THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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October 22, 2018

Members excused: L. Bryant, N. Chanda, G. Kim, S. Pooya, B. Singh, J. Smith-Warshaw, S. Teyarachakul, C. Yun

Members absent: P. Adams, T. Botts, M. Golden, K. McBee, D. Wack, J. Watson

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:06 p.m. in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 8, 2018

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1. Communications and announcements  
   1. Introduction - Marsha Baum, New AVP for Faculty Affairs.  
        
      Vice Provost Nef was recognized and introduced Marsha Baum, the new AVP for Faculty Affairs.
   2. Senator Hooshmandrad (Music)  
        
      Senator Hooshmandrad requested more information about Spirion being rolled out to faculty computers and encouraged the company to brief Senators on the software before it is rolled out. In addition, the Senator stated that information might be made accessible to administration on a “need to know” basis and asked for additional information from CIO Leon about what this means. Chair Holyoke suggested inviting the CIO to the next Senate meeting to brief senators and stated that he would request CIO Leon to halt rollout of the software.
   3. Chair Holyoke  
        
      Announced that the RFP for student ratings will shortly be sent out. Following that, senators will be asked to vote on which direction they would like to go.
   4. Senate Procedures Briefing - Parliamentarian Michael Botwin.  
        
      Senator Botwin (Psychology) briefed senators on the basics of parliamentary procedure and the role of the Senate in campus shared governance.
2. Installation of new senators

The following new senators were introduced and installed:

Judith Scott

Communication

Patricia Turnbull

Marketing & Logistics

1. Consent Calendar: APM 203 Special Majors. Academic Policy & Planning Committee.  
     
   There were no objections raised to the item and it was deemed passed.
2. New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

1. APM 320 Policy on Administrative Appointments. Personnel Committee. Second Reading.

Chair Tsukimura (Personnel) was introduced to take questions on the item. Senator Chowdhury (Art & Design) moved the following amendment: “That each college has the opportunity to have a representative on the search committee for Provost and on the search committee(s) for any VP position that may directly affect the operations of that college.” Senator Wilson seconded the motion. Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) stated that splitting the question might be the best approach. Senator Botwin (Psychology) stated that the question could be divided at any time. Chair Holyoke stated that taking the changes one-by-one would be the better approach to clarify the amendment. Senator Henson (English) stated that the overall number of appointments would not increase, but simply require the president’s appointments to come from the faculty.

Senator Ram (At-large) stated that the motion as it stands is worded ambiguously, which could be an advantage, but suggested exploring whether the language should potentially be made more specific. Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology) asked whether the motion is too vaguely worded to make a difference in the search committee’s composition. Senator Botwin stated that the motion is unlikely to make a practical difference, and the committee would be very large. Senator Lewis (Kinesiology) asked whether the intent is to balance representation, and stated that the amendment might not accomplish that because the Academic Senate Chair and the dean would also be on the committee. Senator Wakabayashi (Earth & Environmental Sciences) suggested senators consider the spirit of the amendment rather than being mired in calculating balance. Senator Chowdhury made a friendly amendment to refine the language. Senator Botwin made a friendly amendment to eliminate language related to other searches.

Senator Gillewicz (English) tried to rewrite the language of the motion, but there was no second. Senator Parra (Accountancy) asked what the intent of the amendment is, and whether it is designed to give more representation to deans. Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) proposed rewriting the language for clarity, and the motion was seconded. Senator Chowdhury stated that the amendment does not capture the spirit of his amendment because effort alone is not sufficient. Senator Lewis stated that she too has concerns with the term “efforts should be made” because it is insufficiently proscriptive. Senator Dangi (Geography and City and Regional Planning) suggested using a more active voice. Chair Tsukimura (Personnel) stated that committee members are often chosen concurrently, so it would be difficult to coordinate selection between the selecting bodies. Senator Kensinger called the question and encouraged her colleagues to vote it down. The motion was seconded and a 2/3 majority was found to call the question. The vote was called and the motion failed. The Senate returned to the original motion.

Senator Chowdhury stated that the new information presented by Chair Tsukimura had led him to believe that the selecting bodies should be in consultation. Senator Gillewicz (English) stated that the spirit of the amendment is important to ensure that all voices are represented on the provost search committee. Senator Botwin (Psychology) stated that each constituency recommends its candidates to the President and he or she makes the final selection. Senator Tawfik (Civil & Geomatics Engineering) stated that the worst case scenario would likely be that a number of members might come from the same college, but it is unlikely to be all members of the committee. Chair Holyoke suggested the motion might be tabled until the next meeting. Senator Cronin (Social Work Education) suggested that the language might be designed to restrict the number of members rather than require some members. Senator Henson (English) moved to table the motion, which was seconded.

Senator Ram presented some alternative language that Senators might consider at a future time. Senator Henson (English) asked for a clarification about when the tabled motion would return to the agenda. Senator Botwin stated that tabling does indeed require it to return to the next meeting, but it could also be postponed. The vote to table was called and passed.

1. APM 241 Course Syllabi and Grading. Academic Policy & Planning Committee.

Chair Mullooly (AP&P) was recognized and introduced the item. The proposal is a change to insure that syllabi are actually handed out to students on the first day of classes. Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) stated that the proposal will improve guidance to new faculty about expectations and also give students more information about the course. Senator Parra (Accountancy) asked whether syllabi can still be changed after this date. Chair Mullooly stated it could be.

Senator Henson (English) asked whether the language in existence is there to give instructors who were given the class at a late date to complete their syllabi. Chair Mullooly stated that an exemption was carved for this very scenario. Senator Cronin (Social Work Education) asked whether there could be exceptions made for extreme cases in which instructors had to be replaced at the last minute. Chair Mullooly stated that the policy would still account for this scenario. Senator Lewis asked why 10 days is being set as the standard when that could prevent students from dropping the class. Chair Mullooly stated that there was no particular reason for choosing the 10-day window. Vice Provost Nef stated that the 10th day of instruction is actually a calendar day for the university, not the 10th day of the class meeting.

Chair Holyoke reminded Senators that the next meeting will include a budget briefing from the president and Vice President Astone.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15pm. The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on November 5, 2018.

Submitted by Approved by

Bradley Hart Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate