THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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November 2, 2015

Members excused: P. Crume, L. Davis, T. Elarabi, J. Giglio, L. Herzig, M. Jenkins, A. Liu, A. McKeith, J. Therkelsen, P. Turnbull

Members absent: P. Cornelio, R. Hall, A. Hudson, A. Jassim, J. Karr, S. Sherchan, R. Thornton, J. Wakabayashi, E. Waldman, J. Whiting

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:09pm in ED140.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 26, 2015

Amendments were made to the minutes.

MSC approving the Minutes of October 26, 2015 as amended.

1. Communications and announcements
2. Chair Ayotte

Thanked the administration for effectively communicating with faculty, staff, and students about the shooting threat on the campus today.

1. Senator Moreman (Communication)

Thanked the faculty and administration for hosting the Latin American Education Summit last Friday. Representatives from other CSUs and UCs in the valley came to talk about the hurdles in educating Latin American students in the San Joaquin Valley. He learned a lot. Juan Felipe Herrera, the former poetry professor who is now U.S. Poet Laureate, was also there and presented some of his poetry. A special wine will be made for him by the Fresno State Winery.

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. The current question is the amendment from Senator Karr.

Senator Moreman (Communication) spoke in favor of the amendment, noting that he has been using the term “disenfranchisement” rather than “discrimination”. Argued that the most recent numbers from the Office of Institutional Research showed that the majority of African American, Latino, and Native American faculty are lecturers, and that lecturers are roughly one third of the entire faculty.

Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology) spoke against the amendment, noting that the issue is not really whether lecturers should have a vote for chair, but rather about whether temporary faculty teaching only one or two classes should have the same voting weight as full-time faculty.

Senator Benavides (Statewide Academic Senate) supported the amendment, saying that anything less than a full vote for all is undemocratic.

Senator Muller (Biology) recognized Professor Karen Chooljian, a lecturer from the Biology Department. She argued that many lecturers feel disenfranchised but will not speak publicly about it because department chairs control teaching assignments. Lecturers, she argues, are assigned teaching responsibilities but have no rights. Since they are carrying the weight of the teaching load, she argued, they should also have voting rights.

Senator Durette (Art and Design) stated that she polled the temporary faculty in her department, and while few responded to her, those who did wanted a full vote. She will vote to give the lecturers a full vote.

Senator Slagter (Women’s Studies) stated that it is unlikely that even in departments were lecturers outnumber tenured / tenure-track faculty that the lecturers would band together to vote against the tenured / tenure-track faculty.

Senator Karr (Music) stated that his department was split on this issue, but he agrees with Senator Slagter that lectures will not likely gang-up against the tenured / tenure-track faculty.

Senator Ram (University-wide) argued that the prospect of lecturers of some lecturers not voting is not a reason to pass this amendment.

Senator Skuban (History) noted that all nine lecturers in his department opposed the amendment giving all lecturers a vote regardless of timebase.

Senator Muller (Biology) said that since lecturers are fulfilling their assigned duties, they should have full voting rights.

Senator Lewis (Kinesiology) spoke against the amendment, noting that while lecturers are invited to participate in departments meetings in Kinesiology, and are integral to the department, they have very different responsibilities in the department and, consequently, should have weighted votes rather than all of them having a full vote.

Senator Taylor (Information Systems and Decision Sciences) said that the trend in higher education is for the administration to hire more lecturers, thus preserving the administration at the top of the power structure. Tenured and tenure-track faculty should be allied with lecturers against the administration.

Senator Maldonado (Philosophy) stated that he polled his department and they are against this amendment. Since this is not a vote of citizens for political office, it is wrong to characterize denying lecturers a full vote as disenfranchisement.

Senator Pasha (Civil and Geomatics Engineering) argued that his department opposed the amendment.

Senator Akhavan (Educational Research and Administration) argued that talking about disenfranchisement made this sound like a civil rights issue rather than an issue of faculty governance.

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

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

Chair Ayotte again presiding.

Senator Henson (English) offered an amendment to make it clear that doctoral students are included in this program, but do not receive any additional financial benefit just because they are working on a doctoral degree rather than a master’s degree.

MSC adopting Senator Henson’s amendment (1-nay and 1-abstention)

Senator Moreman (Communication) expressed concern that FERPA may prevent the university from using violations of the Honor Code to strip teaching assistants of their benefits. Chair Ayotte noted that the Honor Code provision was there because it was the desire of the Senate Executive Committee to be able to discipline teaching assistants who plagiarize.

Provost Zelezny recommended that this part of the proposed policy be run by legal counsel. Senator Kensinger (Statewide Senate) recommended that this part of the policy be removed and addressed later.

MSC strike Section IV, paragraph 4, from the proposed policy dealing with the Honor Code (several nays and 1 abstention).

MSC approving APM311 as amended.

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

Vice Chair Holyoke again presiding.

MSC closing debate and moving to a vote on Senator Karr’s amendment.

MSC approving a secret ballot vote on the amendment.

(As ballots were counted, Vice Chair Holyoke gave a brief overview of the proposed new APM132 on the implementation of CSU executive orders).

The amendment failed with 16 “aye” votes and 26 “nay” votes.

Senator Ram (University wide) introduced an amendment authored by herself and Senator Chapman (Modern and Classical Languages) giving a full vote to lecturers teaching 15 WTUs, or teaching at least 6 WTUs on a three-year contract. Other lecturers teaching 6 WTUs or more in the current and prior semester would receive a half-vote. The amendment was moved and seconded.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on November 9, 2015, at 4:00pm in HML 2206.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

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