Nominations to search committees: Dr. Trang Phan for the Deputy CIO search committee, and Dr. Michael Botwin to the search committee for an AVP of Development.

No action required.

4.) Research Awards Review Committee

The problem appears to be that APM 360 gives the Research Committee responsibility for reviewing sabbatical proposals if needed, but currently there is no such committee. Responsibility for this may rest with the Research Subcommittee (of AP&P), but it does not require faculty members to be tenured and it is desirable that only tenured faculty members review sabbatical proposals. There is also a Research Awards Review Committee which does require its members to be tenured, but it does not appear to ever meet or do anything (according to the lack of minutes).

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked what the Research Awards Review Committee is supposed to do. The Provost explained that it was originally created to oversee the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and help it decide on how to distribute extra funds as internal grants. That money no longer exists, and neither does the Office.

Vice Chair Holyoke recommended that the Research Awards Review Committee be eliminated and its duties, including sabbatical review (which also almost never happens) be transferred to the Research Subcommittee with the proviso that sabbatical review be conducted only by the tenured members of that subcommittee.

Chair Ayotte recommended that before any action is taken he will contact the Research Awards Review Committee Chair, Dr. Laurent Dejean, to confirm that it is really not meeting.

5.) Provost's Award Committee 2016-2017.

Entered executive session at 4:04pm

Returned from executive session at 4:30pm

MSC nominating Dr. Frederick Nelson (Curriculum and Instruction), Constance Jones (Psychology), Young Wook Kim (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Lori Clune (History), and Jenelle Pitt (Counselor Education and Rehabilitation) to the Provost's Award Committee.

6.) Governing Documents

Vice Chair Holyoke walked the committee through proposed changes to the university constitution. Refinements and changes were recommended to sections on exemptions to policies, recalling the senate chair and vice chair, and notifying departments of absent senators. Vice Chair Holyoke will make the amendments and bring it back before the committee.

Chair Ayotte noted that we might think about creating a special senatorial position for lecturers.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 5:29pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, March 13, 2017.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate