THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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April 24, 2017

Members Excused: O. Benavides, L. Bryant, M. Schettler, J. Smith-Warshaw

Members Absent: A. Alexandrou, L. Davis, B. Dermugredechian, M. Golden, A. Hammons, B. Singh, A.M. Tawfik, E. Waldman

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

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the move of item #6 (New Business) to be new item #4 with the rest of the agenda reordered according.

MSC approving the agenda as amended.

1. Approval of the minutes of April 3, 2017

MSC approving the minutes of April 3, 2017

1. Communications and announcements
2. Senator Schlievert (Statewide Senate)

Requested that senators knowing anecdotes about retiring Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) write them down on a form she is handing out so he can be properly honored by the Academic Senate of the California State University.

1. Chair Ayotte

Thanked all of the terming out senators. Also thanked Venita Baker (Academic Senate) for her hard work, as well as Vice Chair Holyoke.

1. New business

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) moved a proposal to amend APM 215 (General Education) to allow undergraduates to take one of their upper division courses in their home departments. Seconded. Senator Ram (University-wide) asked if this was to be considered part of the Senate’s current consideration of APM 215 regarding ePortfolio assessment. No, it is not, it is a new item that would be put on the end of the senate agenda.

Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) asked if the item should even be put on the agenda, or sent to the GE Committee. Senator Botwin (Parliamentarian) said it could be put on the senate agenda, though it needs to be submitted in writing. Senator Kensinger noted that we currently have a task force looking at GE. Senator Botwin noted that this item could be referred to the GE Committee for consideration.

The motion was approved (4-abstentions).

Senator Williams suggested that APM 127 (Constitution) should also be amended to restructure the Senate Executive Committee, which he felt should have representatives from every college. He also recommended that its charter be examined since it is possible that the committee is exceeding its authority. Senator Ram pointed out that APM 127 is already on the agenda (under Governing Documents). The motion was seconded.

The motion was rejected (4-abstentions).

1. Installation of senators

The following senators were re-elected to the Academic Senate:

Magdalena Gilewicz (English)

Lizhong Hao (Accountancy)

James Mullooly (Anthropology)

Paula Sanmartin (Modern and Classical Languages)

The following senators were elected to the Academic Senate:

Major Patricia Adams (Aerospace Studies)

Lance Burger (Mathematics)

Mohan Dangi (Geography and City and Regional Planning)

Todd A. Lone (Agricultural Business)

Ramon Sanchez (Chicano and Latin American Studies)

Michael A. Shepherd (Linguistics)

Nicole Smith (Kinesiology)

Tinneke Van Camp (Criminology)

Hwan Youn (Biology)

Cathy Yun (Literacy, Early, Bilingual and Special Education)

1. Election – Nominations and elections of chair and vice chair

Don Austin, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee presiding

MSC electing Senator Thomas Holyoke (Political Science) chair by acclamation.

MSC approving the suspension of the rules by two-thirds vote to allow floor nominations for the office of Vice Chair.

MSC electing Senator Paula Durette (Art and Design) as Vice Chair by acclamation.

Chair Holyoke presiding. Senator Ayotte (Communication) was thanked for his years of service as chair and vice chair.

1. APM 215 – GE Policy

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) called the question ending debate.

MSC approving the policy, 4 nays and 8 abstentions.

1. Liberal studies proposal.

Dr. Akhavan recognizes Dean Beare.

Dean Beare stated that Liberal Studies is one of the largest majors on campus and students do not have a department as a home. Surveys have shown students feel as though they are floundering. Liberal Studies is designed for students who want to be multi-subject credentials. He cited the teacher shortage as an important cause for moving this forward.

Senator Gilewicz (English) related the experience of creating a new program and the negative aspects of pulling faculty from another department. She would like to hear any objections related to this.

Dr. Yun discussed her experiences in implementing innovations for the liberal studies students and their needs.

Senator Raheem (Counselor Education and Rehabilitation) related the need for school counselors and this program will help. His department endorses this proposal.

Senator Wilson (Computer Science) asked about the costs associated with faculty changing departments. Dean Beare replied it will save money and only one person is changing position.

Senator Henson (English) asked for clarification on item 5, how many faculty will be implemented as fellows and who will be considered or not. Dean Beare clarified parameters as to who would be considered fellows.

Senator Henson (English) suggested the paragraph needs to be clearer and raised concerns about scheduling and teaching in other departments, specifically whether certain classes and times would be required. She requested clarification that the home department would have priority in scheduling.

Tamas Forgacs (Former Senator Math) explained that decisions are not made entirely by the chair, as there are entitlements.

Senator Kensinger (Women Studies) related concerns that there are unclear aspects of the document regarding teacher personnel. Dean Beare replied that the current situation is horrible and the proposal is intended to make the situation better. Dr. Yoon stated the situation would be like the single-subject credential and there is a model already in place.

Senator Burger (Mathematics) supports the idea but does not want to see courses given away. Dr. Nelson stated there is no desire or intention to do that. The formation of a department will help them build relationships between departments.

Senator Sullivan (Sociology) questioned whether students will get blocked from courses and if resources will get drawn from their program. Dr. Nelson answered that they will work with departments to build cohort schedules, but they cannot tell departments what to do. They will make suggestions for scheduling and do not have the ability to make decisions.

Senator Raheem (Counselor Education and Rehabilitation) mentioned the program is effectively in existence and questioned why there is a problem if it becomes a department.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) suggested Chairs are responsible for setting the schedule and Chairs would need to ensure that faculty do not have problems with liberal studies courses, but it should be clearer in the proposal.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15pm. The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on Monday, May 1, 2017.

Submitted by Approved by

Paula Durette Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate