THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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April 13, 2015

Members excused: P. Crume, B. DerMugrdechian, C. Egan, S. Lam, B. Myers, J. Slagter

Members absent: A. Alexandrou, O. Benavides, U. Müller, A. Nambiar, T. Partin, L. Rios, M. Thompson, V. Torres, J. Wang, J. Whiting

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

1. Approval of the minutes of March 9, 2015

MSC approving the minutes of March 9, 2015

Approval of the minutes of March 23, 2015

Friendly amendment offered and accepted

MSC approving the minutes of March 23, 2015, as amended

1. Communications and announcements
2. President Castro

Discussed his recent lobby day in Sacramento with Chair Ayotte and ASI President Menchaca. They met with seven legislators, all of whom promised to support more funding for the CSU. They all hope that the governor will be supportive of more funding.

The Cabinet is working on different versions of the budget for the next academic year depending on the actual amount of extra funding Fresno State receives from the state. The new Level A Budget Committee met for the first time and will be giving the president input on the budget. The budget will contain a Phase II faculty equity program, though probably not quite as “robust” as the current Phase I equity program.

The President asked for faculty help in thinking more boldly about faculty diversity. More specifically, he wants ideas on how to increase the number of faculty from diverse programs applying for faculty positions at Fresno State.

1. Provost Zelezny

Noted that the Student Success Summit is tomorrow. There will be a guest speaker who is an expert on student success, and there will also be a panel of faculty chaired by Chair Ayotte as well as a student panel.

Discussed the university’s moves towards declaring impaction due to too little funding from the state. The Chancellor has approved Fresno State’s request to declare impaction and change admission requirements beginning in the Fall of 2016. The administration will meet with the deans over the summer to discuss ideas, and these ideas will be presented to the faculty in the fall semester.

The Provost also noted that the new budget will contain a placeholder for a student fee waiver program for the graduate teaching assistants. The plan is still being developed and will most likely be phased in over a few years.

1. Chair Ayotte

Encouraged faculty members to go to the Student Success Summit because faculty really need to be part of this conversation.

1. AVP Caldwell (Faculty Affairs)

Noted that in a few days letters will go out to faculty who will be receiving raises under the campus equity program.

1. New business

There was no new business

1. APM 325 – Policy on Retention and Tenure

Senator Ram (University-wide) and Senator Chapman (Modern and Classical Languages) offered an amendment to Section 10. Friendly amendments were offered and accepted.

MSC approving the amendment

MSC approving APM 325 as amended (1 abstention)

1. APM 324 – Probationary Plans

Chair Tsukimura (Senate Personnel Committee) presented the new amendment to APM 324 emphasizing that the sample probationary plan appended to the policy is nothing more than a sample and not binding on probationary faculty.

Doug Singleton (Physics) was recognized to speak on behalf of his department, telling the Academic Senate how the probationary plan designed by his department for a new faculty member was arbitrarily changed at higher levels of the review process. He argued that departments should have essentially exclusive authority for creating probationary plans and if college and university personnel committees, or college or university administrators, have concerns, they should consult with the department rather than make arbitrary changes. A couple of other senators told similar stories. Senator Karr (Music) argued that departments generally are in the best position to know what is appropriate for a probationary plan because departments and academic disciplines are very different from each other. AVP Caldwell (Faculty Affairs) noted that to avoided problems leading to arbitration, there has to be some consistency across colleges and the university in probationary plan requirements. Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) noted that sometimes department members are the real problem.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) moved to call the question on the amendment to APM 324 and the motion was seconded. The motion passed 26-10.

MSC approving the amendment with 7 nays and 1 abstention.

The votes were annulled when it was realized that APM 324 is only on first reading.

Senator Ram (University-wide) moved to waive second reading. The motion was seconded, but was defeated.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:14pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be April ##, 2015.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate