

THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
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(AS-9)

February 13, 2017

Members excused: N. Akhavan, O. Benavides, L. Bryant, A. McKeith,  
A.M. Tawfik, J. Wakabayashi

Members absent: L. Cornelio, J. Giglio, M. Golden, A. Hammons, C.  
Perez, S. Shinn

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:06pm in HML  
2206.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the Minutes of January 30, 2017

MSC approving the Minutes of January 30, 2017

3.) Communications and announcements

a. President Castro

Presented information regarding proposed building projects on the  
campus.

The proposed new student union / faculty center, he argued, is consistent with the university's strategic plan, especially the goal regarding the upgrade of decaying physical infrastructure. The current student union is decades old and was built to accommodate a campus of 10,000 students, not 24,000. In March ASI will hold an election where students can vote to increase student fees by \$200 per semester to fund the new union, a fee

which would not be assessed until the new building opened for use (in about five years). Both he and ASI President Ryan will provide information about the proposal to the student body, but not argue for a “yes” or a “no” vote.

He also discussed the proposal for a new performing arts center, which will also provide additional classrooms and office space, more or less amounting to a new arts and humanities building that will help alleviate class and office space problems on campus. This would be funded primarily through private donations.

He also noted that new student housing may be built and that students generally perform better when they live on campus. He also mentioned that they are in talks with county executives from Fresno, Tulare, Madera, and Kings counties about creating a joint powers authority that might be able to levy a property tax assessment or issue bonds to help fund new facilities at Fresno State.

Vice Chair Holyoke asked which buildings would be demolished to build these new buildings. University Center and Keats would be demolished for the new student union. The Lab School would be demolished for a performing arts center. He also asked if the old student union could be pre-purposed as office space. It is being looked into.

Senator Karr (Music) asked if there were details available on the performing arts center designs. Vice President Astone (Administration) said there was not, it is only in a conceptual stage. Senator Karr argued that an architect with knowledge regarding acoustics needs to be involved so that the performing arts center is properly designed.

Dean Jimenez-Sandoval (Arts and Humanities) noted that the proposal is for a building that will house visual arts as well as performing arts. Senator Gilewicz (English) asked about the ratio of performing arts to classes and offices in the proposed building. It is too early to know. Provost Zelezny, however, emphasized that this is being considered as an academic building.

Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) asked about accommodating classes and other organizations and offices left homeless by demolishing the old buildings. President Castro noted that there will be a little disruption from demolishing University Center and Keats for the student union, and the Lab School for the performing arts center, but accommodations would be made.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) asked if temporary office space could be made available soon since this is becoming a crisis. President Castro said they are trying to prioritize classroom upgrades, though they have no specific plans to deal with the office problem at the moment. Vice President Astone noted that upgrades to the north and south gyms will provide three new classrooms and nine new offices.

Chair Ayotte argued that the administration is taking a good, strategic approach to building new structures on campus because it is not likely that donors would be willing to fund new classrooms and offices, even though the state is refusing to do it. Vice President Castadio (Advancement) said this is true. It might be possible to convince donors to fund new academic space, especially fancy labs, but it would be easier if it centered on something like the performing arts center.

Senator Müller (Biology) noted that California Polytechnic at San Luis Obispo has been able to raise money for an academic science building, and the University of Minnesota has as well.

President Ryan (ASI) emphasized that the prosed uses of the new student union are of interest to students and would meet their needs and wishes, especially for food and meeting spaces.

b. Dean Gonzalez (Visalia Campus)

She is chairing the sub-committee organizing the Student Success Summit on February 28. In addition to great keynote speakers, there will be an overall emphasis on the joint responsibility of students, faculty, and staff in student success, and will have students talking about the strategies that work for them. Chair Ayotte encouraged all senators to find time to go and tell their colleagues to go.

c. Provost Zelezny

Thanks the faculty who went with her to CSU Stanislaus to look at their faculty center. She may be taking faculty on another trip to Palo Alto to look at specially designed thinking spaces.

d. Senator Williams (Agricultural Business)

Noted that Maple Avenue is dangerous for pedestrians and people are not respecting crosswalks.

4.) Consent calendar

APM 303 – Policy on Nepotism

MSC referring this item back to the Senate Executive Committee.

5.) New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

6.) Senate Task Force on Workload – Returned with amendments

Vice Chair Holyoke explained two new amendments, one allowing the Senate Executive Committee to elect two members and the other pushing the deadline for the final report from September 30 back to December 15, 2017.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) moved to amend the deadline so that it would be the first day of the Spring Semester, 2018.

Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology) argued that the original September 30 date was better because it came before negotiations the California Faculty Association would be having with the Chancellor. Senator Karr (Music) also felt that pushing back the date might not be needed because the task force was more about collecting existing ideas than doing new research.

Senator Thatcher (Public Health) asked for clarification on what the task force was for if it was not part of CFA's negotiations. Senator Karr

provided a brief history, noting that this is about equity across colleges in Fresno State, not in the entire CSU.

Senator Forcags (Mathematics) said that CFA is already ahead of us in terms of working on workload. Senator Kensinger (Women's Studies) noted that CFA is also looking into APM-related workload issues.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) noted that we have had these kinds of task forces before and they are very onerous in terms of time, and nobody wants to work on it over the summer. Senator Ram (University-wide) noted that she had co-chaired a task force on workload just four years ago for the Red Balloon project and would forward all of their recommendation to the task force.

Amendment to change the deadline to the spring semester failed.

MSC approving the original amendments to the resolution.

Senator Durette (Art and Design) argued that the task force needed to be have a diverse faculty membership.

Senator Forcags and Senator Karr elected by acclamation to the task force.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:18pm. The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on Monday, March 6, 2017.

Submitted by

Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair

Academic Senate

Approved by

Kevin Ayotte

Chair

Academic Senate