THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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October 15, 2018

Members present: Thomas Holyoke (Chair), Bradley Hart (Vice Chair), Susan Schlievert (State-wide), Jennifer Miele (At-large), Robert Harper (Provost), Melanie Ram (At-large), Rebecca Raya Fernandez (At-large), Loretta Kensinger (At-large), Demi Wack (ASI President)

Members excused: Joseph Castro (Ex-officio)

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), Chadley James (GE Committee), Melissa Jordine (University Assessment), Jim Mullooly (AP&P), Brian Tsukimura (Personnel Committee)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 3:00pm in HML 2108.

1. Approval of the agenda

MSC approving the agenda with addition of new Item 9 – appointments to Honorary Doctorates Committee

1. Approval of the Minutes of October 1, 2018

Friendly amendments accepted

MSC approving the Minutes of October 1, 2018, as amended

1. Communications and announcements
   1. Provost Harper  
        
      The Provost stated that he has received a request from Drs. Scott Moore and Sarah Lam to change the name of International Student Services and Programs to International Affairs. The responsibilities of the department have changed in recent semesters. The Provost asked for advice on how this renaming might be handled. Senator Ram (At-large) noted that International Affairs is also the name of an academic discipline, and therefore might be confusing. Chair Holyoke asked whether International Services might be an alternative option. The committee decided to invite Drs. Moore and Lam to its next meeting.  
        
      The Provost announced that some moves are being proposed to convocation and commencement. The current idea is that all colleges will have a convocation at the Save Mart Center but the university commencement would move to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday to free up space for two colleges that do not currently have events there.

Senator Raya Fernandez (At-large) asked whether there would be a way to keep the larger commencement in the morning due to high temperatures. The Provost replied that a preference had been expressed to keep the college convocations in the morning. Senator Ram (At-large) asked for specifics on the changes being made. The Provost clarified that the Lyles College had not held its event at the SMC, and the College of Health and Human Services had not held a college-wide event in the previous year due to size. Senator Kensinger mentioned that families taking part in the AIS convocation would be able to attend their event without a large gap in the day. Senator Raya Fernandez asked for specifics on why the two college commencements could not be moved to the afternoon. The Provost replied that the university commencement is seen as a culminating experience that builds upon the individual convocations. President Wack (ASI) asked whether the convocations might be moved to Thursday. The Provost replied that finals are still taking place on Thursday.

Senator Ram (At-large) stated that some convocations had felt rushed in the past. The Provost stated that the change would make it easier for the platform party to attend the convocations as they would not have to move between venues under the new plan.

Senator Raya Fernandez (At-large) asked about the gap between events and whether traffic and parking would have enough time to clear the area during the transition period. Senator Kensinger added that the number of handicapped parking spaces might be a particular concern, especially in the heat. Dr. Brian Tsukimura (Personnel Committee) was recognized and asked how the Asian Pacific Islander convocation might be affected given that it is a large event with approximately 1,500 participants. The Provost stated that this would be part of a future discussion, but it might be possible to move them to Thursday evening. The Provost stated that he would express the committee’s concerns over graduation space for the AIS convocation specifically, and also the handicapped parking spaces situation.

The Provost next announced that the recommendation had been made to divide the job description for the new AVP of Faculty Affairs with a new, second AVP position (AVP for Academic Affairs and University Initiatives). During the fall, there was also a search for AVP for Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) but was not successful. That search would not be filled but potentially carried forward to the current semester. The Provost stated that the new Academic Affairs and University Initiatives was originally thought to oversee CFE and Academic Technology, but he had concerns over whether those job duties were sufficient to justify an MPP. Therefore, the Provost had consultations about merging the AVP for Academic Affairs and University Initiatives and AVP for Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) positions, which were positive overall. The Provost is now formally proposing that merger. The position would oversee OIE, CFE, liaise with university technology services and undertake other duties. The new title would be AVP for Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. Senator Kensinger asked for clarification on the duties of the AVP for Faculty Affairs. The Provost stated that this person’s task would primarily be personnel matters.

Senator Ram (At-Large) asked for clarification about the number of current AVPs and their duties. The Provost provided additional background information about the current positions. Senator Kensinger asked for clarification about OIE’s duties. The Provost stated that producing analytics and other quantitative data are its primary functions. Senator Ram expressed thanks to the Provost for reconsidering the scope of these positions.

* 1. Senator Kensinger  
       
     Announced that Take Back the Night is tomorrow at 5 p.m. in the Free Speech Area.
  2. Action Items
     1. Email dated October 1, 2018, from Melissa Jordine, Director of Assessment, to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: GE Outcomes. Email has been received.

Dr. Melissa Jordine (Director of Assessment) was recognized to discuss the item. This item does not add or change anything meaningful, but does delete three specific GE outcomes that are currently not assessed. Senator Ram asked whether it would be possible for faculty to simply not assess an outcome. Dr. Jordine answered that if it is an official outcome, it must be assessed. Senator Ram stated that it would be helpful to see the other outcomes.

The item was moved to the main agenda of the next Executive Committee meeting.

* + 1. Email dated October 2, 2018, from Robert Harper, Interim Provost, to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Memo from the Chair of the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. Email has been received.

The committee agreed to the provost’s proposal.

* + 1. Memo dated October 10, 2018, from James J. Mullooly, Chair Academic Policy and Planning, to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: APM 231 (Drop Deadlines). Memo has been received.

President Wack (ASI) stated that adding classes had been a challenge for students in the past. Students had asked for a day to fill those vacated seats. Senator Kensinger (At-large) stated that entering the course three weeks late would be a challenge.

The item was moved to the main agenda of the next meeting Executive Committee.

* + 1. Memo dated October 10, 2018, from James J. Mullooly, Chair Academic Policy and Planning, to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Planning: Committee Structure.

Memo has been received.

Sent to the agenda of the next meeting.

* + 1. Memo dated October 10, 2018, from James J. Mullooly, Chair Academic Policy and Planning, to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Planning: Establishment of the MI Subcommittee. Memo has been received.

Sent to the agenda of the next meeting.

Email dated October 10, 2018, from Diana Ralls, Chief of Staff Office of the President, to Thomas Holyoke, Chair Academic Senate re: Executive Order 1099 Revised. Email has been received.  
  
Sent to the agenda of the next meeting and extending an invitation to Dean Moore.

1. APM 110 – Policy on Ancillary Units. Second Reading.   
     
   Chair Holyoke reminded members about the small grammatical changes that had been previously discussed. Item 2-a appears to be incomplete and was referred back to Vice President Astone for the remainder of the sentence.
2. APM 215 New Language. GE Committee.   
     
   Drs. James and Jordine were recognized. Dr. James (GE Committee) stated that this language needed updating to comply with recent executive orders regarding M/I and use of the term “intermediate algebra”. Senator Ram (At-large) asked about integrating the GE writing requirements into the GE policy. Senator Kensinger asked about the enrollment caps on critical thinking and writing classes and whether that is part of the document under current review. Dr. Jordine stated that the requirement does exist but is in a separate document due to technical issues. The GE committee agreed to consider adding information about writing courses to the policy if it is convenient before the next Senate meeting. The item will be added to the next meeting of the Executive Committee after being sent back to the GE Committee. The motion passed unanimously.
3. APM 203 Policy Change. Academic Policy & Planning Committee.   
     
   Dr. James J. Mullooly was recognized to introduce the item. The proposal is to allow double counting of GE units in special majors. Senator Kensinger stated that she objected to change, but since it was an executive order the committee had no choice. The item was referred to the consent calendar by unanimous consent, pending correction of several unnecessary bold and italics in the text.
4. APM 24I Policy Changed. Academic Policy & Planning Committee.   
     
   Dr. Mullooly stated that the proposed policy states that a professor must provide a syllabus by the first day of the class being held. The item was referred to the main agenda of the next Senate meeting.
5. Best Practices Freedom of Speech

Dr. Brian Tsukimura (Personnel) was recognized to introduce the item. This is not a policy document, but merely a guideline. The first section is simply the First Amendment, while the second paragraph is more specific to Fresno State. The third section presents the university’s legal obligations. A question was raised about the final sentence of the third paragraph. The sentence was edited by Chair Holyoke to read “Academic Freedom does not allow faculty to censor the speech of any other members of the community outside of the classroom.” Senator Ram suggested adding context to the lists at the bottom of the document, and quotations should be identified.

Senator Kensinger (At-large) asked for history on the document. Dr. Tsukimura stated it had come from the Personnel Committee. Senator Kensinger asked why the document had been created since it is not a policy. Dr. Tskumimura stated that it was designed to offer advice on free speech on campus. Senator Kensinger asked why other system and national guidelines are not referenced in the document to inform faculty about their rights. Senator Kensinger (At-large) stated that some faculty had fallen under concerted attacks on academic faculty expressing views outside the classroom in the recent past, and questioned where those boundaries exist in a campus environment. Dr. Tsukimura stated that there is no effort to compel or stop speech in the proposed guidelines.

Chair Holyoke added that the AAUP’s 1940 academic freedom guidelines should be referenced in the document to add clarity. The Provost suggested that the previously mentioned sentence might be more confounding that helpful and suggested its removal. Dr. Tsukimura agreed with the sentiment and struck the final sentence of the third paragraph.

Senator Kensinger expressed concern about whether there are hate speech codes that would prevent a terrorist group from coming to campus. The Provost clarified that there are no hate speech codes generally. In addition, the Provost suggested adding exceptions for true physical threats to the policy. Senator Ram expressed concerns about how the document is written and its overall clarity.

Senator Kensinger suggested clarifying the examples provided at the bottom of the document to explain what they represent. Senator Raya Fernandez suggested that the Executive Committee examine the source documents to help provide clarity to the list at the end. Senator Kensinger suggested further explanation of the list at the end and how it relates to the above sections. Senator Ram asked for additional clarification on the restrictions listed at the bottom of the document. Dr. Tsukimura stated that these are summarized from court cases related to forms of speech that can legally be restricted. Senator Schlievert stated that faculty may misunderstand their rights and restrictions related to this matter. Dr. Tsukimura stated that the document will be revised further by the Personnel Committee. Chair Holyoke suggested mentioning APM 103, which is the university’s official policy on Academic Freedom. Senator Raya Fernandez suggested university counsel review the document after it emerges from the senate. Provost Harper agreed with this suggestion.

1. Appointments to Honorary Doctorates Committee   
     
   The Executive Committee has been asked to make four appointments to the Honorary Doctorates Committee.

The committee nominated:

Bradley Hart

Rebecca Raya Fernandez

Susan Schlievert

Jennifer Miele

The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, October 29, 2018.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Bradley Hart Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate