THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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October 19, 2015

Members excused: N. Akhavan, T. Elarabi, J. Giglio, S., M. Jenkins, Sherchan, J. Therkelsen

Members absent: P. Cornelio, R. Hall, A. Hudson, R. Maldonado, U. Müller, M. Raheem, B. Roberts, E. Waldman, J. Whiting, L. Williams

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:11pm in ED 140.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC moving item #14 on the agenda (APM 311 on TA Tuition Waiver) to be new item #7 and re-ordering the agenda accordingly.

MSC approving the agenda as amended.

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 12, 2015

Amendments were made to the minutes from Senator Raya-Fernandez (Psychological Services), Senator Moremon (Communication), and Senator Henson (English).

MSC approving the Minutes of October 12, 2015 as amended.

1. Communications and announcements
2. Provost Zelezny

Apologized for the message sent on Thursday, October 8, asking faculty to excuse Muslim students from class without clear explanation. She said it was the result of very bad coordination and steps are being taken in terms of message procedure to make sure it does not happen again.

1. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Academic Senate)

This Wednesday is the Take Back the Night march, starting at the Free Speech Area.

1. Melissa Ginotti – Student Involvement

Came to solicit faculty opinion on what to name the old Free Speech Area. The area is being renamed because it is actually against the law to suggest that only that area is for free speech, implying that nowhere else on campus is a place for free speech.

Senators expressed concern that taking the name away from the Free Speech Area might send the wrong message about free speech at Fresno State. Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) and Senator Botwin (Psychology) noted that the designation of the Free Speech Area was an important part of Fresno State’s history.

1. Jose Diaz (Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities)

Noted that the president is going to dedicate a place on campus in honor of our new U.S. Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera.

1. New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate

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

Vice Chair Holyoke took over as presiding officer.

Senator Karr (Music) stated concerns that recent discussion has framed the proposed revision in terms of racism and sexism given the demographics of lectures and tenure / tenure-track faculty, rather than full-time and part-time faculty.

Senator Chapman (Modern and Classical Languages) moved new language essentially returning subpoints a and b of section 6 to the Senate Personnel Committee’s original recommendation of a 6 WTU requirement for a full vote, in addition to having a 3-year contract. Those with less, including lecturers not on a 3-year contract, would have a half vote. Her motion was seconded.

Senator Forcags (Mathematics) argued that this was important enough to be decided on the proposal’s merits, not on whether it would generate more grievances.

Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology) noted that the original discussion in the Personnel Committee was driven by aligning eligibility for a vote with eligibility for health benefits.

Senator Ram (University-wide) supported Senator Chapman’s motion and expressed some doubt about the accuracy of the faculty figures used to support the claim that marginalizing part-time faculty discriminated against women and minorities.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) spoke against the amendment, arguing that part-time faculty still have a stake in the elections of chairs and their voices needed to be heard.

Senator Lewis (Kinesiology) asked what other campuses have done and whether the Personnel Committee should have the language back so they could work on it more. Senator Katti (Biology) also supported sending APM114 back to Personnel. Senator Alexandrou (Plant Science) said that Personnel was unlikely to do anything different.

Senator Taylor (Information System Decision Sciences) spoke against any weighting of lecturer votes because of potential discrimination.

Senator Karr (Music) argued that the Chapman Amendment was not disenfranchising anybody but the votes should be weighted because faculty who do not teach full-time do not have the same stake in the university.

Senator Wakabayashi (Earth and Environmental Science) expressed concern that the 3 year contract requirement may conflict with the WTU requirement.

Professor Judith Scott (Communication Department, recognized by Senator Moreman) argued that she had been at Fresno State longer than many tenured / tenure-track faculty and she, like many lecturers, are deeply involved with and committed to the university. Lecturers feel discriminated against, and why should they accept a new policy that gives them less than they can win through grievances.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) spoke against the amendment, noting that lecturers require six years to qualify for three year contracts, and that is too long to wait for a full vote.

Chair Ayotte (Communication) spoke in favor of the amendment, noting that demographic imbalance is not unique to this issue and that will not change regardless of how this policy is changed.

Senator Moreman (Communication) argued that issues of race and gender are relevant to this discussion and not “red herrings”. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) expressed a similar opinion.

Senator Garcia (Nursing) noted that he used to be a part time lecturer and sympathizes, but feels that they have different responsibilities from tenure / tenure-track faculty.

Discussion of APM114 ended at this point so APM 635 could be discussed.

6.) APM 635 Policy on the Use of the University’s Name / Seal / Logo

Interim Vice President for Administration Astone presented the new policy.

Senator Kensinger (Statewide Academic Senate) noted that changes in logo policy are hard on small programs because suddenly they have to change stationary and other branded items which they cannot use up quickly.

Senator Fulop (Linguistics) questioned why this should be in the APM at all rather than just the MAPP, given that it was not really an academic policy.

MSC approving changes to APM 635.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:18pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on October 26, 2015, at 4:00pm in HML 2206.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate