THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE (AS-13)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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Office of the Academic Senate

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April 12, 2021

Members excused: A. Culbertson, T. Garcia

Members absent: B. Mason

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC

1. Approval of the Minutes of 3/22/2021

MSC as amended

1. Communications and Announcements:

Interim Provost Fu had no updates to share, but he did encourage faculty participation in the current dean’s searches, and to attend the faculty forums for each candidate if possible.

Chair Holyoke announced that the new version of the constitution was ratified by the Academic Assembly. With the new constitution in place we are now joined by three new colleagues (voting ex-officio) including Dr. Kathleen Dyer (Chair of the Council of Chairs), Dr. Kevin Ayotte (Vice Chair of the Council of Chairs), and representing University staff is Ms. Belinda Munoz (Chair of the Staff Assembly). He also noted that he will resign his positon on May 21 (last day of spring semester), and that the new Academic Senate Chair elected at the next meeting will take over for the summer. We have two more meetings before the summer break, and the last meeting will be devoted to the President’s budget presentation with VP Astone.

1. Consent Calendar

a. APM 206 – Authorization of Flexible Interpretation

b. APM 232 – Authorization of Flexible Interpretation

c. APM 338 – Approval of Flexible Interpretation

1. New Business.

Senator Hooshmandrad (Music) requested an addition to the agenda:

Resolution regarding Hazardous Work and Study Environment. It was added to the end of today’s agenda.

1. APM 215 - General Education Policies and Procedures

Senator Mullooly described the process of incorporating the myriad changes associated with adding the new Ethnic Studies Area F, which involved multiple committees (mostly GE). He also found that the latest version of the policy is from 2013, but at least three changes were made (from review of archive) that somehow did not get posted as official. The version presented today does not include these revisions, but include crucial and timely changes in creating Area F that must be in place by Fall 2021. As Chair of AP&P he will update the policy to reflect the previous three revisions once this version has been passed. He noted this version has been approved by departments and the Dean of Undergraduate Students.

Suggestions from the floor about re-ordering various sections (because the new Area F and removal of D1 changes the letter/number names of previously existing areas) prompted a return to the committee for additional clean-up before second reading.

1. APM 218 – American and California Government Graduation Requirement

Dr. Dyer (Council of Chairs) asked which campus body is responsible for learning outcomes outside GE such as the items covered in this policy. Senator Mullooly explained that the relevant content experts have oversight and gave an example of our W courses. Dr. Clement noted that these student learning outcomes come from subcommittees.

1. Task Force Exploring Fresno State Operations in a Post-COVID World

Chair Holyoke gave a synopsis of the proposal including the motivation and goals for creating this task force.

Senator Maldonado suggested this work would be better served by smaller subgroups. Chair Holyoke agreed that such structure might be beneficial, but that the task force would make this call on how to organize itself.

1. Resolution regarding Hazardous Work and Study Environment

Senator Hooshmandrad (Music): introduced Drs. Boone and Karr

The resolution emerged from Music, but has already been endorsed by multiple other departments on campus. Dr. Boone read the main point, which is a call for the university to require COVID-19 vaccinations for students returning to campus. He described the emergency designation from the FDA does not prevent us from adopting a vaccine requirement. He noted that the resolution only addresses and applies to in-person instruction. He also requests that current vaccines requirements be enforced.

Senator Crowell amended with Whereas and Therefore concerning vaccine access.

Vote to amend: MSC

Ms. Zuñiga (ASI President) expressed concern about lack of student consultation, and asked if the Senate is the right body to make such a decision for students. Dr. Boone noted that we are not making policy, but expressing the will of the Senate to the administration. Ms. Zuñiga followed up by asking why the resolution only requests that students be vaccinated, but not faculty. Dr. Boone explained that there exists CSU wide policy concerning student vaccination, this resolution specifically speaks to that specific policy, and that while he feels faculty should be vaccinated, this resolution does not address faculty policy.

Senator Jenkins (State wide) suggested reworking the format of the resolution, removing department names, and emphasizing that the resolution represents the full faculty body.

Senator Walter (Biology) expressed her empathy to Ms. Zuñiga, but asked that all students please consider the science and CDC guidelines with appropriate weight, and that faculty should not be put at unnecessary risk to do their jobs.

Dr. Ayotte (Council of Chairs) addressed the request that faculty be vaccinated, and noted the issue of the CBA could be challenging. To Ms. Zuñiga’s concern he felt we should also recommend faculty be vaccinated, and having all required to be vaccinated is in line with scientific evidence.

Senator Parra (Accountancy) agreed that it is not equitable to impose this on students but not on faculty. Give this vaccine is approved on an emergency basis, we should allow for differences in opinion.

Dr. Karr (Music) described how music performance classes create a much more dangerous environment, with wind instruments, choir, and other activities that might put more virus in the air and create more risk to such instructors.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) noted that Dr. Ayotte convinced him that the resolution should extend the vaccination requirement to entire university community.

Dr. Boone (Music) expressed concern that the Executive Order policy this resolution addresses does not address faculty, only students, and adding faculty could undermine the intent of the resolution.

Senator Walter (Biology) noted that the partisan messaging in the US has been extreme on vaccinations, and to tackle this we must address policy with good science.

Discussion ended due to time certain on this first reading.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be April 26, 2021.

Submitted by Approved by

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate