THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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November 5, 2018

Members excused: A. Culbertson, S. Lankford, A.M. Tawfik

Members absent: P. Adams, T. Botts, M. Golden, C. Henson, D. Lewis, K. McBee, J. Wakabayashi, J. Watson

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:02 p.m. in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 22, 2018

MSC approving the Minutes of October 22, 2018

1. Communications and announcements
   1. Senator Dangi

The senator asked when the Academic Calendar for 2019-2020 will be available. Vice Provost Nef answered that the calendar has gone to Dean Fu.

* 1. Spirion – Orlando Leon

CIO Leon was recognized to introduce the item and thanked Senator Hooshmandrad (Music) for her recent letter expressing concerns. The CIO stated that the roll-out of Spirion was done in consultation with the CFA, along with Duo (two-factor authentication software). Spirion was rolled out to protect the university from data loss and in the first months of use, nearly a million records containing personally-identifying information were identified and 500,000 records were removed from the impacted computers. As of now, 3.2 million records have been identified and removed from MPP computers. The CIO stated that he would be available to answer any questions from faculty.

Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) asked how faculty data is protected from administrators, especially those who are working with confidential or sensitive data sets. The senator additionally asked who has access to the data gathered by Spirion. Senator Hooshmandrad added that colleagues have expressed concern over the cost, and asked why other campuses have not rolled out similar software. CIO Leon stated that the campus takes privacy issues very seriously, and in 2014 those concerns were raised with the CFA. Only the campus security officer is allowed to see the full dashboard, and CIO Leon himself only receives abstracted data on a regular basis. In addition, most other campuses are preparing to roll out the software. The cost is approximately $11,000 per year.

Senator Cupery (Sociology) asked how the software specifically works, and how many false positives it detects. Secondly, the Senator asked whether Spirion itself might be hacked as a central repository of information. Thirdly, the Senator asked whether external hard drives are automatically scanned. CIO Leon stated that roughly 20% of the files scanned thus far were deleted by the user, suggesting that they did in fact contain sensitive information. In addition, there is always a possibility that Spirion could be hacked, but the software has been examined carefully by the Chancellor’s Office and other entities. Finally, scanning external drives can be controlled by the user. Chair Holyoke stated that CIO Leon will be invited to a future senate meeting to discuss the matter further.

1. Installation of new senators

The following new senators were introduced and welcomed:

Patrick De Walt

Liberal Studies

Carol Fry Bohlin

Curriculum and Instruction

1. Consent Calendar - GE Outcomes. GE Assessment Subcommittee.

Dr. Melissa Jordine was recognized to introduce the item. There were no objections to the item, and therefore it was deemed passed.

1. New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

1. Budget Presentation

President Castro and Vice President Deborah Adishian-Astone were introduced to make the presentation. The President stated that his priority has always been personnel, and as a result personnel and benefits costs have risen dramatically and are expected to climb further. More than 300 tenure track faculty have been hired in the past few years. In the coming weeks, the CSU Trustees are expected to pass a budget request that is approximately $500 million higher than the current request, which will then be passed to the legislature for consideration.

Vice President Astone made the budget presentation. The full PowerPoint is available on request from the Chair or Vice Chair.

Following the presentation, Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) asked about the state failing to fund mandated SUGs, and whether the new budget allocation will help with that issue and free up funds. Vice President Astone stated that the CSU is looking into policy updates in this area. The President stated that this issue is being carefully watched by the administration.

Senator Cupery asked about the total size of deferred maintenance projects on the campus. Vice President Astone stated that the campus cost without the Central Plant project is over $300 million. The total CSU cost is in the billions. The President stated that a bond act would be helpful in this area. Senator Dangi (Geography and City and Regional Planning) asked how deferred maintenance funding is tracked. Vice President Astone stated that $20-$30 million per year is used for deferred maintenance, and that money comes in from both public and private sources. Some of those funds are used to combat catastrophic failures.

The meeting was extended to 5:30 p.m.

Senator Wilson (Computer Science) asked whether a list of future maintenance projects is available. Vice President Astone stated that it is available on the campus website. The Senator asked how those projects are prioritized. Vice President Astone stated that some funds are earmarked for specific spending areas, and other projects emerge from colleges/school priorities. No decisions are made in isolation. Senator Ram asked about the new Ruiz Executive Classroom Building. Vice President Astone stated that all the funding for this project had come from private sources.

Diane Blair (CFA) asked about the $25 million that has been allocated for tenure-track hiring system-wide, and stated that the Chancellor’s Office has stated that $1.2 million had come to the campus specifically for that purpose. Dr. Blair asked why tenure-track hiring is being curtailed if that money is earmarked for searches. President Castro stated that some of that money is being used for current searches, and the campus will continue to be as aggressive as possible in hiring.

Senator Chowdhury (Art & Design) asked whether there are longer-term goals for classroom construction or increasing space for classes. President Castro stated that the campus will continue to make efforts to expand classroom space, but there is little funding available. The President stated that he is aware of the problem and encouraged faculty to keep their deans informed about what should be prioritized. The upcoming capital campaign will hopefully add some money, but it is unclear how much. In addition, an academic building is in the queue for a future allocation at some point.

Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) stated that it would be helpful to know the ratio of tenure-track and tenured faculty to lecturers. The Senator additionally asked how the Graduation Initiative 2025 money was allocated. The President stated that he asked CIO Leon and Vice President Lamas for recommendations and reflects the philosophy that success in the classroom relates to many factors in a student’s life. Some of the money allocated to Student Affairs has also been used to hire advisors for students. The Senator stated that it is important for faculty to offer advising opportunities as well, and these costs are not accounted for in the numbers presented. The Senator also asked whether the current benefit contributions has solved the problem, or whether these types of funding claw-backs are expected to continue. The President stated that the future remains uncertain.

Senator Parra (Accounting) asked whether hybrid or online classes might be a solution to the campus space problem. The President stated that he encourages faculty to consider hybrid and online courses. The Provost stated that he expects these types of offerings to increase.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15pm. The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on (date).

Submitted by Approved by

Bradley Hart Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate