

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
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(EC-14)

February 29, 2016

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

Members excused: Kevin Ayotte (Chair)

Guests: Venita Baker, Xuanning Fu (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Corrinne Hales (English), Gyanesh Lama (Social Work Education), and James Mullooly (AP&P Committee)

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Holyoke at 3:04pm in HML 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of February 8, 2016

MSC approving the Minutes of February 8, 2016

3.) Communications and announcements

a. President Castro

Noted that he has fielded a lot of complaints from alumni and donors about the *Collegian's* recent editorial comparing Donald Trump to Adolph Hitler. One major donor to athletics said he will not be making any more contributions. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted that in the *Fresno Bee* there has been as much praise of the newspaper as there has been criticism. She

praised the paper's courage in running the editorial, and praised the administration for respecting the paper's freedom of the press. Vice Chair Holyoke noted that Trump has been endorsed by David Duke from the Ku Klux Klan.

President Castro said he recently had a positive discussion with the California Faculty Association about how to prepare for the strike and that the lines of communication remain open. Senator Jenkins (At-large) asked if the meeting with CFA discussed docking the pay of faculty who strike and wondered if there was even a policy on this. The Provost said there was one on the CSU website.

b. Provost Zelezny

She is moving on the interim appointment of a director for the Lyles Center and next fall will be launching a search for a permanent director.

She is going to appoint Luz Gonzalez, Dean of the College of Social Sciences, to a special one-year position in academic affairs where she will work on transferring students to Fresno State from the community colleges. The appointment will take effect on July 1, 2016. Interim Dean DenBeste will be appointed to a second year as interim after consultation with the faculty in the College of Social Sciences. Vice Chair Holyoke asked about the status of Interim Associate Provost Muscat, but the Provost said that was a decision for Dean DenBeste to make.

Interim AVP Sanchez (Faculty Affairs) will also be re-appointed for another year.

She recently had a consultant examine the structure of the Division of Academic Affairs and suggest modifications to increase efficiency. Based on the consultant's report, the Provost intends to merge the Office of Sponsored Research with the Division of Graduate Studies to create a new Division of Research and Graduate Studies run by one MPP rather than two. She would like to begin a search for the new Dean of Research and Graduate Studies as soon as possible so she can have somebody in place by July 1. Vice Chair Holyoke said that as soon as he received a description of the new position from her, a call for faculty would be

sent. Senator Kensinger noted that the merger will require some changes in the APM. Senator Katti (At-large) asked if this might disrupt the university's ability to get government grants, but the Provost looked into this and thinks we will be fine.

The search for a new Dean of the Jordan College of Agriculture is in the middle of final deliberations.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) asked if it was true that topics courses could not be scheduled between 2:00 and 7:00pm. Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies) said that while it was not formal policy, it is true that for the last ten years topics courses are not to be scheduled between 9:00am and 2:00pm because there is a very high demand from faculty to teach at these times so the class rooms are all full. Since topics courses sometimes have very low enrollments, they should not compete with regular courses during these high demand hours. He noted that right now there are 31 courses scheduled for the fall semester for which there are no rooms. He also said that it was the general practice that department chairs were not to request topics courses be scheduled between 9 and 2 in the first drafts of their schedules, but sometimes they could be added in later. Senator Kensinger said that it was wrong to have a general policy against not scheduling topics courses during these times and chairs needed to know more about how this works. Dr. Fu noted that communication has not been very good on this and will work to make it better.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) said that faculty have been asking her about the on-line bachelor's degree in the liberal arts that is being proposed in Continuing and Global Education to help students with large breaks in their time at Fresno State finish their degrees. The worry is that this degree may not go through the regular curriculum process. The Provost assured her that it would.

c. Dr. Gyanesh Lama (Academic Senate Liaison to the IDEA Center)

He gave a presentation about where Fresno State is with IDEA right now, noting that within the next two years IDEA wants to start shifting to an on-line system of student evaluations. He also

thought that IDEA's contract with Fresno State might be expiring in the next year or two.

President Hudson (ASI) asked if it will be possible for students to access a student evaluation form for their classes on their phones. Dr. Gyanesh thought it would be. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted that this raises security concerns.

The Provost said that over the next year we need to have a conversation about IDEA, and perhaps arrange for faculty to have a forum with representatives from IDEA about what changes are coming and whether we want to renew our contract with them. Vice Chair Holyoke argued that any consideration of a new vendor, or contract renewal with IDEA, needs to involve a faculty committee to make sure the vendor can meet the requirements of APM 322.

d. President Hudson (ASI)

ASI presented their plan to revitalize the Sierra Madre housing complex and neighborhood to the Fresno City Council, and it was very well received. The city will help out if it can.

ASI elections are on March 15 – 17 and lots of people are running, though no women are running to be president.

ASI recently created a FAQ sheet on the strike with information from CSU, CFA, and Students for a Quality Education.

e. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate)

She noted that the Statewide Academic Senate will meet next week.

f. Action items

- i. Email dated February 11, 2016, from Dennis Nef, Vice Provost, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: APM 110 Policy on Ancillary Units. Email has been received.

MSC referring this item to the Academic Policy and Planning Committee.

- ii. Memo dated February 9, 2016, from Lynnette Zelezny, Provost, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: faculty nominations to the Provost's Awards Committee 2015-2015. Memo has been received.

This item will appear on the next agenda of the Senate Executive Committee and members will come with names to suggest and vote on. Five names will be forwarded to the Provost.

- iii. Memo dated February 16, 2016, from Joseph I. Castro, President, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair Academic Senate re: Faculty appointments to the search committee for a new Chief Financial Officer. Memo has been received.

Vice Chair Holyoke will send a call for service.

- iv. Nominees – search committees. AVP Students Affairs Finance and Administration, and Executive Director for Advancement Services.

This will be handled in executive session.

4.) APM 231 – Policy on Adding and Dropping Classes. Second reading.

Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies) argued that this change is all about student access to classes. Evidence from other CSUs shows that small shifts like this will likely lead to significant improvement in students' ability to get the classes they need. In terms of when the clock starts ticking on the three weeks, it begins from the university's first day of instruction, so if that is a Tuesday, then the second week begins on the following Tuesday.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked it if was possible to change the census day. Dean Fu said no, that it was set by the Chancellor's Office. He argued that what we are trying to do is create a time lag between the add/drop date and the census day. The current system of four weeks puts the drop/add day right on top of it.

President Hudson (ASI) suggested that we need to clarify the language on when the three weeks started and ended. Senator Ram agreed and suggested some language.

MSC amending APM 231 striking references to “first three weeks of the semester” and replacing it with “three weeks after semester instruction begins.”

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) asked why we just do not change the drop date to two weeks after the first day of instruction. AP&P Chair Mullooly said this might really hurt students, and noted that a committee member from the College of Science and Math had opposed this idea. President Hudson strongly opposed this idea, though she suggested we could try creating “drop permission numbers” so that after the second week students would have to actually ask their professor to drop the course. Otherwise she felt that even three weeks was too little time for a student to decide if they should drop a course. Senator Kensinger suggested we try this policy first and see how it works, though she hoped that the faculty will talk about addressing President Hudson’s concerns in the future.

MSC placing APM 321 as amended on the next agenda of the Academic Senate.

- 5.) APM 205 – Policy on Undergraduate Advising. Second reading.

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

- 6.) MFA Degree in Creative Writing – Option proposal. First reading.

Dr. Hales (English) said this is not actually an official option within their major, but merely an emphasis. They are not adding or changing any courses, but merely emphasizing a course of study that would help students learn editing and publishing. Students would also work on the department’s journal and its poetry book prize.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) asked if a simple curriculum emphasis even needed to come before the Academic Senate. Vice Chair Holyoke said he did not think so but agreed to double check. Otherwise this item will not return to the agenda of the Senate Executive Committee.

- 7.) B.S. in City Regional Planning Major.

MSC referring this item to the University Budget Committee.

- 8.) Executive session on appointments to search committees and membership on the Senate Personnel Committee.

Entered executive session at 4:47pm.

Returned from executive session at 5:02pm.

MSC approving Shane Moreman (Communication) and James Mullooly (Anthropolgy) to the search committee for the Executive Director of Advance Services.

Vice Chair Holyoke will email several faculty this evening to beg them to consider serving on the search committee for an AVP of Student Affairs Finance and Administration.

MSC approving the removal of Dr. Mike Berber (Lyles College) from the Senate Personnel Committee for lack of attendance.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 5:04pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 3:00pm on Monday, March 14, 2016.

Submitted by:  
Thomas Holyoke  
Vice Chair  
Academic Senate

Approved by:  
Kevin Ayotte  
Chair  
Academic Senate