

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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September 8, 2008

Members Absent: I. Basurto, D. Blum, A. Heaney, T. Holyoke, B. Jones, M. Katti, D. Lewis (excused), K. Magdaleno, F. Ringwald, M. Sanchez, J. Slagter (excused), S. Springthorpe, M. Xiao.

A meeting of the Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Botwin at 4:08 p.m. in the University Center, Room #200.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of 5/5/08.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements.
 - A. Provost Echeverria distributed a document that discussed issues surrounding the proposed changes in the method of the collection of student ratings of faculty. The document is a discussion piece that includes a series of questions and answers about the proposed changes and the role that the IDEA Center (a non-profit subsidiary of Kansas State University) may have in the collection, storage, analysis, and dissemination of the evaluation forms. The Provost encouraged the senators to bring this document to their campus constituencies for discussion. The Provost encouraged the senators and other interested parties to direct their comments about the document to her office. She also emphatically stated there are ongoing discussions concerning the policies governing student ratings of faculty, such policies have to be approved by the Academic Senate, and there are no plans in place to implement a new student rating system at this time.
 - B. Chair Botwin made a brief presentation about the roles and the responsibilities of the Academic Assembly in governing the university. He stressed the Academic Assembly, through the Academic Senate, is responsible for the matters concerning the curriculum, faculty retention, tenure and promotion, and the instructional budget. Chair Botwin

stressed the importance of consultation between the Academic Senators and the faculty they represent. He encouraged Senators to place a report concerning current senate topics on the agenda of faculty meetings in their departments.

Chair Botwin also stated that, at this point in the academic year, he foresees two major issues for consideration by Academic Senate this year. These issues are student ratings of faculty and policies related to the notion of delivering accessible course materials using the principles of universal design.

C. Mackie Mason, ASI President, announced a voter registration campaign (Why 1509?) to the senate.

4. New Business.

There was no new business.

5. Standards for Continuation and Procedures for Termination of a Graduate Program (APM 223) – Graduate Committee – Second Reading.

MSC to table until a member of the Graduate Committee is present to answer questions.

6. Policy on the Administration of Sponsored Programs (APM 501) - Research Subcommittee – Second Reading.

Vice-Chair Caldwell initiated a discussion about sections within the policy that summarize existing policies. He suggested referring to existing policies as an alternative and reflected upon the need to make sure future policies contained appropriate references to existing policies.

MSC to table and examine the policy following editing by the research committee.

7. Policy on Indirect Cost Recoveries and Allocations (APM 503) – Research Subcommittee – Second Reading.

There was a question regarding item IV. G. and the use of the word “expenses.” The new statement will read: “This surcharge may not exceed 1 percent of the grant or contract.”

MSC to approve the Policy on Indirect Cost Recoveries
and Allocations (APM 503) with the stated amendment
and forward the President for final consideration.

MSC to adjourn at 5:12 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Academic Senate will be announced.
An Agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Submitted by:

Michael Caldwell
Vice Chair
Academic Senate

Approved by:

Michael Botwin
Chair
Academic Senate