THE MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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October 7, 2019

Members excused: L. Bryant, T. Garcia, P. Hooshmandrad, D. Law, D. Lewis, K. Sun, W. Wise

Members absent: P. Adams, K. McBee, F. Parra, B. Dermugrdechian,

The Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Holyoke at 4:01 p.m. in HML 2206.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

MSC approving the agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of 9/23/19.

MSC approving the amended Minutes of 9/23/19.

1. Communications and Announcements.
   1. Chair Holyoke mentioned that the next meeting will be devoted to two items: consultation concerning revisions to the commencement exercises (mainly the discontinuation of the main university commencement), and a formal presentation on the university budget.
   2. Sen. Schlievert (Statewide) reported from the statewide senate meeting during which her committee passed a resolution that each campus will provide its own MI graduation requirements. This is in opposition to the proposed AB1460 (legislation that would require all California State Universities, as an undergraduate graduation requirement) which was the dominating topic of the meeting.
   3. Fresno State Student Charie Payne addressed the senate along with two fellow students. She expressed her concern about students being singled out in class due to identity (she spoke of her experience where she was singled out after expressing concern over the instructor’s repeated use of the n-word in a class session that was examining racial tensions). She felt that her concerns were not taken seriously when she appealed to the Dean. She asked for guidance from the Senate body and proposed mandatory cultural competence training (similar to the sexual harassment training mandate) for all faculty.

Many senators expressed their empathy and commended the students for their courage to come forwarded with their concerns. It was noted the just the act of filing a complaint can be as traumatic as the initiating experience, and we must be sensitive and cautious on these matters.

Suggestions and information from the Senate floor included: consideration of other means to disseminate information (in case the suggested training is not mandated), the importance of trying to speak directly with the instructor, and that of filing a report with the department chair, exploring the training courses and programs currently available on campus and ensuring new and existing faculty are notified of them, potential collaboration with science and engineering students who have to deal with related issues, engaging in public dialog using a restorative justice model to lower resistance to training and discussion on these matters, and that faculty should consider creating a responsive grievance protocol for students to access when circumstances warrant.

* 1. Dr. Cheryl Hickey (Chair of the President's Committee on Disabilities and Access) and Ms. Kirsten Corey (Compliance & Regulatory Programs/ADA Coordinator/HR) reminded the senate of the importance of this committee’s work by highlighting recent campus “walk-throughs” and the resulting improvements to access on many parts of the campus. They invited senators to contact them with any questions or suggestions for potential access improvements.

1. Installation of New Senators.

Katherine Fobear

Department of Women’s Studies

Ettore Vitali (Ex-officio, non-voting)

Department of Physics

Wesley Wise

Department of Media, Communication & Journalism

Emily Walter

Department of Biology

1. New Business.

none

1. APM 332 Policy on Range Elevation for Temporary Faculty. Second Reading. Personnel Committee.

Postponed until Dr. Tsukimura (Chair of committee)can attend.

1. Resolution on Faculty Free Speech and Official University Responses.

Sen. Jenkins (Statewide): brought this back to the floor because it expressed the concerns of individual free speech rather that the effect of exercising such free speech might have on the university.

Sen Alexandrou (Industrial Technology): Stated that in his personal opinion, the guidelines recently passed by the Senate should inform our procedures on these matters, and this resolution is not needed.

Sen. Jenkins (Statewide): was concerned that the guidelines created and passed by the Senate might be used against us as faculty, whereas this resolution asserts our rights.

Chair Holyoke: offered clarification that the passed guidelines document is not policy but strictly designated as guidelines.

Sen Botts (Philosophy): asked if it wasn’t the case that the APM was changed to highlight “civility”.

Chair Holyoke: offered clarification that nothing has been added to APM concerning free speech.

Sen. Ram (Universitywide): offered clarification that there is a part of the APM that does discuss the related matter of academic freedom (APM 336).

Sen. Ram (Universitywide): Asked Sen Jenkins: Is there some need that this resolution fulfills?

Sen. Jenkins (Statewide): affirmed that he sees a need and cited a section of the resolution that asserts that the administration will not threaten a faculty’s employment status as a response to said faculty member’s personal and private expression of free speech.

Sen. Ram (Universitywide): noted that the document has components that are out of date (who is cc’d for instance, many changes to our university administration since). She moved that the document be updated (by Sen. Jenkins) and resubmitted before the Senate proceeds to a vote.

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1. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Charge.

Sen Henson (English): Expressed some concerns about what this change would mean for the writing subcommittee if it would no longer be a subcommittee of AP&P, but instead would be reporting to a new subcommittee. She also noted that the writing committee deals with provisions that are not necessarily curriculum, such as writing across curriculum, and some graduate considerations, and questioned how these aspects are relevant to undergraduate curriculum.

Dr. Keith Clemet (Undergraduate Curriculum Committee): Described the flow (bizFlow) of requests, and how this change will streamline the process, leading to better routing with these new committees and new structure. He calculates that these changes could shorten processing times to 2 or 3 weeks.

Sen Miele (Finance and Business Law): asked if we should strike UG curriculum from the AP&P charge in the Senate bylaws. Does it make sense to include undergraduate curriculum in the charge of both committees?

After some discussion on the floor it became clear that there were some discrepancies in how to interpret the new proposed committee structure and the existing bylaws.

Sen. Sanchez (Chicano and Latin American Studies): Requested clarifying edits to the charges of these committees and motioned that the documents be sent back to the Executive Committee for further refinement.

MSC

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The Academic Senate adjourned at 5:13 p.m. The next meeting of the Academic Senate will be Monday, October 21, 2019.

Submitted by Approved by

Raymond Hall Thomas Holyoke

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate