THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

5241 North Maple Avenue, M/S Thomas 43

Fresno, California 93740-8027

Office of the Academic Senate FAX: 278-5745

TEL: 278-2743 (AS-6)

December 1, 2014

Members excused: R. Maldonado, U. Muller, J. Pausewang, M. Schettler, M. Thompson, F. Vermote

Members absent: B. DerMugrdechian, M. Menchaca, A. Nambiar, T. Partin, L. Rios, V. Torres, J. Wang, J. Whiting

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:05pm in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of November 3, 2014

Senator Henson offered a short, friendly amendment to the minutes, which was accepted.

MSC approving the minutes of November 3, 2014, as amended

1. Installation of new senator

Professor Amir Jassim was installed as the senator for the Department of Finance and Business Law

1. Communications and announcements
2. President Castro

Noted the hiring of James Bartko as the new Director of Athletics

Announced that he had just been invited by President Obama to participate in the College Opportunity Summit at the White House in Washington, DC. The summit will focus on how to provide more college opportunities for more students, especially first generation students and students from under-represented populations.

1. Provost Zelezny

Announced that there will be a Provost’s Forum next Monday at 3:00pm in HML 2206.

1. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Academic Senate)

Listed the resolutions just passed by the Statewide Academic Senate on a number of issues. These resolutions can be seen on the website of the Statewide Senate ([www.calstate.edu/acadsen/](http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/)). She also mentioned several pending resolutions.

1. Chair Ayotte

Let everyone know that the Senate Executive Committee will be issuing a call for faculty interested in being considered for the CSU Faculty Trustee position. The Committee is just double checking the procedure to use.

He will also be traveling to Long Beach later in the week for a meeting of the chairs of the campus academic senates and wanted to know if there were any special concerns that Fresno State senators wanted communicated.

1. Senator Benevides (Statewide Academic Senate)

Announced that on Wednesday there will be a meeting of the CSU’s Commission for On-Line Learning in Long Beach. He will update us on what issues of concern come out of that meeting.

1. New business

There was no new business

1. Consent calendar

The Senate Personnel Committee recommends that portions of APM 322 and APM 324 which are actually just examples of how the policies could be implemented should be turned into appendices. The appendices will remain in the APM.

MSC approving the consent calendar.

1. Student success presentation

President Castro, Provost Zelezny, Vice President Lamas (Student Affairs), and Chair Ayotte all attended a conference in Long Beach on student success. They gave a presentation to let faculty know how Fresno State is going to proceed in achieving the graduation and freshman retention targets set for it by the Chancellor, as well as improve student success generally.

By 2025 Fresno State must increase its 6 year student graduation rate to 54% (it is currently 52%). The rate of graduation for transfer students is to increase from 68% to 74%. Freshman achievement is to increase by 50%. Provost Zelezny and Chair Ayotte emphasized the important role faculty will play in achieving these goals, drawing on faculty expertise in higher education and their research on student behavior. The provost noted that evidence already shows that student graduation rates increase when students are involved in undergraduate research with faculty, take service learning courses, have internships, or participate in study abroad programs. Chair Ayotte emphasized how important it is to have faculty participate in developing the university’s strategy for achieving these goals from the very beginning so that faculty expertise will be the foundation on which the programs will be built.

Senator Karr (Music) asked whether we have identified any specific barriers to student graduate that we can address, as well as whether there will be sufficient resources available from the university or from the Chancellor’s Office, especially time release. The provost responded that we are looking at many facets of student success and “doubling down” on what appears to work. There will not be any resources coming from the Chancellor’s Office, but Fresno State recently received an unrestricted financial gift which the president is going to use to support this effort. Time release may be available for faculty engaging in semester-long projects to increase student graduation rates.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked whether students are being involved in developing these programs. The provost indicated that they will be, and one already is. She and the Vice Provost have been holding listening sessions with students (called Pizza with the Provost) to solicit student input on a number of issues, including student success.

Senator Crask (Construction Management) asked if all of the colleges will be held to the same standard, or if variation in the traditional graduation rates of colleges be taken into account. Students in the Lyles College have been set back because they require some remedial math. The provost said it would be taken into account.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide) expressed concern that student success was being reduced to just graduation rates when there is so much more to it, and sometimes students are more successful when they take longer to graduate. Real student success is having a well-rounded education. The provost agreed and Chair Ayotte pointed out that this is why it is important to have faculty involved from the beginning.

Senator Lam (Counseling and Special Education Rehabilitation) noted that many students really want to graduate as fast as they can, but this is not always what is best for them. She noted that when they teach counselors, they teach them to look at the “whole student,” including their time and financial resources when constructing an education plan in college. VP Lamas assured everyone that the charge from the Chancellor is to be holistic and serve the whole student.

Senator Egan (Mass Communication and Journalism) noted that we need to look carefully at how long it took the transfer students to graduate from community college, and to also consider the problems many of these students have lining up their community college degrees with Fresno State degrees.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) raised a concern about being required to do more for students with fewer resources, which is also true for the students. She expressed hope that the state would supply more resources to help students succeed.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:19pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be February 2, 2015.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate