THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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October 26, 2015

Members excused: T. Elarabi, P. Garcia, J. Giglio, A. Jassim, M. Katti, S. Najmi, J. Peterson, M. Raheem, M. Schettler, S. Sherchan, J. Therkelson

Members absent: N. Akhavan, P. Cornelio, B. DerMugrdechian, A. Hudson, J. Mullooly, L. Williams

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:08pm in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC moving item #13 on the agenda (renaming the M.S. in Animal Science) up to be item #6 and re-ordering the agenda accordingly.

MSC approving the agenda as amended.

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 19, 2015

Amendments were made to the minutes.

MSC approving the Minutes of October 19, 2015 as amended.

1. Communications and announcements
2. Provost Zelezny

The WASC team left the university last week. She thanked Vice Provost Nef and the entire WASC committee for their hard work. We were given four commendations and four recommendations which will be presented in WASC’s final report to the university.

The administration and the California Faculty Association have reached an agreement on how to implement Equity II. There will be an announcement soon. The administration has already developed a final plan on Equity II for staff.

1. Installation of new senator

Professor Carlos Perez was installed as the new senator for Chicano and Latin American Studies.

1. New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate

1. Name change – M.S. in Animal Science to M.S. in Agricultural Science. First Reading.

Senator Roberts (Plant Science) explained that there had been some concern in his department over this name change, but all issues have now been resolved within Jordan College.

MSC waiving second reading.

MSC approving the name change.

1. APM 114 Policy on Faculty Consultation and Voting. Second reading.

Vice Chair Holyoke took over as presiding officer. The current question is the amendment from Senator Chapman.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) called the question on Senator Chapman’s amendment. The amendment passed with 33 “ayes,” 6 “nays,” and 0 abstentions.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) moved an amendment adding additional language to end section 6.c. requiring the final tally of votes to be presented to all faculty in the department. This, she argued, would make it harder for deans to justify appointing chairs not receiving majority support in the department. The amendment was seconded.

Senator Botwin (Psychology) spoke against the amendment, stating that disclosure of divided tallies could fracture a department.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) spoke in favor of the amendment stating that transparency outweighs any other difficulties stemming from disclosure. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) argued that this helps new chairs know that there is a fracture in the department that needs to be addressed. Senator Wakabayashi (Earth and Environmental Science) also spoke in favor of the amendment because it provided transparency.

MSC approving Senator Kensinger’s amendment.

Senator Taylor (Information Systems and Decision Sciences) argued that the 6 WTU standard risks creating a sub-class of lecturers within the faculty. Teaching is recognized as the most important responsibility on campus, so lecturers should be recognized as contributing to that mission.

Senator Moreman (Communication) recognized Professor Mary Husain (Mass Communication and Journalism) to speak. She argued that anything less than one vote per person silences lecturers, that one vote per lecturer is the only equitable solution.

Senator Lewis (Kinesiology) and Senator Durette (Art and Design) asked for further clarification on the actual details of the arbitrator’s ruling and the agreement. Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs Sanchez clarified that the arbitrator’s ruling stated only that the Communication Department violated the CBA in not allowing lecturers to vote. The 6 WTUs cut-off between full and half votes was the result of the arbitration agreement between the grievers and the department and is only binding on the Communication Department.

Senator Karr (Music) moved to delete sections 6.a. and 6.b. The motion was seconded. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) offered a friendly amendment also striking additional reference to the timebase in section 6 to make the amendment consistent.

Senator Ram (University-wide) recognized Professor Judith Scott (Communication), who stated that as a full-time lecturer she would be fine with a lecturer teaching only one class and having a full vote.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) recognized Professor John Beynon (English), who stated that we should not go down the path of trying to scrutinize who is a fully participating faculty member.

Senator Fulop (Linguistics) argued that any effort to reduce votes ends up going down a bad path.

Discussion of APM114 ended at this point so APM 311 could be discussed.

6.) APM 311 Policy on Teaching Associates. First Reading.

Chair Ayotte again presiding.

Senator Henson (English) and Professor Rawat (Biology) presented this new policy, created by an ad hoc committee of faculty and administrators. It was subsequently approved with amendments by the Senate Personnel Committee and the Senate Executive Committee.

Senator Moreman (Communication) asked if the changes made by the Personnel and Executive committees had been approved by the ad hoc committee. Professor Rawat said that both she and Senator Hensen had been present, as had AVP Sanchez. AVP Sanchez said that his office had seen all versions and had no concerns with the present version of APM 311.

Several clarifying questions were asked, including whether the proposed policy applies to Ph.D. students. Presumption was that it applies to any graduate student who is a teaching associate.

MSC tabling APM 311 to the next meeting.

7.) APM 114 Policy on Faculty Consultation and Voting.

Vice Chair Holyoke again presiding.

Senator Forgacs (Mathematics) supports the amendment but his department has instructed him to vote against it.

Senator Lewis (Kinesiology) asked for some more time to bring the amendment back to her department for discussion because Kinesiology has a lot of lecturers, far outnumbering tenured / tenure-track faculty.

Senator Marshall (Criminology) spoke against the amendment, stating that her department is strongly opposed because her department also employs a lot of lecturers teaching only one or two courses and may not be invested enough in the department to cast informed votes for chair.

Senator Moreman (Communication) stated that we should think about the vote for chair as about tenured / tenure-track faculty working with lecturers rather than against them.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on November 2, 2015, at 4:00pm in HML 2206.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate