THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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February 11, 2019

Members present: Thomas Holyoke (Chair), Bradley Hart (Vice Chair), Susan Schlievert (State-wide), Rebecca Raya Fernandez (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (At-large), Melanie Ram (At-large), Jennifer Miele (At-large)

Members excused: Joseph Castro (Ex-officio), Robert Harper (Ex-officio), Demi Wack (ASI; Ex-officio)

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Oscar Vega, Vice President Adishian Astone, Marianne Jackson, Xuanning Fu

The meeting was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 3:00 p.m. in HML 2108.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of January 28, 2019

Friendly amendment accepted

MSC approving the Minutes of January 28, 2019, as amended

1. Communications and announcements
   1. Chair Holyoke  
        
      Chair Holyoke announced that a recent report from a task force appointed by the Statewide Academic Senate has suggested reducing the overall number of GE units from 48 to 42 units. The document has been distributed to all senators for review. Statewide Senator Schlievert added that the document in question has been under development for several years. Senator Schlievert stated that she would keep the Committee informed about any developments in this area.   
        
      Chair Holyoke additionally announced that the Chancellor’s Office has asked for feedback about the President’s performance as part of his regular review.  
        
      Chair Holyoke stated that he has received information from other CSUs about the potential of creating a lecturer seat in the Academic Senate for consideration by the Executive Committee.
   2. Action Items
      1. Memo dated February 6, 2019, from James Mullooly, Chair Academic Policy and Planning Committee, to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: APM 415 Dispute Resolution. Memo has been received.  
           
         Chair Holyoke will follow up with Chair Mullooly about the nature of his request. The item will be moved to the next agenda of the Executive Committee.
2. Executive Session Degree Change for Mathematics Graduate Program. University Graduate Committee.  
     
   Oscar Vega and T. Rajee Amarasinghe were recognized to discuss the item. This item was kept on the agenda because the committee was unsure what the exact difference between an MA and an MS actually is. Senator Kensinger stated that her questions had already been answered by Dean Jim Marshall’s email outlining the specific differences between the degrees. The department’s Program Review had recommended making the change. Senator Ram asked why the department had decided to eliminate the teaching option with the department. Dr. Vega answered that there are simply not enough students in the department to justify having two programs, and instead the department will be creating pathways within the program to better serve student needs. No teaching courses will actually be eliminated. The committee voted unanimously to put the item on the consent calendar of the next Senate meeting.
3. Bachelor of Music Program Elevation. Undergraduate Curriculum Subcommittee.  
     
   This item was elevated on the agenda because VP Adishian Astone had not yet arrived. Chair Holyoke stated that he had consulted with various stakeholders on the matter, which had resulted in a consensus that the item should be moved to a full Senate meeting for wider consideration.   
     
   Vice Chair Hart asked what would happen following the Senate meeting, regardless of outcome. Chair Holyoke stated that it is unclear where the money for the program might come from, or what would happen if the Senate voted it down. Senator Kensinger suggested discussing the matter with Xuanning Fu to ask what the Senate’s vote would actually mean, and how budget might be impacted. Chair Holyoke added that the Dean of Arts & Humanities would like the item to be considered by the full senate. Xuanning Fu joined the meeting and was recognized to weigh in on the matter. Chair Holyoke asked what would happen if a program simply did not have the money to deliver its curriculum. Dr. Fu answered that in such a case, the program would most likely be asked to revise the program on a temporary basis. The administration would begin working with the proposing faculty to adjust the program, or the Senate could approve the program pending the necessary funds being found. Dr. Fu added that the May revision of the state budget might give the campus more money, and therefore it is unclear how much money might be available. Senator Kensinger asked whether the program elevation would have to go through the Chancellor’s Office. Dr. Fu answered that it would. Dr. Fu additionally suggested that one option might be to elevate one or two degrees now, and others at a later date.   
     
   The committee voted to send the item to the full agenda next meeting of the Academic Senate (1 nay, 1 abstention).
4. Administrative Policy Senate Consultation – Interim Policy G-68 Administrator Emerita and Emeritus Status.  
     
   Vice President Astone was introduced to discuss the item. This proposal has been in limbo since at least 2015, and relates to the granting of Administrator Emeritus status. The policy has been in interim status, and now a request has been made to finalize it. Several CSUs have equivalent policies that allow staff and administrators to be granted such status. The interim policy has been reviewed several times by the Cabinet. Chair Holyoke added that this matter had been discussed by the Committee previously, and asked that, if it is approved, the Committee be informed and/or consulted in each case the status is being considered. Senator Kensinger asked whether a title like “Distinguished Retiree” or a similar term rather than “Emeriti” might be used to differentiate this status from academic Emeriti status. Senator Miele agreed with the suggestion.   
     
   Senator Raya Fernandez asked for clarification as to how many years of service would be required to obtain such a title. VP Astone answered that after discussion, 10 years of service was suggested as a compromise. Senator Ram stated that the title of emeritus being granted at a university suggests that the holder came from the faculty, despite how the term is sometimes used by other entities. Chair Holyoke suggested that “Distinguished Administrator” might be the more appropriate title. VP Astone stated that she would take the Committee’s feedback to other stakeholders.
5. Syllabus Template. Student Affairs Committee.   
     
   Marianne Jackson and Xuanning Fu were introduced to discuss the item. The proposed changes to the syllabus template were made following consultation with faculty. The most common feedback was that the syllabus template is too long. Dr. Fu’s office then created a webpage with a number of policies on the existing template, and then those were removed from the template. In addition, a number of student support resources were also included. Faculty had also requested that all new versions of the template contain tracked changes so faculty can identify what has been changed. Dr. Fu added that he supports the proposed changes.   
     
   Senator Kensinger expressed support for the proposed changes, but asked for clarification about the removal of references to Title IX and faculty mandatory reporting requirements. Marianne Jackson agreed that those items were not directly discussed in the new template, but might be added. Senator Raya Fernandez also asked for victim advocacy services and the Counselling Center to be included as well. Senator Ram expressed support for the changes, and suggested that the proposed list of course topics might be removed to make the template even shorter. On p. 4, references to Safe Assign are duplicated and might be combined or eliminated. A number of other cosmetic suggestions were made to the document.   
     
   The committee voted unanimously to send the proposed changes to the Senate agenda.
6. Executive Session.

The Executive Committee entered Executive Session at 4:29 p.m.

The Executive Committee exited Executive Session at 4:49 p.m.

Upon leaving executive session, the Committee voted to nominate to following members to the Provost’s Award Committee for the Provost’s consideration:

Benjamin Boone  
Constance Jones  
Susan Tracz  
Zhanna Bagdasarov  
Kevin Ayotte

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, March 4, 2019.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Bradley Hart Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate