THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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March 13, 2017

Members present: Kevin Ayotte (Chair), Thomas Holyoke (Vice Chair), Otto Benavides (Statewide Senate), Michael Jenkins (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (At-large), Melanie Ram (University-wide), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-large), and Lynnette Zelezny (Ex-officio)

Members excused: Joseph Castro (Ex-officio) and Tim Ryan (At-large)

Guests: Deborah Adishian-Astone (Vice President for Administration) and Venita Baker (Academic Senate)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 3:05pm in HML 2108.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC amending the agenda by adding the faculty workload ad hoc task force as new item #10 with the rest of the agenda reordered accordingly

MSC approving the agenda as amended

1. Approval of the Minutes of February 27, 2017

MSC approving the Minutes of February 27, 2017

1. Communications and announcements
   1. Provost Zelezny

Noted that later this week is the conference on civil rights.

Met with the library faculty and staff to discuss the search for a new dean and the possibility of an interim dean. The consensus was to start the search as soon as possible.

Received the report from Dr. Chris Miller, Chair of the Statewide Senate, regarding the quantitative reasoning report and GE policy. She also participated on a phone meeting with other provosts about it and expects to support most of the report’s recommendations.

* 1. Vice Chair Holyoke

Gave an update on the student ratings task force, especially noting that AVP Sanchez (OIE) is interested in developing new student ratings in-house.

* 1. Action Items
     1. Email dated March 10, 2017, from Christine Miller, Chair Academic Senate of the California State University, to campus senate chairs re: General Education Policy Supporting Student Success and Equity in Achievement. Email has been received.

Discussion about how to submit a campus response to the Statewide Senate about the report and possible changes to the breadth section of the GE policy. Consensus that a general call for opinions should be sent, and some consensus that our own GE Committee should develop a position as well.

MSC adding this to the agenda as new item #8 with the rest of the agenda reordered accordingly.

* + 1. Email request from Provost Zelezny to Vice Chair Holyoke requesting two full time, tenured faculty members for the search for a new AVP of Faculty Affairs.

A call for service will be sent.

1. APM 320 – Policy on the Composition of Search Committees for Designated Administrative Positions. Second reading.

Vice President Astone (Administration) went through her recent changes to APM 320 in response to Senate Executive Committee concerns.

Chair Ayotte expressed concern with eliminating the requirement that the President or Provost consult with departments about granting retreat rights to individuals being considered for MPP positions. Provost Zelezny explained the process of reaching out to departments to discuss retreat rights. Senator Kensinger (At-large) suggested a department veto on granting retreat rights. In the end it was agreed that the original language requiring consultation would be restored.

Senator Benavides (Statewide Senator) objected to removing faculty in the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) from participating in searches as faculty. Vice President Astone felt that FERPers had essentially retired from the university and thus could not serve as faculty, though they could as community appointees. Senator Benavides said this was inconsistent with other CSU policies regarding FERPers, but at least the language should be altered so that it was clear that FERPers could serve as any other kind of search committee appointee. Vice President Astone agreed to write a new sentence on this.

Senator Kensinger asked if the changes to the way staff are selected to participate was supported by staff and their bargaining unit. Yes, the new method is supported by them.

Discussion over whether associate professors should be allowed to serve on searches for deans and the provost. Agreed that they should not.

Provost Zelezny asked if the president had to personally consult with the Senate Executive Committee about interim MPP appointments, or if a designee could. Vice President Astone agreed to add that “applicable administrators” could do the consultation when needed.

Vice President Astone asked if the Director of Procurement and University Controller should be roped into this search policy. It was agreed that they should be.

1. APM 303 – Policy on Nepotism. Second reading.

Vice President Astone explained that the policy was entirely superseded by an executive order from the Chancellor. It was agreed that the APM 303 slot in the APM would be retained by new language drafted that simply said that this policy has been replaced by an executive order and provide a link to that order. The language would thus preserve the history of the nepotism policy, and contact numbers for more information would also be provided.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) argued that this should be our standard procedure when an APM policy is superseded by an executive order.

1. Governing Documents

Vice Chair Holyoke explained the second round of changes to the University Constitution.

Discussion centered on how to deal with senators who do not show up for senate meetings but are not excused. It was decided that the Senate Chair would notify the department / program chair about the problem, and in the case of university-wide senators would contact the senator directly.

There was also discussion about language on the recall of senators and whether this language should be included in the Constitution or the bylaws. It was agreed to have it all in the Constitution. There was also agreement that when a senator goes on sabbatical they must step down from the Senate and all of its committees.

Chair Ayotte brought up the idea of creating a special at-large senatorial position for lecturers. Some CSUs do this, though he also noted that full-time lecturers can run for departmental senator and university-wide senator.

Vice Chair Holyoke argued that the fact that lecturers could run for senatorial positions now made this position unnecessary. If lecturers were not aware of that, they should be informed that they had all of the same rights of being in the Academic Assembly as tenured / tenure-track faculty members. Senator Kensinger (At-large) argued that they and FERPers often feel marginalized in the university and this might be away to handle the problem.

7.) Faculty Workload Ad Hoc Task Force Membership

Entered executive session at 5:32pm

Returned from executive session at 5:49pm

MSC approving the appointments of Qiao-Hong Chen (Chemistry) and Oscar Vega (Mathematics) to the task force on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 5:50pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, March 27, 2017.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate