THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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August 28, 2017

Members present: Thomas Holyoke (Chair) Paula Durette (Vice Chair), Bradley Hart (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (At-large), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), Susan Schlievert (Statewide Senate), Blake Zante (ASI), Lynnette Zelezny (Ex-officio), and Joseph Castro (Ex-officio)

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Xuanning Fu (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Frank Lamas (Student Affairs and Enrollment Management), Malisa Lee (Enrollment Management), Robert Maldonado (Philosophy), James Marshall (Dean of Research and Graduate Studies)

Paula Sanmartin (Senate and MCLL), Laura Yager (Registrar),

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

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of May 8, 2017

MSC approving the Minutes of May 8, 2017, one abstention

1. Communications and announcements
   1. President Castro

Announced Fresno State University is now #17 in the Washington Monthly College Guide and Rankings. He congratulated everyone for their hard work.

Announced Robert Costa, moderator for Washington Week in Review, is coming October 16th. This will be the next installment in the President’s Series. Encouraged faculty to go and to bring their students. The event will be at the Save Mart Center and will be free.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) inquired about what resources the university has for those affected by the Gulf Coast storms.

President Castro replied he is working with Dr. Lamas on the communication for this.

Dr. Lamas (Student Affairs and Enrollment) replied that they will need to see what the connections are for students, but there are resources in place that can be used if anyone is impacted.

* 1. Provost Zelezny

Announced she is working with senate leaders to continue the co-sponsored forum on the first amendment. Requested ideas and suggestions for potential faculty speakers.

Thanked faculty for their work in the faculty searches of last year. Related that she is already receiving very good feedback from students about the quality of new faculty.

Related next year will likely be more conservative in terms of the number of new faculty searches. There is a need to be judicious in benefits costs and that may affect searches.

Updated information on continuing searches. The search for the AVP of Water and Sustainability will remain open with hopes to complete in December. The dean of Social Science search will continue. The AVP of Faculty Affairs is continuing.

Related two special assistant to the provost positions were developed. Bernadette Muscat is a special assistant for the Testing Center. She has been managing the number of requests for testing. Stated there is a need for her to continue that role into December. Mitzi Lowe has accepted an interim position for advising in Student Affairs.

Related there are provost appointees on the Executive Student Success Team. There was feedback from the chancellor’s office that more faculty were needed. The committee will be reconstituted and a request to the deans for nominations was made.

Related there are also provost appointees on the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. She will be sending a one-year thank you to current leads for their service and will reconstitute the committees based on faculty leads and deans nominations. She is recommending to the executive committee to move forward with a one-year service thank you with an invitation for continued service to senate appointed members.

Related information about the Executive Order 1110 and Executive Order 1100. There are funds from the chancellor’s office for redesign. Supplemental instruction will be a part of it, but most of the budget will be to support the redesign of math courses. The math faculty is tremendously cooperative.

Announced she is looking forward to working with the GE Senate Subcommittee in thinking about our core value related to multicultural/international GE core requirement. While the chancellor’s office is not allowing it as a GE requirement, MI is still a core value at Fresno State. The GE Senate Subcommittee can provide guidance on how to make it a campus requirement.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) questioned if the allowance of double counting upper division GE courses is mandatory or if it is up to campuses. Chair Holyoke suggested asking Dr. Xuanning Fu when he arrives.

Senator Ram (University-wide) inquired if Faculty Affairs will have enough staff to deal with the hires this semester until the new AVP is chosen. Provost Zelesny replies that one additional staff has been hired and has discussed with the interim AVP short-term solutions to streamlining and communication.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) inquired if the university has plans for DACA students if problems arise.

President Castro replied it is a fluid situation and is difficult to know what might happen. The university is watching carefully and will do whatever it can to support our students. He asked faculty to help Dreamers by reassuring them that the university will do whatever it can to support them.

Senator Raya-Fernandez (At-large) announced the Let’s Talk program through the Counseling and Psychological Services program. This provides students an additional avenue to obtain therapy services without the intensiveness of going into the Student Health and Counseling Center.

President Castro announced an event to further support scholarships for DACA students. The flier will be forthcoming.

* 1. Chair Holyoke

Requested the action items be delayed to be mindful of the guests in attendance. No objections were presented.

* 1. Action Items
     1. Email dated May 29, 2017, from Kathleen Dyer, Chair of the Department of Child, Family, and Consumer Sciences, re: Honors Residency Units. Email has been received.

MSC referred to AP&P committee.

* + 1. Email dated June 7, 2017, from Christopher Sullivan, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, re: Grade Change Request. Email has been received.

MSC referred to Student Affairs.

* + 1. Email dated May 18, 2017, from Suzanne Kotkin-Jaszi, Professor of Public Health re: Senate Committee on Faculty Equity and Diversity. Email has been received.

This memo was approved to be placed on the agenda of the Executive Committee.

* + 1. Memo dated August 15, 2017, from Keith Clement, Chair Undergraduate Curriculum Subcommittee to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Bachelors of Arts Dance Major Elevation. Memo has been received.

MSC referred to the University Budget committee due to the unit count increase.

* + 1. Memo dated August 14, 2017, from Leo Van Cleve, Assistant Vice Chancellor to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Vacancy on Academic Council on International Programs (ACIP). Memo has been received.

A call for service will be issued.

* + 1. Memo dated August 22, 2017, from Keith Clement, Chair Undergraduate Curriculum Subcommittee to Thomas Holyoke Chair Academic Senate re: Bachelors of Art History Elevation. Memo has been received.

MSC referred to the University Budget committee.

* + 1. Email dated August 25, 2017, from Kathleen Scott, Director of Organizational Excellence and Administrative Operations to Thomas Holyoke Chair Academic Senate re: Minor Updates to APM 501, 505, and 503. Email has been received.

This was moved to the Senate consent calendar.

1. Grading Deadline.

Dr. Lamas (Student Affairs and Enrollment Management) conveyed they understand the issue, which has been present for a number of years. They are trying to do the best for the students and faculty. This past summer there were 1400 students, and there is a sequence of processes that need to occur before they receive financial aid.

Malisa Lee (Enrollment Management) explained the federal requirements around the Satisfactory Academic Progress (Short SAP). There are three checks that must occur before the student can be qualified for financial aid. They need to wait until grades are finalized before they can run their checks. She reviewed the calendar and the process. She explained the struggle they have with completing the process to get students financial aid. 80% of Fresno State students receive financial aid.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) questioned the need for due dates earlier than what is actually needed, based on the distributed calendar, to process the SAP and distribute financial aid.

Malisa Lee (Enrollment Management) replied that their office does not set the date.

Senator Ram (University-wide) sought clarification that the problem is not the financial aid deadline but faculty not getting grades in by the deadline. This was confirmed by Dr. Lamas.

Malisa Lee (Enrollment Management) related the other issue is that blank grades are seen as an F by the system. Senator Ram inquired if there is a technological fix to this. Enrollment management did not think that was possible.

Senator Sanmartin (MCLL) emphasized that grading is a student issue as well as a workload issue. The quality of grading is very important. She related her concern that responsible faculty are being penalized for those who are late. The amount of grading some faculty must complete is very large and time consuming. The current schedule is not possible. Faculty are not looking for large extensions but a few days more.

Dr. Maldonado (Philosophy) inquired if it was possible to have two computer runs to check a portion of the students first.

Malisa Lee (Enrollment Management) replied that it would be doubling their work because there was no way to exclude the first group that was run. Dr. Lamas Dr. Lamas (Student Affairs and Enrollment Management) suggested finding a balanced deadline instead.

Senator Raya-Fernandez (At-large) inquired how well informed faculty is about the student’s perspective and that might inspire faculty to meet the deadlines.

Chair Holyoke inquired from where the initial due date is derived.

Provost Zelezny replied the initial due date is the last contract date. Dr. Nef is on the committee on calendaring and she will discuss this with him.

Blake Zante (ASI) agreed it is important for faculty to provide quality grading but we need to acknowledge our campus accommodates a unique group of students. A few days can strongly affect students relying on financial aid.

1. Delegation of Authority to Approve Subprograms (Options, Concentrations, Special Emphases) and Minors Executive Order 1071.

Dean Marshall (Graduate Studies) explained the executive order. The chancellor’s office noted that the degree options drifted away from the policy. Options need to share more than ½ of the courses of a degree. He stated Fresno State has options that do not do this. The executive order states we need to be compliant within a period of time based on the program review cycle. He explained that departments can eliminate the option, tweak the curriculum or elevate the option to full degree status. There is an expedited approach to elevating the option to a major through the Chancellor’s office, but it must still go through the university process.

Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies) explained they want to see an expedited process to achieving senate approval for elevations. Chairs and deans can sign off that no new resources will be needed for the elevation.

Dr. Maldonado (Philosophy) questioned whether resources will shift with courses that comply to meet the 51% threshold.

Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies) replied that could be a possibility but it will be caught in the university review. He emphasized the types of change that occurs will have to be budget neutral.

Dean Marshall (Graduate Studies) contributed that WASC will need to review any elevation. This will increase the number of program reviews.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) inquired whether campuses have the option to not double count upper division GE courses.

Dean Fu (Undergraduate Studies) replied it may be an option but he will have to check. There is a FAQ and if a question is not addressed in the FAQ let him know and he has a person he can contact.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 5:11pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, September 18, 2017.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Paula Durette Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair