

THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
Fresno, California 93740-8023
Telephone: 278-2743

Fax: 278-5745
(EC-11)

March 2, 2015

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), President Joseph Castro (Ex-officio), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Madhu Katti (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (State-wide), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Lynn Williams (Ex-officio), Provost Lynette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Members excused: Moses Menchaca (ASI), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large)

Visitors: Venita Baker, AVP Michael Caldwell (Faculty Affairs), Brian Tsukimura (Chair, Personnel Committee)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:11pm in HML 2108.

1.) Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

2.) Approval of the minutes of February 9, 2015

MSC approving the minutes of February 9, 2015

3.) Communications and announcements

a. President Castro

Last week he participated in the National Conference on Sexual Assault and Violence held at UC Berkeley. Fresno State had one of the largest student delegations, as well as many faculty and staff. President Castro himself participated on a panel with other university presidents. Last Friday the university released the "Its On Us" video

on student responsibility to help stop sexual assault. Chair Ayotte will distribute a link to the video to all senators.

The president and Interim Vice President of Administration Astone are itemizing the deferred maintenance problems and costs at the university, going from building to building to find problems and evaluate how bad the problems are for each building. About 1/3rd of the campus elevators have serious problems. They would like the help of the Academic Senate in identifying problems, and VP Astone may come talk to the Executive Committee about the problem. Some buildings may have to be demolished rather than fixed. The governor and chancellor are allowing campuses to leverage their financial resources to obtain funding for new buildings if they are really necessary, so this is something we might consider. Senator Williams (Ex-officio) noted that campus lighting at night is also a serious problem.

Vice Chair Holyoke asked about the five year plan for the Athletics Department that was recently announced and how much it would cost the university. President Castro indicated that in the near term state dollars would have to be used to subsidize the new sports, but Athletics Director Bartko has been told that he needs to raise private funds to cover the costs in the mid and long terms. Senator Jenkins (At-large) heard the same speech at Rotary and asked if any sports might be eliminated to help with the cost of funding the new sports. The answer was “no,” it would remain 21. Athletics Director Bartko will be invited to speak to the Academic Senate in the near future.

b. Provost Zelezny

Will be giving another 1-year appointment to Interim Dean Moore of Continuing and Global Education because there are already a large number of administrative searches underway. The provost is also going to be consulting with the advisory board and council of chairs of the College of Arts and Humanities about how best to move forward with Interim Dean Diaz.

Reminded us that all students must complete on-line training regarding sexual harassment and assault before they can register for courses. Many students have already done so, but they want to make sure that as few are caught unawares as possible. Chair Ayotte will send the flyer on this to all faculty.

Tonight is the first of three forums on impact for Fresno State. The provost emphasized the university's commitment to student access, diversity, and student success, but we just do not have the funding for all of the students who want to come to Fresno State. Applications keep rising, but our success in retention is reducing the number of available spaces. She also noted that we are becoming seen more and more as a destination university for many subjects, and that is also driving up applications. Senator Kensinger asked that members of the Executive Committee attend at least one of these meetings.

The administration is also concerned with the percentage of tenure-track position at Fresno State and is trying to improve it. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Academic Senate) noted that this is a top priority for the statewide senate as well. The administration is meeting with CFA about implementing the campus equity program and a joint statement should be forthcoming soon along with an implementation time-line. President Castro is only one of two CSU presidents committed to a retro-active salary increase, and has made more money available for an equity program than any other campus president.

c. Action items

1. Memo dated February 18, 2015, from Brian Tsukimura, Chair of University Personnel Committee, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair of Academic Senate re: APM 114 Policy on Faculty Consultation and Voting. Memo has been received.

This item will be placed on the next agenda of the Executive Committee.

2. Memo dated February 18, 2015, from Brian Tsukimura, Chair of University Personnel Committee, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair of Academic Senate re: APM 125 Policy on Department Chairs. Memo has been received.

This item will be placed on the next agenda of the Executive Committee.

3. Resolution from Kevin Ayotte, Chair of Academic Senate re: The Need for a Comprehensive California State University Policy on Academic Freedom. Resolution has been received.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Academic Senate) will draft a Fresno State resolution endorsing the idea of an expanded statewide policy supporting academic freedom, something more in line with the recommendations from the American Association of University Professors.

4. Memo dated February 27, 2015, from Brian Tsukimura, Chair of University Personnel Committee, to Kevin Ayotte, Chair of Academic Senate re: APM 325 Policy on Retention and Tenure. Memo has been received.

This item will be placed on the next agenda of the Executive Committee.

- 4.) APM 355 Policy on Assigned Time for Exceptional Levels of Service. First reading.

MSC waiving second reading.

MSC placing APM 355 on the next agenda of the Academic Senate. Because of the urgency of this particular policy revision, it will be placed on the agenda right after "New Business".

- 5.) Review of Senate governing documents

Chair Ayotte proposed the idea of creating an ad hoc task force of interested and experienced senators to review the governing documents of the Academic Senate, as well as other proposed changes to organization (Section 100) parts of the Academic Policy Manual. The scope of their work would be largely defined by the list of concerns being prepared by members of the Senate Executive Committee, as well as any charge the Executive Committee might create guiding the task force's work.

There was a great deal of discussion over whether a task force was needed and who might be on it. Recommendations not strictly applicable to governing documents might simply be referred to relevant standing committees. The list of ideas for changes will be made available electronically to Executive Committee members, who are encouraged to add their ideas to the list. Further discussion of the list and whether a task force will be created will be placed on the next agenda of the Senate Executive Committee.

6.) Proposed Policy on Experiential Learning

MSC sending the proposal to the Committee on Academic Policy and Planning.

7.) Proposal for the Web-Based Certificate on Advanced Study in Community and Regional Planning in the Department of Geography and the Division of Graduate Studies.

MSC sending the proposal to the University Budget Committee. Senator Williams (Ex-officio) added that he cannot imagine UBC concluding that this proposal would be considered cost-neutral and the Senate Executive Committee might have to send the proposal back to UBC if that is what they actually conclude. The rest of the Executive Committee agreed.

8.) Bold Ideas

These were six items suggested to President Castro as part of his solicitation of "bold ideas" from faculty and staff that perhaps require the attention of the Academic Senate. The ideas were referred back to

Kathleen Scott in the Division of Administration with the following recommendations:

The idea from Tyler Miller regarding overlap of the entities educating students in the field of student affairs should be referred to Dr. Sarah Lam, Chair of the Department of Counselor Education and Rehabilitation.

The idea from John McMillen regarding student confusion over which department offers Sports Administration, Sports Marketing, and Sports & Entertainment Facilities should be referred to the chairs of the Departments of Kinesiology, Recreation Administration, and Marketing and Logistics.

The idea from Faith Soares-Wilson regarding accreditation for the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism should be referred to Dr. Kathy Adams, chair of that department.

The idea from Shail Lopez-Ortiz regarding expansion of the Wayfinders program should not be taken up because the resources are not available.

The idea from Daming Zhang regarding change in the grading structure should be referred to the Academic Senate's Subcommittee on Grading Standards.

The idea from Patrick Newell on integrating information literacy into university courses should be referred to the Academic Senate's Subcommittee on Libraries.

The Executive Committee adjourned at 5:08pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on March 16, 2015 in HML 2108.

Submitted by:
Thomas Holyoke
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:
Kevin Ayotte
Chair
Academic Senate

