THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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February 1, 2016

Members excused: P. Garcia, L. Hao, R. Raya-Fernandez, M. Schettler, J. Taylor

Members absent: A. Alexandrou, J. Giglio, A. Liu, S. Sherchan, R. Thornton, L. Williams

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:07pm in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC introducing a resolution in support of the vote of no confidence in the president, interim provost, and vice president of finance at California State University, Chico and placing it on the agenda as item #6 and reordering the agenda accordingly.

MSC approving the agenda as amended

1. Approval of the Minutes of November 30, 2015

MSC approving the Minutes of November 30.

1. Communications and announcements
2. President Castro

Pointed out that there was a great, clear view of the Sierra Nevada today.

The campus strategic plan is being finalized and will soon be released to the campus community. It will emphasize the importance of increasing tenure-density.

In a couple of months the administration will bring a complete budget proposal to the Academic Senate. Right now they only have the governor’s conservative proposed budget to work with, which only supports 1% growth in enrollment. He hopes the legislature will add more money to the CSU budget. He noted that the cost of benefits is growing and will consume $1 million just at Fresno State.

The search for a new Vice President of Administration was launched today.

1. Provost Zelezny

Noted that the search for a new dean of Jordan College is ongoing, with a second candidate coming in soon. The job announcement for the position of Dean of the College of Science and Math has been posted and she hopes that search will conclude by the end of the semester.

She also said that an announcement about the provost’s awards will come soon, and that she is adding a new category for lecturers.

1. Jim Bartko, Director of the Athletics Department

Introduced some of the senior staff in Athletics, as well as the faculty athletics representatives. He emphasized the importance of athletics and academics working closely together. He said that he knew they clash at many universities across the nation and does not want that to be a problem at Fresno State.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) mentioned the big Title IX lawsuits and expressed a concern that only the big money-generating sports were being seriously promoted at Fresno State, which often favors men’s sports. VP Bartko promised that all sports would be treated equally, including equal facilities, and that he will not allow these problems to happen again.

Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) noted that soccer was a really popular sport in this area and asked if it would be possible to bring back men’s soccer back to Fresno State. VP Bartko noted that we already have twenty-one sports, some just added, so this was not something they had the budget for.

Vice Chair Holyoke asked if he had a plan in place to increase community giving so Athletics would be less reliant on state funding. VP Bartko said that he is getting in front of community donors as often as possible.

Senator Karr (Music) asked if there was still any debt from joining the new athletics conference. President Castro said there was not.

Senator Roberts (Plant Science) wants to boost student attendance at athletics events. VP Bartko noted that this was a national problem. Senator Karr added that this was important for the students to feel like they were really part of Fresno State.

Senator Katti (University-wide) asked if he had an opinion on agenda item #5, COIA’s support for H.R. 275. VP Bartko said he deferred on this to the faculty athletics representatives.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) noted that high school wrestling was becoming more gender inclusive and this could happen at Fresno State. VP Bartko said this was not something he had thought about.

1. Orlando Leon, Chief Information Officer

Shared the vision he has for re-organized technology at Fresno State, which includes:

* He wants to improve communication with everyone on the campus, which is not very good right now. He need to know what does and does not work;
* Wants a project-management office to better oversee projects like campus classroom upgrades;
* Wants a business department with somebody willing to go around campus and find out what everyone’s needs and desires are for technology;
* Wants to think more about architecture, or what our technology needs will be five years from now so they can plan accordingly rather than have Frankenstein-like technology systems;
* He wants to be able to better support the computing needs of research-oriented faculty;
* Finally, he wants a system for the governance of technology and its use on campus.

He also noted that today, in constant dollars, they have 40% less money to spend on technology than in 2002, but they are trying their best.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) requested a link to the IT help page on the main page of the university so it would be easy to do things like change passwords. He noted that some things are getting more complicated so that even technology-savvy faculty are having harder times dealing with technology issues. He feels that faculty should have more administrative control over their computers.

Senator Karr (Music) said that recent upgrades to some classrooms means there is less consistency in technology from classroom to classroom, so there needs to be more training for faculty on how to handle technology problems. Senator Roberts (Plant Science) said he has the same problem.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) said there are no technology help phone numbers in the classrooms to call when something goes wrong. She is also frustrated that there are no minute-counters on the new DVD players.

Senator Raheem (Counselor Education and Rehabilitation) said that they had great technology systems in the Kremen School that should perhaps be replicated across campus.

Senator Hall (Physics) expressed confidentiality concerns. With all of the state-owned equipment he had to use, could he really expect confidentiality. Senator Bryant (Political Science) echoed this, expressing concern about Crash Plan, the automatic back-up system. CIO Leon said the back-up data was encrypted and thus safe. Senator Ram (University-wide) also noted that you could opt out of it.

Senator Müller (Biology) wanted him to think about the needs and concerns of the technicians as well, who were getting moved around a lot in the re-organization and were not always happy about it.

 e.) Jim Marshall, Dean of Graduate Studies

Announced that the Division of Graduate Studies has an upcoming graduate programs awareness week. Please tell your undergraduate students.

1. New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

1. Faculty Senate consideration of support for U.S. House Bill H.R. 275 – a bill to create a Presidential Commission to look into issues facing Intercollegiate Athletics. First reading.

Senator Lewis (Kinesiology), in her role as a faculty athletic representative, presented information on H.R. 275 and the concerns of Congress regarding college athletic, as well as the concerns of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA).

Congress is considering creating a commission to study several issues in college sports, including the interaction of athletics and academics, financing, and the health of student athletes, but the bill is stuck in a sub-committee. COIA, a faculty group started at Pennsylvania State University, is also interested in these things, as well as demands on the time of student athletes and want the bill approving the commission to pass. The commission would have a year to write a report for the President and Congress.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) asked what it was that Senator Lewis wanted, but Senator Lewis indicated that she herself was not asking for anything. COIA wanted some kind of support for the commission.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) said a resolution was needed and moved to have the faculty athletics representatives write one. The motion was seconded.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked Senator Lewis if she herself wanted us to support the bill, and Senator Lewis indicated that she was neutral, but had reservations as to whether the commission’s report would be of any use or if it had enough time to write a proper report.

Chair Ayotte recognized Dr. Honora Chapman as the new associate dean of the College of Arts and Humanities.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:21pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on February 22, 2016, at 4:00pm in HML 2206.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

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