THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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August 29, 2022

Members present: Raymond Hall (Chair), Tinneke Van Camp (Vice Chair), Rich DeJordy (At-Large), Kathleen Dyer (Universitywide), Xuanning Fu (Interim Provost), Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval (President), Jennifer Miele (At-Large), Rebecca Raya-Fernandez (At-Large), Susan Schlievert (Statewide), Caroline Alvarez (ASI President)

Members excused:

Guests: Venita Baker (Academic Senate), David Low (Chair Personnel Committee), Bernadette Muscat (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), Jim Schmidtke (Interim AVP Academic Affairs)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hall at 3:00 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda.

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1. Approval of the Minutes 04.18.22.

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1. Communications and Announcements.

Communications from the President:

**President Jiménez-Sandoval** informed the committee that the Fresno State 2016-2022 strategic plan report is online and that a new strategic planning committee has started meeting, which includes the chair and vice-chair of the Academic Senate. Town hall meetings will be taking place in a few weeks.

We are welcoming two new Deans on campus (Dean Lowham for COSS and Dean St. Hilaire for JCAST).

The new State budget will include money for the Fresno State farm, for deferred maintenance, and for mobile health units, allowing cross-disciplinary collaboration.

The Library name has been removed. A committee to rename the library will be appointed.

The Title IX task force has been meeting to suggest improvements. There will be updates throughout the semester.

The stadium has been renamed to Valley Children’s stadium, which highlights the importance of health care in our valley, both reactive and preventative health initiatives, including mental health support.

The President also referred to the ballot on the Fresno county measure E. It is a tax initiative for Fresno State. If it passes, up to one third of the money could be used for athletics, and a minimum of two thirds must be used for academics. It was not initiated by the campus. The President cannot take an official position on it, nor can Fresno State faculty in their capacity of Fresno State faculty. No CSU resources can be used to promote it.

The President has formed a South East Asian Student Success group and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander advisory group.

The President’s investiture will take place on Sept 9.

*Questions for the President:*

**Senator DeJordy** asked whether Measure E is related to foundation.

**President** **Jiménez-Sandoval** respondent that that is not the case; it is a community initiative.

**Senator DeJordy** wanted to know why the search for the VP for student affairs failed.

**President** **Jiménez-Sandoval** explained that the candidates did not decline but were not considered to be up to the task.

**Senator Dyer** wanted to know why there is a special assistant to the Provost for diversity, while we are also hiring a director for diversity. Is this a permanent position?

**President** **Jiménez-Sandoval** respondent that it is not a permanent position.

**Provost Fu** added that the special assistant is on release time for this.

**Senator Dyer** also asked how long Marsha Baum will continue to be special assistant.

**President** **Jiménez-Sandoval** responded that this will be until the end of this semester.

Communications from the Provost:

**Provost Fu** explained a request for hiring a budget manager. Faculty Affairs on our campus is less staffed than on other campuses. Vice-Provost Hasson is now in charge of the budget but other campuses have a designated budget manager. We currently have one staff member in the budget office, after the senior analyst left. We used to have a budget manager, but this position was eliminated. Vice-Provost Hasson has a heavy burden and the office is understaffed, while there are significant budgetary challenges. Having a budget manager would free up time for the Provost and Vice-Provost for a new cycle of WASC accreditation. He added that, per APM 320, no faculty representative is needed in a search committee for this position.

**Senator Raya-Fernandez** agreed that this position is overdue.

**Chair Hall** added that making this a manager position is needed to entice someone with experience to apply for the position.

**Provost Fu** mentioned that the budget includes 10 million dollars more for academic affairs. Half is from GI initiative carry-over and this can only be used for specific things, *e.g.* hire new tenure track faculty and advisors. Then, 4.4 million is to pay an additional pay raise. We have now had positive carry-forward for the last two years. This year there will be changes in level B funding allocation to Colleges and Schools, including the following: increase from 12 to 14 for faculty release for services; professional development money will increase from $500 to $1,000; there is a new line of professional development for staff members for job skill growth; and department operation money will increase by 9 per cent to offset inflation.

*No questions for the Provost.*

Communications from Chair Hall:

Chair Hall reminded the committee that all the documents for committee meetings are on Box, but they can be printed out if needed.

**Action Items**

1. Memo dated April 21, 2022, from David Low, Chair of the University Personnel Committee to Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: APM 125 – Policy on Department Chairs. Memo has been received.

Suggestion: was sent back to personnel committee and is already on agenda

1. Memo dated April 29, 2022, from David Low, Chair of the University Personnel Committee to Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: APM 322 – Suggested Revisions. Memo has been received.

Suggestion: on agenda

1. Memo dated April 29, 2022, from Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Ph.D., President to Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Faculty Representation on the Athletics Advisory Council. Memo has been received.

Suggestion: call for service

1. Memo dated May 13, 2022, from Dr. Maritere López, Chair of the University Graduate Committee to Executive Committee, Academic Senate re: MS in Biology Application Requirements Change. Memo has been received.

Suggestion: consent calendar

1. Email dated May 10, 2022, from Laura Yager, University Registrar to Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Faculty Representation on the Record Adjustment Committee for 2022/23. Email has been received.

Suggestion: on agenda for today

1. Email dated July 21, 2022, from Dr. Xuanning Fu, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs to Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Faculty Representation on the Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness Search Committee. Email has been received.

Suggestion: call for service

1. Email dated August 2, 2022, from Dr. Jim Schmidtke, Interim Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs to Dr. Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: Policy on Technology. Email has been received.

Suggestion: put on agenda for today

1. Email dated August 19, 2022, from Dr. Xuanning Fu, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs to Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate re: MPP Searches. Email has been received.

Suggestion: informative memo

1. Memo dated May 13, 2022, from Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, President, to Raymond Hall, Chair of the Academic Senate, re: Not Approved, Revisions to APM 337 concerning Research Workload. Memo has been received.

Suggestion: on agenda

1. Replacement faculty to the VP of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management search.

Suggestion: in executive session today

1. New Business.

Chair Hall moved to add a new agenda item at the top of the agenda: senate meetings modality.

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1. Senate meetings modality

Chair Hall suggests to encourage senators to join in person in our regular senate meeting room, but to allow for senators to attend via Zoom. The set-up is available in the senate meeting room. The Chair and Vice-Chair will have to monitor both the in-person room and Zoom room. For taking attendance and for voting, Chair Hall proposes to use iClicker, which is already in use on our campus and all senators will get a free account; other systems are costly. It can be used on computer or phone app. Only voting members will have access to the voting call in senate. After voting is closed, all voters will see the result.

**President** **Jiménez-Sandoval** wanted to know whether there will be maximum number of times someone will be allowed to attend on Zoom rather than attending in person. Due to a medical issue, some senators may not be able to return in person, for instance.

**Chair Hall** responded that there is no intention to propose a limit.

**Senator Dyer** expressed some concern about attendance in person possibly dwindling.

**Chair Hall** responded that attendance will be monitored and we can reassess if needed.

**Senator Raya-Fernandez** suggested to have the first meeting on Zoom because of the heat, which has been affecting people.

**Chair Hall** respondents that everyone who wants to can attend on Zoom in the hybrid mode.

**Senator DeJordy** suggested to continue using iClicker once we are fully in person too, because it allows recording votes, for department faculty to learn how their senator is voting.

**Senator Dyer** wondered whether is it allowed for department faculty to ask how their senator is voting.

*Vote on**hyflex with iClicker voting senate meetings:*

*Approved*

**Chair Hall** also mentioned that he will ask Venita to make name tags to give to senators to allow him to identify senators who are asking to speak. This is done in other Senates in the system too.

**Chair Hall** finally mentioned that one senator noted during a Senate meeting last semester that when people vote online, other senators do not see who votes how.

**Senator DeJordy** mentioned that it is actually better if they do not because it takes away social pressure to vote a certain way.

1. APM 225 Teacher Education Policy. Second Reading.

**Chair Hall** informed the committee that we were expecting a memo from AP&P but this has not been provided yet.

**Senator Dyer** suggested that the policy could be struck, but to wait for the memo from AP&P before doing so. No one has been affected by the committee that is created by this extant policy not having met. There are lots of teaching preparation programs on our campus, and it is unclear why a university wide committee is needed.

**Senator DeJordy** agreed that if this committee has not met in all those years, we do not need to perpetuate it, especially if it has not been demanded.

**Senator Schlievert** offered that the Dean of Kremen should be consulted before Senate takes a decision.

***Chair Hall*** *suggested to put the policy at the bottom of agenda and to revisit this with the AP&P memo, with an eye on potentially removing it.*

*Agreed by the committee.*

1. APM 125 Policy on Department Chairs.

(Low (Chair Personnel Committee), who sent this to the committee, had to leave before we got to this item.)

**Schmidtke** explained that this concerns, for instance, adding information on what a ballot for department chair election looks like, e.g. when there is only one person on the ballot. He also suggested that OIE should be running such elections, and take this out of the hands of the department in which an election is taking place. They can get a list on who is eligible to vote from Faculty Affairs.

**Chair Hall** wondered whether asking OIE, that is responsible for processing data on student success, to run department chair elections constitutes an appropriate use of OIE.

**Schmidtke** responded that such elections do not require a long process.

**Senator Dyer** suggested that the Senate Elections Committee or College election committees could be an alternative resource.

**Senator DeJordy** added that the Craig School is already using OIE for department chair elections and that OIE has expertise in using Qualtrics.

**Schmidtke** further explained that the amended APM also includes provisions on evaluation of chairs.

**Senator Dyer** suggested that this should go to the Council of Chairs first before going to Senate.

**Schmidtke** mentioned that APM 125 currently does not include a recommendation by Deans, although Deans have been doing this in practice, so this has been added to the amended APM as well.

**Chair Hall** suggested that we consider what happens if a Dean does not recommend an elected chair and keeps sending it back to the department to vote until they get a chair the Dean recommends.

**Chair Hall** reminded the committee that this is a first reading item. He suggested that he will seek feedback from the Council of Chairs.

*Agreed by the committee.*

1. Graduate Program Review Policy Update Proposal. Second Reading.

**Chair Hall** explained that we need a redlined copy of the amended APM from AP&P before we can discuss this item, but we have not received one yet. He will reach out to the Chair of AP&P.

1. Faculty Representation on the Record Adjustment Committee for 2022/23

[See action item E in today’s Action Items.]

**Senator Dyer** explained that she has been serving on this committee since 2018, along with another faculty representative. She agrees with Laura Yager that there is no need for two faculty representatives because this is a staff committee looking at student requests.

**Senator DeJordy** wanted to know whether these student requests concern grade changing options.

**Senator Dyer** responded that the request processed in this committee do not concern grade disputes, but rather concern changing a pass or no pass grade to a letter grade.

**Chair Hall** wants to make sure that there is faculty representation on the committee and that the chair of that committee will invite one faculty member to serve.

**Senator Dyer** suggested to assign somebody from a standing Senate committee, and to ensure that there is a designee if the assigned faculty representative cannot make it to a committee meeting, rather than sending out a senate call for service.

**Chair Hall** suggested that we need to investigate whether this is procedure or requires policy, what the charge of the committee is, and to treat this as first reading item.

1. Policy on Technology

[See action item G in today’s Action Items.]

**Schmidtke** shared that not all faculty on our campus are using Canvas, but a different platform, which causes issues for technology support as well as issues with ADA compliance.

**Senator DeJordy** added that there are privacy concerns about online exams. A recent court ruling stated that requiring a student to scan their room to take an at-home online exam constitutes an illegal search and seizure.

1. Executive Session.

*We have prioritized a list of names and Venita will contact them to learn about their availability.*

*MSC*

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The Senate Executive Committee adjourned at 4:47pm.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on September 19.

Submitted by: Approved by:

Tinneke Van Camp Raymond Hall

Vice Chair Chair

Academic Senate Academic Senate