THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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August 26, 2019

Members present: Thomas Holyoke (Chair), Raymond Hall (Vice Chair), Susan Schlievert (Statewide), Tinneke Van Camp (At-Large), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-Large), Omar H. Hernandez (ASI), Saul Jiménez-Sandoval (Ex-Officio) – Provost

Dr. Joseph Castro - (Ex-Officio) - President

Members excused: Joseph Castro (Ex-officio) RF, Melanie Ram (Universitywide), Jennifer Miele (At-Large)

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Kathleen Dyer (Chair, SRI Task Force), Keith Clement (Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair), Marsha Baum (Vice President, Faculty Affairs)

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

1. Approval of the agenda

Ayes(all), Nays(0 ), Abs(0)

1. Approval of the Minutes of April 29, 2019

No comments

Ayes(all), Nays(0 ), Abs(0)

1. Communications and announcements
   1. Provost Jiménez-Sandoval

Provost: Delivered news that the searches for deans for the Colleges of Health and Human Services and the Kremen School of Education have begun this semester. Discussions ongoing with both colleges. Searches for the Jordan College of Agriculture and the College of Art and Humanities will ensue the next year.

Invited Guest: Dr. Kathleen Dyer

Chair Holyoke gave a brief introduction of the new SRIs and background of the process undertaken to date including the Academic Senate’s roll and the upcoming required vote on the questions to be used.

Three handouts from Dr. Dyer: 1) The questions vetted in a pilot study that will go before the Senate, 2) A memo that will go to all faculty later in the week, and 3) a draft of results of pilot study from the task force.

Dr. Dyer: Discussion of relevant expertise on task force committee concerning scale construction and content analysis. Important points of discussion include that the SRI questions were selected from other well used SRIs from other universities thus already field tested, but with restriction that wordings can’t be modified without compromising this level of pre-validation. However- the option remains that the Senate can have some questions removed. In addition, the task force will recommend that a standing committee would work to make improvements according to best standards for future versions of the SRI instrument based on research using Fresno State data. A brief description of the draft task force report was delivered.

The Provost elucidated two main concerns, a lack of consultation at the college level, and that some questions use wording that is ambiguous in such a way that might negatively impact some instructors’ ratings inappropriately. An example given was question Q55 which uses the word “timely” in describing return of grades, and the concern emphasizes that instructors that assigned lengthy written work (requiring much more effort to grade) might be penalized for this necessary delay if students perceive “timely” to mean little or minimal delay. Further consultation, including that at the college level, should have been made to allow further refinement of the question pool.

Chair Holyoke point out that a short time frame, imposed by issues outside the control of the task force and Senate, was part of the problem with adequate consultation. He also mention that the Senate was very involved in this process, with a great deal of Senates work in the Spring 2019 semester involve the student ratings issue.

Dr. Raya-Fernandez asked if there was enough representation on the task force.

Dr. Dyer: All colleges represented, plus a few more faculty were brought on to represent lab instruction, online instruction, and instruction of field work, and that representation of the art studio environment was sought using the representative from Art and Humanities.

Chair Holyoke said that the task force findings and procedures will be will be presented at the next Senate meeting.

Mr. Hernandez mentioned that he liked the question compared to what he could recall of the Idea form queries.

The discussion on SRIs concluded.

* 1. Vice Chair Hall

No announcements

* 1. Chair Holyoke

Chair Holyoke asked the committee to comment with guidance for Dr. Schlievert upon her request concerning AB1460, the ethnic studies bill, and how she should report to the State Academic Assembly.

Chair Holyoke stated that in favor of the precedent of the state legislature getting involved in curriculum decisions.

Vice Chair Hall strongly agreed that curriculum is the domain of faculty at all levels, from discipline to that of general education.

Mr. Hernandez agrees that it should stay at local level.

The Provost mentioned some details on how a report made it into the hands of legislators. He also feels curriculum should be in the hands of faculty. He also pointed out that the bill gives an incomplete list of who would be defined as a minority.

Chair Holyoke will send a call for comments to all senators tonight.

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Chair Holyoke mentioned the two issues that are priority items for the senate.

A: SRI vote

B: Make the MI requirement formally permanent, as of today it has interim status.

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Curriculum (Agenda Item) 1. Undergraduate Curriculum Subcommittee Charge. Second Reading.

Guest: Dr. Clement

MI task force showed equity to other GE graduation requirements- he argues that it should have its own subcommittee, and that it is Senate business to create this committee under GE curriculum committee. Dr. Clement told the committee that Fresno State leads CSU in efficiency and in compliance with all CSU mandates/policies.

Main topic of visit is to discuss issues with the undergraduate curriculum committee. There is a need course release for chair given workload of this committee. A major management component of overall Undergraduate Curriculum committee is to manage subcommittees (GE, Online, etc…) and that some AP&P functions seem to be in curriculum wheelhouse. A proposal to assign jurisdiction to the Curriculum Committee to designate responsibilities to the subcommittees: service learning, writing, and 3 others).

Moved and seconded to send the proposal to the Senate:

Ayes(all), Nays(0 ), Abs(0): Motion carries.

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Chair Holyoke: question to Provost about athletic advisors given access to Canvas.

Provost: Access is supposed to be limited to select students and only grades can be accessed/seen. Brian Barrett advised that instructors can refuse athletic advisor access after being told extent of access.

Vice Chair Hall: stated that opt in (not opt out, the current status) should be the default to ensure instructors are in the loop and know about the monitoring. In addition faculty should be told about any safeguards in place (log system) to ensure only grades are being accessed.

Mr. Hernandez agreed that opt in is better, and suggested it was mutually beneficial for the student to dialog with instructor about the monitoring.

Dr. Raya-Fernandez asked where should faculty go to learn and voice concerns about this monitoring.

Action: The Provost will communicator the committee’s concerns to Dr. Barrett, and Chair Holyoke will invite Dr. Barrett to explain the situation to the Senate.

* 1. Action Items

1. Memo dated April 29, 2019, from Marilyn Wilson, Chair University Graduate Committee, to Academic Senate Executive Committee re: New Master’s Program in Construction Management. Memo has been received.

Moved and seconded to send to Budget Committee:

Ayes(all), Nays(0 ), Abs(0): Motion carries.

1. Memo dated May 15, 2019, from Marilyn Wilson, Chair University Graduate Committee, to Academic Senate Executive Committee re: Master of Science in Athletic Training. Memo has been received.

Moved and seconded to send to Budget Committee:

Ayes(all), Nays(0 ), Abs(0): Motion carries.

1. Email dated May 13, 2019, from Dennis Nef, Vice Provost and ALO, to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Academic Calendar. Email has been received.

Spring break issues- tied to K-12 which is tied to Easter, and comes too late in the semester some claim.

Mr. Hernandez mentioned that he has heard that students do not like a late spring break due to a mis-alignment with other universities.

Dr. Van Camp expressed concern of the potential impact on students with children, and the need for day care when spring breaks do not align.

The Provost mentioned that daycare is a larger issue, an referenced waiting lists and a reduced allocation.

Chair Holyoke will send an email to all senators asking for feedback from their departments on this matter and will send a summary to this feedback to Vice Provost Fu.

1. Memo dated July 18, 2019, from Joseph I. Castro, President to Thomas Holyoke Chair Academic Senate re: Faculty Representation – California State University, Fresno Athletic Corporation Board of Directors. Memo has been received.

A call for faculty service will be issued.

1. Email dated August 9, 2019, from Dr. Ram Nunna, Dean of the Lyles College of Engineering to Thomas Holyoke Chair Academic Senate re: APM 337 (Faculty Workload). Email has been received.

Moved and seconded to send to University Personnel Committee.

Ayes(all), Nays(0 ), Abs(0): Motion carries.

1. Memo dated August 21, 2019, from Amye Leon, Assistant Vice President for Academic Advising and Student Success to Thomas Holyoke Chair Academic Senate re: Faculty Representation on the Academic Advising Council. Memo has been received.

A call for faculty service will be issued.

1. Agenda Item 1. (see discussion with Dr. Clement above)
2. Agenda Item 2. Proposed Amendments to APM 127 (University Constitution)

Chair Holyoke: proposal asks to consider giving a seat to lecturers and staff in the academic senate. One staff position and one Lecturer. An issue is the selection procedure for the Lecturer position.

Action: Chair Holyoke will consult with Dr. Baum on a proposal.

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:35 pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, (DATE).

Submitted by: Approved by:

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate