

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
Fresno, California 93740-8014
Telephone: 278-2743

Fax: 278-5745
(EC-13)

January 25, 2016

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Joseph I. Castro (Ex-officio), Madhu Katti (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (Statewide Senate), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), Lynnette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Members excused: Abigail Hudson (ASI) and Michael Jenkins (At-large)

Guests: Venita Baker, Anthony Farnesi (ASI), James Mullooly (AP&P Committee), and Brian Tsukimura (Personnel Committee)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:07pm in HML 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of December 21, 2015

MSC approving the Minutes of December 21, 2015 (1 abstention)

3.) Communications and announcements

a. President Castro

Noted that the search for a new Vice President for Administration is getting underway and will be chaired by Provost Zelezny. He hopes it will be finished by graduation.

He, Provost Zelezny, and Vice President Lamas (Student Affairs) are working to finalize admission requirements for the Fall of 2016,

which are changing because of impaction. There will be slightly fewer freshmen and slightly more transfer students from the community colleges. Also, the average number of student credits per semester is projected to increase from 13.5 to 14.5. The GPA requirements for select programs in Lyles College and Jordan College will also increase a little.

Senator Raya-Fernandez (At-large) asked if this would reduce the number of freshmen students overall, and the president indicated new freshmen would likely be reduced by 172.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted that this means more non-traditional students may be coming in from the community colleges, and they might not be able to take 14.5 credit units a semester. The provost explained that 14.5 was a prediction, not a requirement, and any student who needed to take fewer credits a semester still could.

The provost noted in response to Senator Ram (University-wide) that they are trying to solve the problem of bottleneck courses, and also noted in response to Vice Chair Holyoke that they are trying to convince the Chancellor and the legislature that Fresno State deserves more support because demand for admission is so strong.

b. Provost Zelezny

Reported that the offer extended to the top candidate to be Dean of Jordan College was rejected. They are now interviewing a second candidate.

The announcement for the position of Dean of the College of Science and Math was just posted.

Because there are so many searches already going on, the provost has decided to postpone the search for a new Dean of Continuing and Global Education, meaning Interim Dean Moore will remain in this position.

Very soon the call for nominations for the Provost's Awards will go out, and this year it will include a new award for lecturers. She has also assembled a committee to review the awards.

The provost would like feedback from the Senate Executive Committee about creating a senate position for a lecturer. Chair Ayotte suggested that this topic be taken up when we discuss changes to the governing documents.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) asked about the Title IX Director search. President Castro said he would get back to her about that. She also noted that the course catalogue search engine does not list all of the courses in the Women's Studies Program, even though they are all in the electronic course catalogue. Other committee members noted that this was a general problem and that often minors and certificate programs do not come up when searches are done through the search engine.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked what "instructor operated scanning" meant in Vice President Lamas's letter to faculty about the University Testing Center. The provost said she would find out and get back to her. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted that the testing center needed to accommodate faculty who needed to give exams while they were away on professional business.

c. Vice Chair Holyoke

Noted that he recently met with Diana Ralls, the president's chief of staff, about how to implement new APM 132 on executive orders. They decided that any new executive order would be emailed to all members of the Academic Senate, and put onto the communications and announcements section of the agenda of the Senate Executive Committee so members could consult with President Castro about it.

d. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate)

Noted that President Castro is chairing a CSU task force on outreach to Native Americans.

Also noted that California State University, Chico's Academic Senate just had no confidence votes in their president, interim provost, and vice president for finance.

She noted that the Statewide Academic Senate has been asking for a task force on academic freedom as part of developing a new policy, and some expressed concern about draft documents on academic freedom already circulating before a task force has been created.

She also noted several important resolutions being worked on by the Statewide Senate. One asserts the primary role of faculty in evaluating and approving transfer courses from the community colleges, and apparently some are getting approved without faculty consent at some CSUs. Another calls for the inclusion of new part-time faculty in campus faculty orientations, as well as compensation for doing so. A couple other resolutions were mentioned.

e. Action items

- i. Memo dated January 21, 2016, from Marianne Jackson, Chair Student Affairs Committee to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: APM 205 Policy on Undergraduate Student Academic Advising. Memo has been received.

This item will be placed on the next agenda of the Senate Executive Committee and Marianne Jackson will be invited to attend.

4.) Naming Requests

- a. Fresno State Baseball Stadium to be named after Coach Bob Bennett

MSC approving the request

- b. Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute to be renamed the John D. Welty Center for Educational Policy and Leadership.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) asked if it might be more appropriate to name it for Dr. Sharon Brown-Welty, given her long history of work in education. President Castro indicated that the idea was to name it for former President Welty because he had strongly supported education and educational leadership at Fresno

State. Senator Kensinger then expressed grave concern over whether it was appropriate to honor President Welty for educational leadership when the university's Title IX scandal happened on his watch. Senator Raya-Fernandez and Chair Ayotte argued that the honor reflected President Welty's twenty-two years of service to Fresno State, including an emphasis on educational leadership programs for the Central Valley.

MSC approving the request (1 - nay).

- 5.) APM 321 Report on the Faculty Scholar Blue Ribbon Committee (first reading)

Personnel Committee Chair Tsukimura explained that the committee looked at this again and decided to recommend appending Chapter 2 of the Boyer Report to APM 324, thus removing the report from its own slot in the APM (it is currently APM 321). He argued that this would help remind faculty and administrators that probationary faculty should be evaluated by their achievements in some areas of teaching, research, and service and not be expected to be great at everything. The chapter would become the second appendix to APM 324 after the model probationary plan.

Senator Ram (University-wide) felt that the text of APM 324 should in some way reference the Boyer Report so that faculty would know why it is in the appendix (that it was used to help create the policy on probationary plans). It was decided to include a new footnote in APM 324 after the first sentence reading "The development of APM 324 was informed in part by Chapter 2 of Boyer 1994, see Appendix 2."

MSC waiving second reading.

MSC approving the inclusion of APM 324 on the agenda of the Academic Senate.

- 6.) Modifications to APM 233 on repeating classes (first reading)

The amendments to APM 233 would forbid students from repeating a class for a fourth time, which is requested by Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies).

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted that in some departments there is a need to repeat a class many times, and some students, because of life circumstances, need to have the opportunity to repeat classes several times. This new policy could interfere with these needs.

AP&P Chair Mullooly noted that several programs were consulted about this change, and the provost noted that this was part of the university's response to serious bottleneck problems in some courses. The provost also noted that several faculty members had complained to her about students showing up in the same course semester after semester. There was additional discussion about when was the best time for students to get advising about course they were failing and the potential impact this change might have on GE courses.

Senator Ram (University-wide) wondered if the change created an inconsistency in other parts of APM 233 regarding graduate students. Chair Mullooly said he would check with the graduate committee about this.

This item will return for second reading.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:31pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 3:00pm on Monday, February 8, 2016.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate