

THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
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September 26, 2016

Members excused: O. Benavides, B. Buckner, Q. Chen, B. Dermugrdechian, P. Durette, A. McKeith, M. Ram, J. Wakabayashi

Members absent: L. Cornelio, T. Elarabi, J. Giglio, C. Henson, D. Lewis, C. Perez, L. Williams

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:06pm in HML 2206.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of September 12, 2016

A friendly amendment was offered

MSC approving the Minutes of September 12, 2016, as amended

Amendment to the Minutes of March 7, 2016

MSC approving the Minutes of March 7, 2016, as amended

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies)

Announced that the Women's Studies Program is bringing to campus Dr. Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (CSU East Bay) to talk about "The U.S. Origin Myth" on September 29, 7:00pm, in the North Gym. Everyone is welcome to attend.

b.) Chair Ayotte

Spoke about accessibility problems on campus. Noted that APM 237 on accessible instructional materials will be coming to the Academic Senate soon, but it deals largely with student accessibility. A Café Team is working to better coordinate accessibility issues for faculty and staff on the campus. Any senators who have ideas or concerns regarding accessibility should refer them to Chair Ayotte, who will forward them to the appropriate campus people.

Senator Hall (Physics) asked about the status of the University Testing Center. Chair Ayotte noted that a consultant is coming to campus and there will be an open forum for all faculty to come and give their views. It will be on October 14 at 3:00 or 3:30. There may also be a meeting between senators and the consultant earlier in the day. Senator Hall asked if the task force on the UTC report has been made available yet to the Academic Senate as President Castro promised? No, Chair Ayotte will look into it.

4.) Installation of new senators

New senator Amber Hammons (Child, Family & Consumer Sciences)

5.) Senate photo

6.) Consent calendar

Name change for Mass Communication and Journalism Department to Media, Communication, and Journalism Department.

Consent calendar approved by unanimous consent

7.) New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

8.) Resolution on creation of an ad hoc task force to study faculty workload reduction. Second reading.

Senator Bryant (University-wide) moved to change a reference to “members” to “representatives.” It was seconded, but Senator Botwin (Psychology) modified it to require only two representatives from the indicated committees. The amendment and second-degree amendment passed as friendly amendments.

Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) moved an amendment adding a new “Resolved” to the resolution requiring the appointment of a member of the executive board of the local chapter of the California Faculty Association. It was seconded. Senator Botwin asked if this would be a faculty member, or a member of the local CFA staff. Senator Kensinger indicated that it meant a faculty member and a friendly amendment to her amendment was approved changing “CFA representative” to “CFA member.”

MSC approving Senator Kensinger’s amendment as amended.

Chair Tsukimura (Personnel Committee) spoke about the workload issue, indicating that the Personnel Committee has been working on this but has been having a problem agreeing on how it should be defined. They could not agree on what a faculty member’s workload ought to be. Therefore they focused last year on the duties of department / program chairs by sending chairs a survey. 42 of 58 responded. They found that chair assigned time is based on FTEs, even though this does not take into account a lot of the work done by chairs of departments. The Committee has created a report based on the survey which contains a few “actionable items” that might be used to help train chairs to handle their workload. It has been sent to the provost. Since CFA is going to be tackling the workload issue as well in the next round of collective bargaining, the Personnel Committee is holding off to see exactly what CFA does.

Senator Forcags (Mathematics) asked what a chair’s workload has to do with the workload of faculty. He noted that a big part of the problem is squaring faculty research demands with their ambiguous workload obligations in the APM and under the collective bargaining agreement. Chair Tsukimura agreed, but noted that his committee could not agree on what faculty ought to be doing.

Senator Kensinger reminded everyone that chairs are also faculty, not administrators. She also noted that this task force is not

being required to write new policy, merely to involve faculty in learning more about the workload problem and perhaps make some suggestions to the Academic Senate.

Senator Mullooly (Anthropology), who is also the incoming chair of the Council of Chairs, noted that they have received the Personnel Committee's data and intend to analyze it. They intend to create a data book that he hopes will give faculty some more perspective on the workload issue.

Senator Fulop (Linguistics) noted in response to Senator Kensinger that chairs spend 40% of their time on administrative work, and during this time they serve at the pleasure of the president and are not protected by the CFA.

Senator Botwin noted that he has seen this kind of resolution before. He noted that there is a big difference in workload depending on whether a department uses a centralized advising system, or have a system where all faculty do the advising. He may write a new "Resolved" on this for next time.

This item will return on the agenda of the next meeting of the Academic Senate.

9. APM 205 Policy on Undergraduate Student Academic Advising.
First reading.

This new policy was presented by Chair Jackson (Student Affairs Committee). She explained that this policy was amended to make it consistent with the way advising is now being handled at Fresno State. Much of it was done in consultation with Janell Morillo, who is heading up the coordination of advising on the campus.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) said he liked it that most of the references to advisors in the policy were plural, but wanted it and "advisee" made plural in the first paragraph. A friendly amendment was offered and accepted to make this change.

Senator Hall (Physics) noted that colleges are not mentioned in the policy, even though a lot of advising is now being handled at the college, rather than department, level. It was noted that "school" was mentioned at the beginning of Part II, Section A of the revised policy and perhaps "college" could be added there as

well. A friendly amendment was made and accepted to change “school” to “college, school”.

Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) noted that the revised policy appears to take responsibility away from departments and individual faculty for advising, making the “advisor” in the document appear more neutral.

This item will return for a second reading on the next agenda of the Academic Senate.

10. New APM on Preferred Name Policy. First reading.

Chair Mullooly (Academic Policy and Planning Committee) introduced the new policy, noting that it updates the APM to conform with what is already happening in the Division of Student Affairs. The technology staff at the university has already managed to change most systems on the campus to let students change their names.

Senator Bryant (University-wide) asked if there is a limit on the number of times a name could be changed, noting that students might use this policy to change their names after being reported for cheating and plagiarism. Chair Mullooly said this policy only allows a first name to be changed, not a last name or student ID so this kind of abuse should not be possible.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:16pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on October 10, 2016.

Submitted by
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate