

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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August 25, 2014

Members Present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), President Joseph Castro (ex-officio), Michael Jenkins (at-large), Madhusudan Katti (at-large), Loretta Kensinger (state-wide), Moses Menchaca (ASI), Melanie Ram (university-wide), Lynn Williams (ex-officio), Provost Lynnette Zelezny (ex-officio)

Members Excused: Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (at-large)

Visitors: Venita Baker, Michael Caldwell (AVP for Faculty Affairs)

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm by Chair Ayotte in HML 2108

1. Agenda

MSC to approve the agenda as amended by adding items relating to annual reports by standing committee chairs, distributing committee documents electronically, review of academic assembly and senate constitution and bylaws, and using Bizflow for policy tracking and referrals.

2. Minutes of 5/5/2014

MSC to approve the minutes of 5/5/2014.

3. Communications and Announcements

A. Announcements by President Castro

Noted that we have three new vice presidents on the campus this fall.

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Discussed the upcoming search for an athletic director, which will involve a search firm, and which he hopes can conclude its work by the end of the fall semester. APM 320 requires that two coaches and an athletics department staff member be randomly selected for the search committee, but this may be difficult to do and would likely result in a committee that is not diverse. He asked the Executive Committee to approve a one-time suspension of the APM 320 requirement so he could appoint specific people from athletics to the committee to make it diverse. There was a great deal of discussion about this. Vice Chair Holyoke made a motion to approve a one-time suspension of APM 320 relating to the president's authority to appoint two coaches and an athletic department staff member for the search in order to guarantee diversity. It was seconded by Senator Ram and approved unanimously by the committee. Chair Ayotte then made a motion to refer APM 320 to the Personnel Committee to discuss whether or not the random selection of committee members was a good idea and whether alternative methods by be better and more inclusive. It was seconded by Senator Katti and approved unanimously by the committee.

Asked to have Vice President for Administration Matson give a presentation on changes in the budget to the Academic Senate and the Executive Committee. It was decided to only have VP Matson present to the senate on September 8.

4. Provost Zelezny

Noted that a search for a new dean of the College of Health and Human Services is moving forward, and that there will be a search for a new Dean of Undergraduate Studies this fall as well. The position of Assistant Vice President for Academic Resources, which Dennis Nef had held along with being the undergraduate studies dean, is essentially eliminated as these responsibilities are now rolled into the new office of Vice Provost.

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In the spring semester there will be a new search for a Dean of Graduate Studies, as well as for a new Dean of Continuing and Global Education. The provost is still deciding whether to have a search for a new Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities or extend Interim Dean Diaz's appointment another year.

No search firms will be used for the dean searches.

Asked for feedback on Café Academy and whether to continue doing it. There was very positive feedback and it looks like Café Academy will continue. Also asked about adding occasional lunches for faculty in the Vintage Room, a question the provost will take to the full senate.

B. Action Items

1. Memo dated December 10, 2013, from Marianne Jackson, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, to Lynn Williams, then Chair of the Academic Senate regarding amendments to APM 231 (student record adjustments due to retroactive adds and withdrawals). Amended policy proposal was referred to the Academic Policy and Planning Committee.
2. Email dated June 3, 2014, from Kiranjit Dhanjan (ASI Vice President for External Affairs) to Chair Kevin Ayotte regarding her appointment as ASI liaison to the Academic Senate and ASI's resolution asking the City of Fresno for a left-turn signal on Cedar Avenue and Bulldog Lane.

ASI President Menchaca explained that he was actually going to be the liaison from ASI to the Academic Senate. ASI also met with city officials regarding a new turn signal.

Chair Ayotte reported that he also wrote to members of the Fresno City Council urging them to support the left turn signal. One called back and one wrote back.

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3. Memo dated June 2, 2014, from John Constable, then Chair of the University Budget Committee, to Chair Ayotte regarding a discussion in the committee about academic program discontinuation. The memo was received, discussed, and no further action was taken.
4. Memo dated June 2, 2014, from John Constable, then Chair of the University Budget Committee, to Chair Ayotte regarding the election of Robert Maldonado as the new chair of the committee. The memo was received and no further action was taken.
5. Email dated April 27, 2014, from Jacqui Glasener, Executive Director of the Fresno State Alumni Association, to Chair Ayotte regarding the appointment of a new Faculty Director to the Association's board of directors for academic year 2014-2015. There was discussion as to whether this imposed an unreasonable cost on the appointed faculty member, but it was found that past and current practice was to make all financial obligations optional for the appointed faculty member.

A call will be sent for faculty interested in the position.

6. Memo dated August 25, 2014, from President Castro to Chair Ayotte regarding faculty representation on the President's Commission on Human Relations and Equity (PCHRE). A call will be sent to the faculty.
7. Memo dated August 18, 2014, from President Castro to Chair Ayotte regarding faculty representation to the search committee for a new athletic director. A call will be sent to the faculty. Selection for the committee will be done by balloting rather than by the Executive Committee.
8. Communications from Michael Caldwell, AVP for Faculty Affairs. Announced that there will be a couple of sessions for faculty to hear from a representative from IDEA about how student ratings work.

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AVP Caldwell also suggested that department chairs be informed as to what their average faculty IDEA scores are and to consider raising their minimum standard.

9. Memo dated February 7, 2014, from the Campus Planning Committee to Chair Ayotte requesting the appointment of faculty to the new Arboretum Sub-committee. A call to all faculty will be sent.
10. Memo dated August 19, 2014, regarding the need for a new faculty representative to the Athletics Advisory Council for a three-year term. A call to all faculty will be sent.

C. Senator Kensinger (statewide senator)

Noted that has been appointed to the statewide senate's Faculty Affairs Committee, though her sub-committee assignments are still being worked out.

Also emphasized the importance of developing plans to combat sexual assault on campus in line with President Obama's new initiative.

D. Senator Williams (ex-officio)

Expressed concern about drivers ignoring stop signs on Barstow Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 3:00pm on September 15.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin J. Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate