THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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September 12, 2016

Members excused: C. Langer, R. Maldonado, M. Schettler, A. M. Tawfik

Members absent: L. Cornelio, T. Elarabi, J. Giglio, D. Lewis, T. Wilson

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Ayotte at 4:05pm in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of May 9, 2016

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1. Communications and announcements
2. President Castro

Discussed the *Washington Monthly* magazine rating where Fresno State was ranked 25th nationally. Noted that tomorrow the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings are coming out and Fresno State, for the first time, will be in the national rankings. He discussed the difference between the two.

1. Provost Zelezny

Noted that a strategic plan is being drafted for Academic Affairs and right now she is working to find faculty and student leaders to work on its four goals.

President Castro has made some additional money available to Academic Affairs for tenure-density hiring, so there will be a few more searches this year.

Noted that money is being distributed to the colleges to fully cover all of the salary increases that have been negotiated with the California Faculty Association up to this point. Details on the Academic Affairs budget are forthcoming.

The search for a new Dean of the College of Science and Math is currently underway, with applications being looked at. In the spring there will be searches for a permanent AVP for Faculty Affairs and a new AVP for Water and Sustainability. There will also be searches for a new Director of the Lyles Center and a new Director of International Student Services.

Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) noted that last year the Academic Senate passed a resolution last year was to push back the grade submission deadline, but this semester it is scheduled early on December 22. Can it be changed? The Provost indicated that she is in some discussions with students rights now that may well push it back.

Senator Forgacs (Mathematics) asked if the percentage of money spent in the colleges on personnel is increasing. The Provost said yes because of the negotiated salary increases.

Senator Hall (Physics) asked President Castro about the fate of the Testing Center. He said his faculty are upset that they do not have it to use right now, having designed courses under the assumption that it would be available. Will the task force investigating the Testing Center be able to report to the Academic Senate on this? President Castro noted that they hope to make a final decision on the Testing Center by the end of this semester, and is even bringing a consultant to campus to help with it. The Provost indicated that she would be willing to have interested faculty meet the consultant. Chair Ayotte indicated that he was already setting up a time for the consultant to meet with task force faculty, but would open that meeting to all interested senators.

1. AY 2016-17 Budget Presentation by President Castro and CFO Moffitt

They noted that pretty much every new dollar coming in this year from the state and from the Chancellor’s Office, including student success money and money from increased student enrollment, is going to fund salary and benefits increases for faculty, staff, and the administration. CFO Moffitt noted that these increases have been built into the university’s base budget, so the increases are in the permanent funding formula. We are not covering the increases with one time money as apparently some other universities are doing.

Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) asked if next year’s negotiated raises were included in the permanent funding increase. No, they are not.

Senator Williams (Agricultural Business) asked if the increase for staff was a result of their so-called “me-too” clause. Yes, after the administration negotiated with staff unions.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked if all MPPs saw increases in salary across the board. Yes, 2% if they had received “satisfactory” on their last performance review.

Chair Ayotte asked why the the CFO’s office was broken out as its own line-item in the Level A distribution, which has not been done before. CFO Moffitt indicated that, after discussions with Vice President Astone (Administrative Services), he felt the CFO should be a line separate from Administrative Services so it would have to compete for Level A money separately.

Senator Williams thanked CFO Moffitt for his years of service at Fresno State. He is retiring at the end of the month.

1. CIO Leon

Zimbra is going away at the latest by June 30, 2017, probably much sooner. A campus committee recommended Google as the replacement and the cabinet approved because they felt it was best for students, especially since students already have Google accounts. The migration may take 90 days and we are currently negotiating with vendors who will manage aspects of the transition. CIO Leon also noted that Google has a great reputation, but they know it does have some problems because other CSUs use it and have reported some problems.

He also noted that we could change the email addresses from @csufresno.edu to @fresnostate.edu. A change management and training plan is now being developed to help faculty and staff with the transition.

Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) asked whether the change of email addresses was really necessary or just for branding purposes. She noted that this could be needlessly expensive as lots of items, like business cards, would have to be reprinted. Senator-elect Thatcher (Public Health) also expressed this concern. Chair Ayotte recommended that CIO Leon come back to the senate to discuss this further.

Interim Dean Moore (CGE) asked if the change might interfere with faculty teaching winter intercession courses. CIO Leon felt that there would be no email problem, but there could be a problem with calendars.

Senator Wakabayashi (Earth and Environmental Science) asked if email will ever be blacked out in this process. No.

Senator Gilewicz (English) asked if the university is saving any money with this change. CIO Leon was not sure, but will ask Brad Barker from his office.

Senator Ram (University-wide) asked if faculty and staff will be notified right before the email change so they can manage their email. That will happen, but CIO Leon noted that Google does not have a sub-folder structure for email, so there could be a little confusion.

Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) noted that CIO Leon has been coming to meetings of the Academic Information Technology Subcommittee, so faculty voices and concerns are being heard by him.

1. Installation of new and re-elected senators

New senators Gregory Thatcher (Public Health) and Boyce Buckner (Military Science and Leadership) were installed. Loretta Kensinger was re-elected as the senator for Women’s Studies.

1. Consent calendar

The Senate Nominations and Elections Committee recommends that Patricia LaRosa from the Craig School of Business be appointed to the committee.

The appointment was approved by unanimous consent.

1. New business

There was no new business for the Academic Senate.

1. Resolution on creation of an ad hoc task force to study faculty workload reduction. Second reading.

Senator Kensinger (Women’s Studies) asked if the Academic Senate should defer action on this until Personnel Committee Chair Tsukimura could be present since his committee is also working on faculty workload.

Senator Alexandrou (Industrial Technology), a member of the Personnel Committee, noted that information from department chairs on workload has finally come to the committee, so the committee should soon be able to report to the senate on it.

Senator Forgacs (Mathematics) felt we should still vote on the resolution to get the task force going.

Senator Alexandrou recommended waiting until the Personnel Committee could make its report.

Senator Benavides (Statewide Senate) moved to table the resolution to the next meeting of the Academic Senate. The motion was seconded. Senator Wakabayashi (Earth and Environmental Sciences) argued that this would not work if Chair Tsukimura was not at the next meeting, so he offered the friendly amendment to table the resolution until the next meeting that the Personnel Committee chair could attend. It was accepted. Senator Henson (English) noted that Chair Tsukimura had spoken about this to the Academic Senate last year and reported being overwhelmed by the task, and will probably say the same thing again so we should go ahead and pass the resolution. Senator Ram (University-wide) noted that the resolution was unclear as to who would be on the task force and exactly what it would do, so it would be useful to hear what the Personnel Committee was doing. Senator Akhavan (Educational Research and Administration) felt that there was lots of discussion to be had and we should not rush.

MSC approving the motion to table the resolution until Personnel Committee Chair Tsukimura could be present.

The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:15pm.

The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be on September 26, 2016.

Submitted by Approved by

Thomas Holyoke Kevin Ayotte

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate