

THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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(AS-11)

October 23, 2017

Members excused: L. Bryant, M. Jenkins, J. Smith-Warshaw, M. Dangi

Members absent: P. Adams, B. Buckner, M. Golden, P.L. Martinez (ASI),
K. McBee, B. Singh, J. Wakabayashi, J. Wenger, B.
Zante (ASI)

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:03pm in HML 2206.

1.) Approval of the agenda.

MSC approving the agenda.

2.) Approval of the Minutes of October 9, 2017.

MSC approving the Minutes of October 9, 2017, 2 abstentions.

3.) Installation of new senator.

The following new senator was installed:

Dr. Daniel Cady
Department of History

4.) Communications and announcements.

a. Provost Zelezny

Announced the new permanent Dean of Social Sciences, Dr.
Michelle DenBeste.

Related the status of the search for an Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs. Stated there were interesting recommendations from the feedback page on the open forum and hopes to have an announcement shortly.

b. Brandon Sepulveda (Executive Vice President, ASI)

Announced, starting early November, the arrangement of an online subscription for the New York Times for all students, faculty and staff. Encouraged faculty to implement the New York Times in their courses.

c. Chair Holyoke

Reminded faculty to order textbooks in a timely manner. Announced the panel “Civility and Responsibility: First Amendment and the Freedom of Speech Forum” will occur on October 24th.

d. President Castro

Announced Fresno State won an award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities focused on student success and completion. Related this is the 4th award Fresno State has won from ASCU. Thanked faculty for their hard work.

Related the budget reflects the priorities set forth in the strategic plan. Stated almost every dollar is being put into our people through salaries and benefits because the success of students depends upon faculty and staff.

Stated there is a focus of funding high impact practices including tenure density. The number of tenure line faculty increased about 10%. Stated he would like that to be higher but it was good that progress was made.

Related another area of focus is on infrastructure, classrooms and laboratories.

Related challenges lie ahead due to the budget being unsustainable over the next 5 years. Stated they were looking ahead to the possibility of the economy cooling off and the

university may not be able to do what it has with benefits and salaries.

e. Vice President Adishian-Astone

Shared the 2016/17 figures as compared to 2017/18. About 86% is dedicated to salaries and benefits. The university is receiving 149.5 million from the general fund and 137 million from tuition and fees. The university received 4,350,000 from the graduation initiative. The benefits lines were associated with new positions of academic affairs, student affairs and technology services.

Chair Holyoke asked if this amount was one-time funding.

Vice President Adishian-Astone replied it is recurring.

Senator Kensinger (Women Studies) asked if retirements compensate for incoming benefits.

Vice President Adishian-Astone replied benefits for retirees are handled by the system, but active benefits are handled by the university, which will be detailed in a future slide.

Related benefit expenditures rose from 50 million to 80 million in 4 years and costs are increasing dramatically. Stated as we grow and bring on new faculty and staff, this will be part of the budget picture. They are keeping a close eye on the increases to make sure we have the resources to contribute to the benefits pool.

Stated the university received 1.7 million for enrollment growth, which provided 2 positions in Technology Services and an extra position in public safety. A majority is in reserve for strategic planning and greater good funds. Some was set to the benefits pool to manage the expenses.

Related the university has been making a lot of progress with investing in facilities. Many projects had multiple funding sources. Showed a summary of what has been invested in the campus from AY 2013/14-2016/17.

Focused on what is on the horizon for 2017/18. The priority is the North and South Gym project. Related this will help Kinesiology, Athletics, and will provide additional classrooms.

Provided information on upgrades to Central Plant. Explained the university needs to support this if we want our campus to grow.

Senator Raheem (Counselor Education and Rehabilitation) stated need for changing rooms in the Education Building.

Vice President Adishian-Astone thanked him for the feedback.

Senator Ram (Universitywide) asked if the construction would occur over the summer to reduce impact on classes.

Vice President Adishian-Astone replied the goal is to have the rooms done in the summer, but it may not be possible. Each room's scope is different but they are looking at a holistic approach.

Introduced deferred maintenance projects, including safety upgrades. Related the money is coming from the chancellor's office, partners, and leftover funds from electrical projects. These will be combined with parking funds. The equestrian locker room will be renovated.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) asked about the current estimate of deferred maintenance.

Vice President Adishian-Astone replied excluding the central plant it is 180-200 million but more needs are added to the list as buildings age. The university is trying to get ahead of the upgrades before things break.

Senator Wilson (Computer Science) asked about the consultation process for street improvements.

Vice President Adishian-Astone replied they expanded the Campus Planning Committee, and it has representation from every school, about 50 people in attendance. She stated everyone is welcome to attend and hopefully the representatives are reporting back to their schools.

Senator Brady (Earth & Environmental Sciences) asked about bike paths as a part of the improvements.

Vice President Adishian-Astone replied they would not yet occur because they need to revisit Barstow Avenue in a holistic way. The Bulldog Express shuttle is using funds that

would normally be directed to those improvements. Some of the costs of the shuttle will go down in the future and the university can revisit the bike path, which is important but must be done as a whole.

Chair Holyoke asked whether there is any possibility for the university to grow dramatically and reap more resources.

President Castro replied there has been increased demand in the Central Valley, and we have been advocating with the legislature and governor about a regional funding model, but that most likely will not happen soon. Stated the university needs to look at other revenue sources, such as public/private partnerships, but that comes with risk.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) thanked President Castro for the work he is doing and asked if it would be possible to achieve a funding proposition on the ballot supported by the union and other organizations.

President Castro replied that is a possibility, and it has not happened for higher education bonds in the past, but it could in the future with a coalition. Higher education initiatives have not polled well.

Senator Gilewicz (English) asked if public/private partnerships would be with large corporations or smaller companies.

President Castro replied it would be all of the above. He provided an example of the central plant, where they will put out a call for proposals and see what businesses apply.

Senator Gilewicz (English) asked what strings might be attached to that type of project.

President Castro replied they will be very careful to safeguard the values of the university and will look at partners and their values. There have been proposals they have turned down.

Senator Kensinger (Women Studies) stated there hasn't been slides in the presentation that trace the overall changes in things like student affairs and where the Level B money is going, and she wonders if the senate can get that

information. She said it would give a sense of what is going on between academic affairs, athletics, and student affairs. Stated she is concerned academic affairs is losing out to other parts of the campus.

President Castro replied most of the money continues to go to academic affairs and they did not show details. They did not include Level A funding because most of the money goes to benefits.

Provost Zelezny contributed that Level B spending has been flat.

Chair Holyoke asked if they have anything that can be distributed to the senate.

Vice President Adishian-Astone replied they do.

Senator Kensinger (Women Studies) related she wanted to make new senators aware it is important to contextualize the increase in benefits costs with a change initiated by the governor, and agreed to by the chancellor, about 3-4 years ago. The state froze the benefits at a certain level and the universities have had to deal with the increases.

Senator Henson (English) related she thinks it is beneficial to have information and asked about Level 0 funding.

Vice President Adishian-Astone replied she would provide that information.

President Castro contributed that has largely been driven by the system but it will be shared. He mentioned athletics were brought up and the university had to use some of the one-time funding to help athletics. He stated athletics is trying to have a stronger fundraising program and the university has had to help during this transition. The idea is over time they will be able to fundraise more of their budget and the state contribution will be less.

Senator Gilewicz (English) related the rumor once was money was going to the SaveMart Center, and it would be nice to know if this has been true.

Vice President Adishian-Astone replied no general funds or state support goes to the SaveMart Center. It does not

operate in the positive, but when it is negative it is covered from reserves in the auxiliary.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) related the wish that the decision process around things like the Greater Good fund be normalized with a calendar to allow for consultation.

President Castro replied the Greater Good fund was created by the cabinet taking reserves from each area that would support projects that serve the greater good of the campus. He will talk to the cabinet and see what they can do about that.

Senator Karr (Music) asked where the Center for the Arts fits into the budget.

President Castro replied it is not in the funding at this point, but there is a President's Commission on the Arts and Humanities looking at this broadly and will have a recommendation around the holidays. It will need to be funded primarily by private sources.

5.) Governing Documents - Constitution for the Academic Assembly and Academic Senate Bylaws.

Chair Holyoke provided a summary of the senate's discussion in the previous meeting regarding term limits.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) spoke against the amendment to require a 2/3 vote for terms beyond the second term. He explained if three people were running there could be complications with achieving the threshold the amendment requires.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15pm. The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on Monday, November 6, 2017.

Submitted by
Paula Durette
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by
Thomas Holyoke
Chair
Academic Senate