THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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September 23, 2019

Members excused: A. Alexandrou, N. Chanda, C. Henson, F. Parra, T. Van Camp, J. Wakabayashi

Members absent: P. Adams, L. Burger, M. Ellis, J. Levitt, M. Shepherd, J. Watson

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:04 p.m. in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of 9/9/19.

MSC approving the amended Minutes of 9/9/19.

1. Communications and Announcements.
   1. Chair Holyoke

The annual budget presentation to the Senate will take place during the Oct 21 meeting.

The Workload Task Force Report has been given to the Provost and will be sent to all senators.

* 1. Dr. Dawn Lewis

Dr. Lewis (Senator, Kinesiology) came before the Senate, invited by the Senate Chair, in her role as NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative to discuss faculty concerns about academic advising observers being automatically granted access in courses using Canvas this Fall semester. She delivered a presentation outlining the history and motivation for monitoring our athletes.

Also present to answer questions: Ms. Meredith Jenkins, Deputy Athletics Director, and Mr. David Hall, Associate Athletics Director for Compliance and Student-Athlete Services.

The information is available in her PowerPoint presentation “SAS Academic Advisors’ Observer Role in Canvas”

The following points were emphasized by Dr. Lewis:

* Any SAS Observer can be removed by instructor- either within Canvas, or by sending an email to [canvas@mail.fresnostate.com](mailto:canvas@mail.fresnostate.com)
* No coach or coaching staff will ever have observer status, and the students under this observation have granted permission.

Sen. DeWalt (Liberal Studies) I’m concerned about opting out rather than opting in. Is it because it’s easier?

Sen. Lewis: Many Mountain West universities use the opt out rather that opting in. The concern is students may be losing out with opt in when faculty don’t act.

Sen. DeWalt (Liberal Studies) Opt out is the preference of SAS, but I’m concerned about how much choice athletes have really. I am also skeptical of the observer role mentioned “help in interpreting assignments”, and feel that advisors should not be involved in the interpretation of any assignment. I would prefer an opt in policy that gives more power to faculty where it belongs.

Sen. Sanchez (Chicano and Latin American Studies) Why are we not being asked permission? In the past instructors were asked permission? People are entering instructors’ classrooms without permission, this is unacceptable.

Ms. Jenkins: We take responsibility and we agree about the need for asking permission. At the time we thought that the proper channels were used.

Sen. Botts (Philosophy) Were other data collection options considered, such as asking students, and other alternatives? Were alternatives pursued and if so what were they?

Sen. Lewis: data collection has experienced an evolution. Worksheets for instructors to fill out is one option, currently used by others (ROTC). Other systems have been in place, often with many requests to instructors, often encumbering their time. So we have arrived at this solution. Some Mountain West institutions have used Canvas to monitor many kinds of at-risk students.

Sen. Wilson (Computer Science): There are other ways to do this. Bypassing can exist where athletes are coerced into logging into student accounts. So given this can be an issue, perhaps this kind of access is preferred.

Mr. Hernandez (ASI): Grades belong to students, and limitations are important and students should have right to privacy.

Mr. Orlando Leon (Chief Information Officer): FERPA guides the use of student data and allows access if to help students in anyway. Offered to discuss other options with SAS leadership such using existing Tableau or other channels.

Sen. DeWalt (Liberal Studies) This says that observers help with “interpretation of instructional questions they might have.” This suggests that the observer may help students. Observers could undermine the intent of the assignment.

Ms. Jenkins: SAS partners with the Learning Resource Center on campus. Advisors are careful not to engage in academic fraud of this nature (helping writing papers for instance). Staff is trained to ensure only appropriate student assistance is provided.

Sen. Taylor (Recreation Administration) I am a former athlete, I would like to remind everyone that we are all in this together, and respect of academics is foremost.

Mr. Hernandez: From my experience, grades are a trigger to have advisors reach out to instructors. Advisors will arrange and encourage tutoring, but certainly don’t engage in tutoring.

Sen. Lent (Biology): It would be nice to minimize workload to instructor. Requests for grades, absences, etc., will these go away?

Sen. Lewis: That role may go away.

Sen. Lewis: Not sure where this discussion will lead this time. However, I encourage all to consider inviting Meredith Jenkins and David Hall to any discussions on how to proceed.

Sen. Botwin (Psychology) We have two faculty on Athletic Advisory Council who should also be consulted.

1. Consent Calendar

A. Nomination/Appointment to the Nominating/Election Committee.

B. Nomination/Appointment to the Committee for Faculty Equity and Diversity (CFED).

C. Bachelors of Art in Communicative Sciences Degree Program Elevation

D. Bachelors of Art in Deaf Studies Degree Program Elevation

E. GE Program Portfolio and Assessment of the Core Competencies

The Senate body assembled outside for the annual photo a 4:15pm

1. New Business.

none

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The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:17 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be Monday, October 7, 2019.

Submitted by Approved by

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

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