THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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November 9, 2015

Members excused: O. Benavides, L. Davis, B. DerMugrdechian, J. Giglio, L. Hao, A. Liu, A. Mckeith, S. Najmi, B. Roberts, W. Skuban, J. Therkelsen

Members absent: N. Akhavan, P. Cornelio, M. Raheem, E. Waldman, J. Whiting

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:08pm in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of November 2, 2015

Amendments were made to the minutes.

MSC approving the Minutes of November 2, 2015 as amended.

1. Communications and announcements

a.) Provost Zelezny

Noted that she is moving forwards with the search for a new Dean of the College of Science and Math. Three faculty members have been appointed to the search committee.

b.) Senator Kensinger (Statewide Academic Senate)

She gave a report from the meeting of the CSU Statewide Academic Senate. She noted that the president of the California Faculty Association reported that the vote of the faculty to take action over the pay increase dispute passed with 94% voting in the affirmative, and this was especially significant because 80% of all the CFA members had voted.

She also noted that a number of important resolutions had been passed by the Statewide Senate.

One resolution that received a lot of attention called for the repeal of the executive order mandating background checks for all new hires, including all new faculty, which overrode local university policies (including our policy which excluded many new faculty from background checks when they were not working with underage populations). The Statewide Senate asked for a task force to be created to review the executive order.

Another resolution called for a retired faculty member to be added to the Board of Trustees.

Another resolution supported the Chancellor’s budget request, but insisted on more money to be placed into the faculty compensation pool than the 2% increase asked for by the chancellor.

Another resolution called for open campus presidential searches.

Other resolutions were also described.

1. New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate

1. APM 114 Policy on Faculty Consultation and Voting. Second reading.

Vice Chair Holyoke took over as presiding officer. The current question is the amendment from Senators Ram and Chapman.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) spoke against the amendment because of the three year contract requirement. She moved an amendment to the amendment changing the three year requirement to the second consecutive year of appointment. There was considerable discussion and several friendly amendments were made to develop Senator Slagter’s amendment.

Senators Kensinger (Statewide Senate) and Fulop (Linguistics) spoke in favor of the new amendment while Senator Ram (University-wide) spoke against it.

Senator Basurto (Literacy and Early Education) asked why there is a need to change from the three year appointment standard. Senator Slagter answered that in order to get a three year contract, a lecturer must have taught for six consecutive years.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) spoke against the secondary amendment because all other university policies seem to be based on years of service, not semesters.

Senator Garcia (Nursing) spoke in favor of the amendment because it emphasizes the stake lecturers have in a department.

Senator Lewis (Kinesiology) spoke against the secondary amendment, preferring the two-year standard rather than three semesters.

Senators Ram (University-wide) and Chapman (Modern and Classical Languages) spoke more against the secondary amendment while Senators Hall (Physics) and Fulop (Linguistics) spoke in favor, with Senator Fulop also recommending the deletion of part 6b.

Senator Slagter’s secondary amendment lost on a vote of 11 “ayes,” 29 “nays,” and 1 abstention. Debate returned to the Ram / Chapman amendment.

Senator Lewis (Kinesiology) moved a secondary amendment allowing lecturers with 6 WTUs or more in four consecutive semesters (including the semester of the department chair vote) to have a full vote. The motion was seconded and approved on a voice vote (1 abstention). Debate returned to the primary amendment as amended.

Senator Chapman (Modern and Classical Languages) argued that the new language was the best compromise, enfranchising faculty while accounting for timebase.

Senators Williams (Agricultural Business) and Lewis (Kinesiology) spoke in support of the amendment and Senator Chapman’s argument that it was the best compromise.

Senator Moreman (Communication) expressed concern that this language still divided the faculty because some lecturers still would not have a full vote and argued that we would be better off as a fully united faculty.

Senator Forgacs (Mathematics) noted that he had abstained on earlier votes because his department was against giving lecturers voting rights.

The primary amendment passed on a voice vote.

Senator Taylor (Information Systems and Decision Sciences) argued that the university should ensure that lecturers have a sense of investment in their departments, especially since they often do not get to teach at the best times. The assumption should always be that they are qualified to teach.

Senators Kensinger (Statewide Senate), Fulop (Linguistics), and Durette (Art and Dessign) all spoke in favor of the new policy as amended, but more attention needs to be paid to issues of compensation and the need for more tenure-track faculty.

MSC approving the revised APM 114.

6.) APM 125 Policy on Department Chairs. First Reading.

Personnel Committee Chair Tsukimura introduced the revised policy, arguing that the original committee recommendations ought to be set aside and APM 125 amended to mirror the new language in APM 114.

MSC amending APM 125 with the same new language as just added to APM 114.

7.) Recommendation from the Senate Personnel Committee to remove APMs 367, 370, and 393 because they have been superseded by new executive orders from the Chancellor.

Chair Ayotte again presiding.

Senator Hall (Physics) asked how we are supposed to stay informed about executive orders when they supersede the APM. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) noted that proposed APM 132 dealing with the implementation of executive orders could also address this concern.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) asked about archiving old executive orders so they could be researched.

MSC approving the removal of these executive orders from the policies.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:16pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on November 16, 2015, at 4:00pm in HML 2206.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

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