

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

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October 5, 2015

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), President Joseph I. Castro (Ex-officio), Abigail Hudson (ASI), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Madhu Katti (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (State-wide), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), and Provost Lynnette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Guests: Venita Baker, Rita Bocchinfuso-Cohen (Testing Center), Xuanning Fu (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Rima Maldonado (SSD), Janell Morillo (Student Affairs and Enrollment Management), Mamta Rawat (Biology), and Brian Tsukimura (Chair, Personnel Committee)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:08pm in HML 2106

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda.

2.) Approval of the minutes of September 21, 2015

MSC approving the minutes of September 21, 2015.

3.) Communications and announcements

a.) President Castro

Thanked everyone who attended on the planning sessions for the new strategic plan.

Equity II will be announced soon, but first they will finalize the agreement with CFA.

Recommends the campus play Yellowman to all committee members.

b.) Provost Zelezny

The university is moving forward with the hiring of 60+ new faculty to deal with the tenure-density problem. We are also in the campus visit stage of hiring for new deans of Jordan College and the College of Arts and Humanities. Very soon she will also be contacting faculty in the College of Math and Science about a dean search for them.

c.) Action items

- 1.) Memo dated September 15, 2015, from Joseph I. Castro, President to Dr. Kevin Ayotte, Academic Senate re: Faculty Representation for IETCC. Memo has been received. A call for one faculty member to serve will be sent.
- 2.) Memo dated September 25, 2015, from Joseph I. Castro, President to Dr. Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: Information Technology Security Committee. Memo has been received. A call for two faculty members to serve will be sent.
- 3.) Email dated September 9, 2015, from Steven Filing, Chair Academic Senate, California State University and email dated September 24, 2015, from Catherine Nelson, Statewide Senator from Sonoma State University re: Open Presidential Searches. Emails have been received. This item will be considered in conjunction with the next item.
- 4.) Email dated October 5, 2015, from Loretta Kensinger, Statewide Senator re: Resolution on Consultation on Presidential Searches. Email has been received.

Senator Kensinger discussed the importance of her resolution, noting that the Statewide Academic Senate is trying to get as many campus senates as possible to pass resolutions calling for an open, faculty-involved process as presidential searches get underway at Sonoma State, San Jose State, CSU Channel Islands, and Chico State.

MSC placing the resolution on the consent calendar of the next meeting of the Academic Senate.

5.) Janell Morillo (Student Affairs and Enrollment Management), Xuanning Fu (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), and Rita Bocchinfuso-Cohen (Testing Services) presented a new strategy for the Testing Center to cope with the huge influx of students on the last couple of days of finals week. Concern was expressed over their proposal to require professors to have all final exams delivered to the Center by the Wednesday of the last week of classes. Senator Kensinger (Statewide) felt this deadline was a little too tough since faculty often do not know what they can cover on the exam until that last Wednesday of classes is over, and thus tend to write their exams on the subsequent dead days. She asked the Center to consider allowing professors with exams on Thursday or Friday of finals week to submit their exams on Thursday or Friday of the prior week.

It was mentioned that if the university really builds a new Student Center, that a large room in the building should be dedicated to the Testing Center.

Senator Ram (University-wide) also suggested that faculty who plan to give their finals at the Testing Center inform the Center early in the semester so the Center has an idea of what their workload and space needs will be.

6.) Memo from Brian Tsukimura, Chair of the University Personnel Committee, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: APM 311 on Teaching Assistants. The item was placed on the agenda of the executive committee as the new item #7.

4.) Scheduling of Executive Committee and Senate meetings.

It was decided that since the agendas of the Academic Senate and Executive Committee were so large that both bodies would start to meet every week until most of the backlog is taken care of. This will begin next week (Executive Committee meeting at 3:00 and the Academic Senate meeting at 4:00).

5.) APM 237 Policy on Faculty Responsibility for Accessible Instructional Materials – Personnel Committee. Second Reading.

Rima Maldonado (SSD) again came to discuss the proposed policy with the Senate Executive Committee.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide) expressed concern that TILT might not have the resources necessary to have frequent training sessions for faculty on compliance. Provost Zelezny indicated that she would work with TILT on this problem.

Senator Ram (University-wide) again expressed concern about voting on a policy incorporating TILT guidelines on accessible course documents when the guidelines were still not available on-line to be seen. Ms. Maldonado promised to get this information to Chair Ayotte, as well as a definition of the meaning of “accessible” in this context.

Consideration of APM 237 was tabled until this material is made available.

6.) Freedom of Expression Policy

Interim Vice President of Administration Astone described this new MAPP interim policy. The policy was originally developed just for facilities management, but Vice President Astone felt it should be expanded to be a general MAPP policy for the entire campus, developing a new policy with her office, campus police, and legal counsel.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) and Vice Chair Holyoke expressed concern about possible limitations on student marches and sit-ins this policy might cause. It was also noted that it did not reference the University Honor Code. Vice President Astone said she would work on the language to address these concerns, and also agreed to present the document to the Academic Senate for feedback.

Vice President Astone also noted that the Free Speech Area was going to be renamed because its current name suggests that it is the only place

on campus where speech was free. ASI President Hudson indicated that student preference was very high for naming it “Bulldog Commons”.

7.) APM 311 Policy on Teaching Assistants

Personnel Committee Chair Tsukimura and Dr. Mamta Rawat (Biology) presented the revised policy to the Executive Committee.

Many questions were asked about the various small changes that the Personnel Committee had made. Chair Ayotte expressed concern that there was no language clearly saying that TAs violating the University Honor Code and Policy on Plagiarism could be terminated or not re-appointed. After considerable discussion, the following new language was adopted for Section IV with a new paragraph 4: “A violation of the University Honor Code and APM 235 may be considered in a TA’s appointment and reappointment decisions, of termination of contract.”

MSC approving APM 311 for placement on the agenda of the Academic Senate.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:49pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 3:00pm on Monday, October 12, 2015.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate